

## Transcript: Chapter 9

### Electricity, Cameras, & TV

As we get into more modern inventions, we will see with every amazing technology an emphasis on the idea that man is just getting smarter, more evolved, and that's why things are getting more amazing.

These are the ideas of Democritus in action. When you take God out of the equation, you replace Him with man as responsible for everything, and man has been all too willing to take the credit for all the advances.

Electricity was seen as proof of man's advancement, conquering the night and forcing nature under his will. Television was seen as another advance, though many have wondered whether that was an advance or a retreat.

Entertainment began to become central to both U.S. culture and Western culture in general. The emphasis on entertainment has led Neil Postman to wonder if we are *Amusing Ourselves to Death*, but there is no doubt that of all the inventions to date, television and movies have created the most changes in culture.

I would still suggest that inventions are the child of culture. Thomas Edison famously said, "Never invent what people don't want," and inventions are not adopted unless they connect with what people believe is important.

One of the gods of this age is the god of convenience, and it has wreaked havoc on our culture. If something is convenient, it is adopted, and things inconvenient—whether it be hard work, unwanted babies, or taking time away from our passion *de jour*—it must be eliminated.

Who are the richest men in the world at the moment? Among them are those who either entertain us, as in Social Media, or make things more convenient for us.

That should tell you a lot about what we value. Actions speak louder than words. The best test of what you believe, is what you do.

Read on.