

“For many people religion is at most a Sunday to Sunday experience. Why not be a day to day experience, maybe even an hour by hour experience, create that kind of connection with the Word. I see no down sides actually. Our physical presence here (in America) is a lot less pronounced than in a traditionally Orthodox country. If you’re in Greece or in Serbia or in Russia you’re going to pass by things in your daily travels. You do your cross as you go by a church; you’ll see a roadside shrine; there’ll be something that brings that to mind. We can be that on the internet.

“This is the first time in human history when children have the upper hand when it comes to knowledge. There was a time when that book would go on the upper shelf, out of reach. Or it would be in a special collection under lock and key at the library. You had to be a certain age to access it. Now the kid can get to it much faster and with much greater ease than the parent.

“ So this is a new world. ... There is no down side to the Church being present, but the thing itself (the internet) is capable of introducing people to lots of danger. ... The alphabet is a technology. Writing is a technology, Roads are a technology. There was a downside to every one of those new developments.

Plato has Socrates say in one of his dialogues, he laments the development of writing, because it weakens the memory. People can download stuff onto paper and paper will do the remembering. And we’re becoming less human.

There were always people who were aware of the cost. A road will get you somewhere quicker, but it will also provide easier access for your enemies too. The telegraph created a lot of confusion when it was first introduced. Until the telegraph, news could only travel as fast as you could travel on land. What was that? Thirty miles a day? The train accelerated that process. But with the telegraph you were getting bombarded from all over the world with stuff you had to think about and process. Does it matter that there is a rebellion in Beijing? How does that impact me right now? That some guy has just broken the record for flagpole sitting? That it’s 70° in London? You’re overwhelmed by the factoids and you have to process that.

The technology changes you. It makes you a different person. With the development of the telephone, which we all take for granted, and we couldn’t live without one. But American pastors, in particular, were very leery of the telephone. They would preach sermons against it because it invaded the privacy of the home. You didn’t know who was at the other end. They were interrupting meals. It was providing for unchaperoned conversations between members of the opposite sex.

... Mount Athos was one of the earliest Orthodox presences that I found on-line. ... I really don’t make such a sharp line between the spiritual and the material or social. That’s the way the spiritualists communicated. I don’t think of the spiritual as the disembodied. I don’t think of it as just the inner versus outer. The church is about everything, the whole of reality. Yeah, it’s daunting, but so what?”

**Metropolitan SAVAS** speaking about the internet.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxq6pR\\_k8Xk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hxq6pR_k8Xk)