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Computation and the World

One transformation that I think would be beneficial is a reversal of climate change, or at least some of its effects. This would help sustain a hospitable environment for many creatures and therefore contribute to biodiversity. Many of the necessary changes, such as reducing pollution, would also help maintain the beauty of the natural world. In addition, climate change can contribute to drought and famine, as well as increase the likelihood of different natural disasters, especially in poorer parts of the world. Stopping or reducing its effects would be one way to help people living in those areas. To accomplish this, societal changes may be necessary since people would need to learn to how to emit less greenhouse gases while going about daily activities. Also, I would like advancement in the medical field, an area I think technology is already transforming, to continue. This could involve obtaining more knowledge about human physiology and finding new ways of understanding and treating diseases. This knowledge could lead to new applications for curing more people with diseases or injuries and allowing them to have a better quality of life.

I believe that both of these goals are compatible with a Christian worldview. In Genesis, God commands people to care for the earth and the creatures in it. Acting in ways that help preserve the natural world, including trying to stop or reverse climate change caused by human activity, is a way to obey this command. Psalm 24:1 states, “The earth is the Lord’s, and everything it in”. Since the earth belongs to God, humans should be careful about how they are impacting the natural world. Minimizing negative effects on the environment is also important because creation can serve to point people to God. The Bible also calls people to help and serve the poor and needy, which is something both reversing climate change and medical advancement could help accomplish. In addition, there are many accounts of Jesus healing the sick during His time on earth. Improvements in the medical field would make people more effective in following this example.

In relation to climate change, software could be designed that simulated the effect different actions would have on the environment. This would include both activities that harm the environment, such as carbon dioxide gas emission, and ones that are more beneficial to the natural world, such as reforestation. Parameters monitored by the simulation could include average global temperature, amount of pollutants in the air, atmospheric changes, and the populations of different species. The main purpose of this would be for people to gain a better understanding of how the environment is being impacted so they can discern what the most important changes that need to be made are and what will be most effective. Similar simulations with software could be used in healthcare. Medical data could be input and the program could output information such as the most likely diagnosis or suggestions for treatment. Essentially, it would store knowledge about which diseases cause different symptoms and the effects of different treatments and make predictions based on comparing the data it receives with this information. The main advantage of this is that it has the potential to improve efficiency. However, I think that in both cases it is important not to rely too much on software. Human creativity would provide insight into these situations that the software could not. The main function of the computer program would be to perform basic analysis in a quick and efficient manner.