



GOSPEL *for* LIFE

The Wisdom Pyramid with Brett McCracken

Season 1, Episode 3 Transcript

[00:00:00] Announcer: Welcome to the Gospel for life podcast. We help churches make disciples. And now here's your host, Darryl Dash.

[00:00:21] Darryl: Hey, my name is Darryl, and I'm pleased to welcome Brett McCracken to the podcast today. Brett McCracken is a senior editor for The Gospel Coalition and the author of a number of books, including *Uncomfortable*, *Hipster Christianity*, *Gray Matters*, and his most recent book, *The Wisdom Pyramid*. He lives with his family in Southern California, which makes me a little bit jealous, and he also serves as an elder at Southlands Church.

I came across a tweet the other day. Matt Smethurst wrote this: "Dear person who will post a "best books of the year" list in December: Here, I'll help you out." And then he pasted a picture of the cover of *The Wisdom Pyramid*, and I'm confident that's going to be true. I think it's going to appear on my list of top books of this year.

So, Brett, welcome. I'm grateful for all your writing, and I would like to welcome you to the podcast today.

[00:01:12] Brett: Well, thank you so much, Darryl. It's a pleasure to be with you and just humbled and honored by your words about the book and Matt Smethurst's tweet. It was one of those embarrassing tweets to see, because I don't know what to say except, "Okay, thank you. That's very kind. I appreciate it."

[00:01:31] Darryl: know, it really is a valuable book, and I think it's timely. So I wanted to ask you: How did you end up writing this book?

[00:01:38] Brett: Well it started as a conference presentation talk that I was giving a couple of years ago on the fake news environment that we're living in this epistemological crisis, and how we as Christians can thrive in a world like this. How do we find truth and joy and flourish in a post truth world?

So as I was giving that presentation, I came up with this idea for a visual aid to have a slide on the screen as I was talking. And it was the concept was: what if I took the food pyramid, which is this visual aid in our childhood to teach us how to have a healthy food diet? And what if I took that concept and applied it to wisdom in terms of what are the categories of knowledge the categories of information that are conducive to a healthy diet for your soul to be wise ultimately. So that's where the concept originated, and the graphic that I had a friend of mine design.

It went viral a little, ironically, on social media when I put it on social media and people just really resonated with it the way that we've flipped the pyramid. So I have social media and the Internet in the top portion of the wisdom pyramid, which is the least important, the most potentially hazardous for our health, and the Bible on the flip side on the foundation. And I think when people see the wisdom pyramid graphic, they just intuitively realized, and we've we've actually flipped it and most of us, in our functional day to day diet, we have made digital content the foundation, the staple of our diet, and it's honestly making us sick. Most of us feel that in some way in our lives, we feel this sickness by virtue of the unhealthy diet that we're having.

So I wrote the book. It ended up resonating, and a couple of years after that, I was thinking about what I wanted to write for my next book, and I pitched this idea of the wisdom pyramid as a book and Crossway was excited about the idea. And so I basically just expanded on each category. That's in the wisdom pyramid and why those different categories are helpful sources of truth conducive to a life of wisdom.

[00:04:16] Darryl: It's an interesting book because the illustration gives you so much of the idea of the book. And yet reading it was still so profitable. It turned in from a helpful illustration into a really rich book to read and apply. So I appreciate that.

[00:04:32] Brett: Well, that's good. Yeah, I was mindful about in writing the book because I knew I didn't want the book to be a disappointment after people have already seen the graphic. I don't want to be redundant, so I really tried to make each chapter as insightful as I possibly could in terms of what you can actually glean from the Bible, the church, nature, and so on in terms of your diet of wisdom.

[00:04:59] Well, Bret, We're absolutely blessed. I was reading about Susie Spurgeon and her ministry providing books to pastors who really had no resources available to them. And I chucked out now because we have so much information available to us. Just yesterday I wanted a book, and I was able to instantly download it, go to a couple of sites and find the best price and have it in my proverbial hands on the computer in a matter of seconds. We're so blessed in this hyper-connected world, and yet we also face a new set of challenges to our souls. So could you explain some dangers that we face with what you call information gluttony?

[00:05:39] Brett: Yeah, it is a paradox, because it's like you said, it's a blessing on one hand, and it's a curse on the other. And so in that chapter on information gluttony, I talk about the problems of instant access to so much information.

And really, for me, what's challenging about that it is way more information than we know what to do with, and it's so overwhelming to even know where to start. Any given Google search that you type into your search engine, it turns up dozens, sometimes hundreds of responses on the search results. It could be a simple thing, like, "What's the best Mexican restaurant in my city?" And there're 50 results in Southern California. There's probably hundreds of results. Sometimes it's not helpful because I wanted this to make my life easier. And now there are too many choices to wade through. That's a superficial example of how it's more harmful or more unhelpful sometimes.

But there's actual interesting neuroscience that's come out recently that looks has looked at how the brain is functioning, how our brains faring in the digital age. And one thing that researchers have found is that the overwhelming glut of digital content coming at us every day, all day, every day on the Internet, it's forcing our brains into this constant mode of triage, where every minute our brains are having to get through. Is this important information, or is this trivial information? Should I file this away? Should I discard it? And the energy that is expended in that constant triage where our eyes are darting fourth from one thing to the next, constantly, it doesn't leave any energy for our brains to do the deeper, reflective, synthesizing type of thinking that we really need them to do for wisdom. In order to be wise, you have to have some space, some energy for that critical thinking, that reflective thinking. And that's increasingly not a capacity that our brains have. And so it's not only the glut of information that makes that challenging, but also the speed.

And that's another dynamic that I talked about in the book: this fast pace speed of the Internet age. And we're moving so quickly from one piece of content, one piece of information to the next, that we rarely have space to process things and to turn information into nutrition, so to speak. So just like fast food is generally unhealthy for us because we eat it too fast, the same is true of this junk food information that we oftentimes make our staple in our diet, where we're just eating the digital version of Skittles and Doritos and doughnuts all day throughout the day. And none of it is really nutritious for us. It's just in one ear out the other. So those are two of the big problems that I see that too much information and then the two fast information.

[00:09:06] Darryl: It's interesting. I was reading a guy yesterday, and he was saying he reads 10 books a year, and he was scratching his head. Nothing wrong at the people who read 100 books of year, but he said, "I couldn't do it. I just need to read 10 books a year, and then I spend as much time thinking about the books as I do reading the books and chewing it over." I was challenged by that because I tend to be the guy who's reading so many books, and I was challenged to think about slowing down and really digesting what I read.

[00:09:37] Brett: Well, I that convicts me, too, because I'm like you. My stack of books is always daunting, and so many books have come out recently. I want to read old books, classics I still haven't read, and I just feel this pressure to just turn through books as fast as I can. But what I just have come to see in my own life is that it's

sometimes not helpful, right? You don't want to rush through, especially like a classic work of Christian thinking or theology.

I just read *Pensées* by Blaise Pascal, which is a great old book, and I tried my best to just go as slow as I possibly could, a few pages at a time, and it was hard to do that because I'm so used to this consumer mentality of just wanting to check things off of my content consuming list, but that that often works against our wisdom rather than enhancing it, I think.

[00:10:42] Darryl: Today I talked to probably one of the wisest men I know. He's just somebody that if you spend time with him, he drips wisdom. He just is so immersed in the word of God, and he began to talk about all the different books that he's been reading that were really weighty books. And after spending an hour with him, I just felt like I had been blessed and I wanted to be like this man.

It was interesting, though in the middle of it, he said, a couple of things that stuck with me. He said that one of the keys to his reading is that he traded in his smartphone for a dumb phone and found that it gave him probably an extra hour at least a day. And yet the other thing, he said, because I was starting to put him on a pedestal, is that sometimes he goes to the BBC News website at lunchtime and finds himself beginning to scroll. Before he knows it, he looks up and an hour has gone by. He said, "Nothing wrong with having a break. We don't always have to be productive, but I think we want to guard against aimless clicking and scrolling." So even this man that's so wise was saying that he still finds it hard.

So give us some wisdom. I know you're not saying we need to get rid of the Internet or get rid of our smartphones. How can we avoid just being sucked into mindless scrolling and clicking?

[00:12:01] Brett: I hit that point a few times in the book. That's the danger of the meandering, aimless digital wandering. That's where I think we get into a lot of trouble where we open our phones, not because we have anything in particular that we want to find or do. It's just this weird instinct that we have. It's like a Pavlovian response to free time, right? I [wrote about this](#) last week at The Gospel Coalition, how we're now conditioned when we have a 30-second break, whether we're sitting at a stoplight in our car or waiting in line for a coffee. Our instinct is now to fill that short break in time, however brief it is 10 seconds, 20 seconds. We pull out our phone, and we just start scrolling out of habit. There's nothing in particular we want to do. It's just aimless wandering and like you said, once we get accustomed to that, we can find ourselves just spending hours of our day. It's just wandering online and not to say that there's never anything fruitful that we stumble upon. But more often than not in my experience, I just end up feeling like, Man, I just wasted an hour. What was I doing? I became aware of a new Twitter controversy that people are debating. Maybe I saw mildly amusing YouTube video that was going viral that day, but it didn't really add much value to my life.

And one of the big downsides of that aimless, wandering fill every spare moment of your day with meandering on your phone is that it removes every last shred of open space where we could do that thinking that I referenced earlier: that deep, reflective, synthesizing form of thinking where we actually started making connections. And we reflect on that article that we read earlier in the day or that book we're reading, how it connects to our experience and ministry or in life, and we just need that we need that open space in our lives and in the digital age. It's just becoming such a just a rare commodity that we have to be so intentional about fighting for and protecting open space for thinking, reflecting and, of course, praying — that discipline of just being silent enough to actually seek the Lord in prayer. The spiritual disciplines, all of that. It's sort of what I'm talking about in this book. We become foolish, I think insofar as we don't have the discipline to avoid constant distraction, which is a greater temptation for humans today than maybe any generation of humans prior have faced. The temptation to be constantly distracted by some form of stimulation, some form of amusement is just immense.

And so, I think this is going to be a big discipleship challenge for the 21st century, and we're only getting started, unless somehow society changes course in a major way. This book is just a little contribution to what I think is going to be an emerging field of study in Christian ministry and Christian discipleship, which is digital habits and how we are being shaped and formed, and how we're losing the ability to cultivate spiritual disciplines and wisdom and things like that, and in an age like this.

[00:15:55] Darryl: That's so helpful. I remember going to see a spiritual director one time, and I began to tell him about something I was listening to. He was asking me about that. And he discovered first, if I ever go for a walk, I've got my headphones in. I'm never just walking somewhere, meditating or enjoying it. I'm always doing two things at once. And then I made the mistake of telling him that I was listening at 1.5 speed, and the look on his face! He just couldn't believe that not only was I squandering this opportunity to be present, but I was doing so with a 1.5-speed podcast in my ears. It seems to be the way we live these days.

[00:16:39] Brett: It's so true, and I'm guilty of that, too. I'm not a huge podcast listener because with everything else I have to be up on in my job in terms of the arts and culture and music and movies and books, it's the one thing I've said, "Okay, I'm not I'm not going to be up on all the podcasts out there." But when I do listen to podcasts, I tend to do the 1.5 speed thing and you're right. It feels like, what's the point of experiencing content if we're trying to optimize it and maximize our time so much that it really is just like fast food information, that it is like we're gorging ourselves like we're stuffing our face as fast as we can with content? And I just doubt that's ultimately helpful for our mental and spiritual health.

[00:17:29] Darryl: Absolutely. Well, Brett, I wanted to ask you about the actual wisdom pyramid itself. I really appreciated the content. And there are some things that are intuitive to a lot of us. It doesn't mean we're doing it, but you order things basically from the most enduring beginning with the word of God, the eternal Word, and then up

to the most fleeting. I think some things actually surprised me in there. The fact that you included nature and beauty, for instance. I wouldn't initially have thought of that, and yet it's so appropriate and so rich. So could you unpack a little about the pyramid itself and particularly the role of some areas? We're familiar with the Bible on the church and the Internet at the top, but maybe not things like nature and beauty. So how what role do they play in our wisdom diet?

[00:18:27] Brett: Yeah, No, it's a great question. I think those are the two categories of the pyramid that I get the most questions about: nature and beauty. And I love talking about it because those areas have been really enriching in my life and my spiritual journey.

So just a quick word about the structure going from the bottom up as you mentioned. It tends to go from the most enduring to the most fleeting. And another rubric or guide that I had in my mind as I was constructing the order was I wanted it to go from the most proximate to God, to the least proximate to God. So my thinking is, if wisdom really comes from God, if he is wisdom incarnate, then it makes sense that if we're going to be wise, if we're going to glean wisdom from anything, it's going to be easier to do that. The closer we are to God, the closer in proximity we are to him. He's the source of wisdom. He's the standard of truth. So, of course, his Word. The Bible then has to be the first layer because it's the most proximity we have to his wisdom, literally spoken to us in words. What a gift that is, that we have this book of God talking to us.

And then the church is the second most important because with the whole proximity to God idea, the church is God's people. It's his presence among his people. He's forming this community across space across time, in this spirit building up the church sort of way. So that has to be an important part of our wisdom.

And then and then nature comes third in my argument, because with the whole proximity to God idea, nature, we believe, is God's creation. It's his handiwork. So the word of God is his words. The church's his presence among his people creation. It's his. It's his work. It's his art. It's his masterpiece. So you can know something about an artist by looking closely at their canvas, right? I can. I can sort of make some assumptions about who Claude Monet is by looking at what he paints, the water lilies and so on and so forth. And I think that's true of creation too, and the Bible even directs us to do this. Psalm 19, Romans 1. There's a few places in Scripture where we're told that the heavens declare things about God like the skies above proclaimed his handiwork. And there're things you can know about God just by virtue of just paying attention to his creation. Romans 1 says, You're really without excuse when it comes to certain basic things about how God ordered creation.

So for me, nature is huge, and one of the reasons why I think it's particularly important in the digital age that we live in is because I think we are generally more disconnected from creation than any previous generation of humankind. And that's largely why I think we're so foolish, because when you're disconnected from creation, you become disconnected from your own creativeness. We are creatures as well. We are part of

God's creation. And so it's not surprising to me that in a digital age where we live our lives, mostly in this abstract, mediated screen experience that we start to think of these weird ideas that I can be something that's totally different from my physical biology would suggest that I am to me. That's just a great example of how, when you're disconnected from creation, when you're living more of a virtual existence, suddenly your own personhood becomes something that is disconnected from physical reality. And we're seeing that, of course, in the transgender movement and various things like that.

I talked about that in the chapter on nature, but there are other things with nature. It's just it's just God's gift to us, right? It reveals his beautiful abundance. He didn't have to create tens of thousands of species of hummingbirds, or he didn't have to create however many hundreds of thousands of species of orchids there are in the world, but he did, and that's just amazing. What God does that creation reveal? It's an invitation to worship God and to be grateful for what he has created that he didn't have to create.

So that's nature and in beauty. I'll be brief because I've been going long on this answer. But there's a lot of overlap, I think, with nature. Beauty, I think, speaks to the fact that wisdom is not just a cerebral reality. We don't become wise only by consuming facts and like data. Wisdom involves our whole body, our senses, what we can taste and see and feel and hear. And so music and the arts and beautiful things, they work on a less cerebral level. They work on our hearts. They shape our loves.

Beauty can really it can really lead us to worship, and it can grab our hearts. And I think that for Christian and Christian life, it's so important that we're not just knowing God in the cerebral sense, but we're loving God with our hearts and minds and our whole bodies. And that's why throughout Christian history, music has been a part of worship because it does something to us that goes beyond just reciting words in creeds or reciting truths in a propositional sense. It engages our hearts, and it helps us love God and really pursue him in his presence. So that's why it's so important for our wisdom.

If wisdom ultimately is about our lives being oriented towards God, inviting us closer into his presence, then beauty can really help with that. And so, for myself, it's been it's been a huge part of my spiritual journey, is just making that connection that the arts and beauty are not something that we should see in opposition to faith. Actually, it's a beautiful partnership with faith because everything beautiful in life, I think, is a testimony to the capital B beauty of God. He is the source of beauty. He is the reason why beauty can exist. And so if we allow ourselves to start to see the art and beauty through that lens, then it can be a great way to just develop even more love for God and gratitude for his abundance and for his goodness.

[00:25:52] Darryl: Those moments of beauty can be breathtaking. And almost, I think, worshipful. You hear a beautiful piece of music or see a beautiful piece of art, and it leads you into the sense of awe and wonder that isn't that far off from worship. That's so good,

[00:26:13] Brett: I think one of the verses that's just so key for me on this is Psalm 34:8. Taste and see that the Lord is good, right? It doesn't say, I think that the Lord is good in your brain. It uses that sensory language like taste and see. And for me, that was the wedding theme verse for Kira, my wife and I, when we got married was I'm Psalm 34:8 because we love beauty. We love good food and travel and the arts and music. And for both of us, it's just been such an incredible part of our faith to just taste and see that the Lord is good.

[00:26:54] Darryl: That's so helpful.

Well, Bret, you live on as part of your job. It's not like you're you're living in some cabin off the grid or anything like that. Can you describe some ways you're trying to build your own wisdom inputs? How has that shaped what you do in your work as you engage on the Internet?

[00:27:22] Brett: Yeah. Yeah, it's a good question. And honestly, I think I probably wrote this book out of my experience of working for a living on the Internet and being immersed in this space that can be so, so toxic and so soul crushing at times, just you spend too much time on social media and you can't help but feel your soul just burdened by it. So I if I was feeling that in my own life, I knew that others were feeling it, too. And, so I wrote this book for myself just to remind me of the better, more nourishing places that I can be looking and spending my time. And I'm also hoping that it would be helpful for other people.

For myself, I just try to limit by my time in certain times of the week on the weekends. I really try to when I'm not on the clock for my job. I try to just put my phone away, not look at it, be present with my wife and my kids as much as I can. And so there's those small things just moderating your the total hours of the week that you're looking at screens.

What's been helpful is just starting to think about how I can when I am online, how I can use it for edifying ways and in ways that actually bring health and nutrition to people. So I think generally The Gospel Coalition tries to be that. We try not to just be another website that's adding to the anger and the vitriol and the debates and making people frustrated, which had to be pointing people in the direction of truth and goodness and beauty. And for me, in my job at The Gospel Coalition, I focus a lot on the arts and culture, and so that's the beauty part. I spend a lot of my time in my job looking for good things in the arts, beautiful things that I can share, that I can point people to like, whether it's playlists on Spotify, or a new movie that is something that is good and true and beautiful and celebrates virtue. So that's one thing I just tried to in my in the way that I use the Internet. I try to point people to the good rather than only complaining all the time about the bad, which can be so tempting to do on social media in particular, because that's the m.o. that most of us see on social media, these constant rants complaining about this or that. It's not that there's never a time for that. Certainly it's good to call out evil and injustice, but the accumulated experience when

that's all you ever see and that's all you ever experience can be really crushing. And, so I think if Christians use the Internet and social media in more edifying ways to just point people to good things and to true things and to use your platform to elevate other people and to build other people rather than only promoting yourself or your own opinion, that would be something that would be a step forward.

[00:30:56] Darryl: That's really good. Well, Brett, I wanted to switch gears a little and talk about how this affects our discipleship task in the local church where we have a lot of people who are being disciple by the Internet and by social media. What are some strategies that we can adopt within our churches to help people grow when these forces are so noisy and powerful?

[00:31:20] Brett: Yeah, I mean, this is like I said earlier. I think this is going to be a really big area of thinking and writing and discussing in pastoral ministry, because 2020 was a year when I think it became quite clear, in a disturbing way, just how much your average Christian, even your average faithful church-going Christian, is actually being disciplined more by their online habits and the various voices they're listening to the echo chambers that they're immersed in. Christians are being shaped more by that than they are by their local church and by their Christian community, and part of that is just a simple ratio of hours. You might spend two hours a week with your Christian community and you spend 50 or 60 plus hours on the Internet. And so it's no surprise that's the more influential force of how were formed. So it's a problem.

It's a challenge. I don't know that I have any smoking gun solution. In part, I wrote this book to be one resource to help pastors disciple people, because I do think one of the big questions really does come down to your habits. Where are you looking? Who are you listening to? What is informing your perspective on the world? A good place to start in discipleship is just to ask those questions, too, and to have media literacy discussions in terms of things like echo chambers. You realize how the algorithms of social media are incentivized to keep you basically perpetuating the reality that you want to believe and feeding you more of the same and how that negatively shapes you. So yeah, I think just general media literacy awareness of how sadly media companies are profiting from constant partisan bias and inflaming our anger. And it's all about keeping us hooked, keeping us on their platform, keeping us tuned in to their TV station. So I think every pastor, if you haven't already, should probably do some sort of class or session on just the dynamics of the media world and how we are being formed, how this is a matter of the spiritual formation.

It's a matter of discipleship. We were deeply formed by what is coming into our minds and our hearts, and the Internet is just a really potent landscape of formation. And so the first step is awareness of that and then helping people to be more self-aware in their choices and being intentional about avoiding those echo chambers and maybe intentional about seeking out different voices that challenge you a bit, learning how to disagree well, learning how to learn from things that you disagree with. That's a really lost art, being able to read something that you disagree with in large part. I might read an article on any given day in which I agree with 80% and think it's valuable, but 20%

of it I don't. That doesn't mean I'm going to say that this is heresy because 20% of it I don't agree with. It's just to say that's most of life, right? It's complex, there's there's good and truth always intertwined with error and bias and falsehood.

And we, as Christians need to be better thinkers to be able to engage content and engage a world like this with eyes to see what's good and true and helpful, and also what's not helpful in any given piece of content, whether it's a book or an article or a podcast. We don't have to buy into 100% of everything in order to find some value in it. I'll stop there. But I mean, there's a lot that can be said about what we could do better in how we engage digital media and content.

[00:36:22] Darryl: It's such a new thing. It's been less than two decades that we've had these smartphones in our pockets, so we're just beginning to figure out even the impact that's having on us. So your book *The Wisdom Pyramid* is such a valuable book in helping us think through these issues and discerning a better way to live. I really appreciate it.

Brett, I wanted to ask you a couple of more personal questions as we close. What are you learning right now?

[00:36:48] Brett: It's a good question. I think this is a big lesson from 2020 and the pandemic, but the way that it had forced has forced all of us to be more limited in our both on our location. I work from home. I do everything at home. My wife works from home with me and my kids. And as frustrating as that can be sometimes and, as much as I get restless, and I'm someone who loves travel and I loved exploring the world, and I'm chomping at the bit to take my next flight someday — I'm going to go to The Gospel Coalition conference in a few months, so I'm excited about that. But the lesson for me has been that actually like this is a healthier way to live in general like to be limited in your proximity, so your life is oriented mostly around what you can do things about. So, starting with your own family, your own household, and then going out from their your own neighborhood, your own community, your own local church.

I think that one of the big temptations of the Internet age is that it can constantly pull us far from our local context. We can be on the Internet all day, and our minds and our hearts can be attending to the drama happening out there more than were attending to the drama happening right here in our own households in our own family, our own church.

So for me, I think the pandemic was just a good reminder that actually, it's a good thing to be focusing your energies on what's right in front of you. For most of human history, that was the default. We didn't have communication technologies for the vast majority of human civilization until the last century or so. We didn't have the possibility of being aware and invested and angry about things happening far away from our immediate context.

Now it's not to say that there's never times that it's helpful to be aware of that stuff. There certainly are. But I think that in general we are wired, we are created to flourish in local places in our immediate context. And I've just seen how beautiful that is in my own life recently.

And I'm learning: How can I to see the beauty and the simplicity of here, my people? This is my first frontier of impact and discipleship my local church, my family. And that's part of why I took the local church as the second level of the wisdom pyramid. It's because it's a good reminder that this is where God has planted you in this local church. This should be your focus when it comes to building up other people being shaped and grown by other people and being formed spiritually. And it's so easy to look at your spiritual formation in terms of the Tim Keller podcast that I can listen to or the TGC article that I can access. It's ironic that I'm saying this because I work for The Gospel Coalition. I do think it's a great resource, but even at TGC, we're constantly pushing people to the local. We want to support local churches, but we never want to replace it. And I think that that is a helpful perspective.

When you think about digital content and the Internet, it can be a great supplement, and it can help you think through things. But ultimately the most immediate community and the most immediate reality that you live in is going to be the most helpful and the place where you can have the most impact. That's a long answer to your question of what I'm thinking about and learning these days.

[00:41:10] Darryl: This might be a similar answer, but what is encouraging you right now?

[00:41:15] Brett: Wow, that's a good question. We don't ask each other that enough.

I think you know I'm someone who really has always loved music and art and culture. Something that I think has been great about the Internet and things like Spotify is that it's just become easier to discover and share really beautiful music. That's part of what I love about my job and curator-type role. It's my job to find under-appreciated, lesser known artists who are making great music. We're creating great art and then sharing with other people. And so the nature of social media is this place of connection, where we can share things with one another and network.

In the area of the arts, it has actually been a really cool thing to see how I've even personally, I've made connections with musicians and artists and gotten to know them. And I've been able to help them by sharing their music with The Gospel Coalition as an audience. And they've been able to help me just by blessing me. And so it's just a great spirit of blessing one another with our gifts and talents, and that's one of the great benefits of the digital age, making that easier.

[00:42:47] Darryl: I've really appreciated reading your book, *The Wisdom Pyramid*. I've actually appreciated everything that I've read of yours. So thank you so much, Brett, for

your ministry of writing, and also for your work at The Gospel Coalition. Where can people find you online?

[00:43:02] Brett: Thanks. Well, The Gospel Coalition is primarily where I write these days, but my personal blog, brettmccracken.com, I also occasionally post there, and you can learn about all four of my books there. And I'm on Twitter and all the social media, but I don't want to push that too hard, because I would be going against my own advice. I'm calling people to less time on social media.

[00:43:32] Darryl: Well, thank you for your ministry. Yes, read your book. That's a good way to do it. It really is a book that deserves to be widely read and applied as well. Well, Brett, thank you for being generous with your time. And I look forward to reading, continuing to read your books and I'm very encouraged by what you're doing.

[00:43:48] Brett: Thank you so much. It's been a pleasure.