I COMPUTER
(Jer. 18:1-6)

Introduction:
1.   A computer is just man's feeble attempt to imitate God's creation of the human mind. As computers improve they have been given arms and legs in an imitation of the perfect machine, man.
2.   Because computers are modeled off of God's creation of man, there are a lot of similarities and opportunities for edification by considering computers. Let us consider hardware and software and the problems that can affect them both, and make application for instruction in righteousness.

Discussion:
I.   Hardware and Software.
      A.   A computer is comprised of hardware and software.
            1.   Hardware is the physical aspect of the computer: "box" and the monitor.
            2.   The software is the programming that the hardware operates, and controls the operation of the hardware.
      B.   Human beings are comprised of bodies (hardware) and minds (software).
            1.   We are born with bodies and a very basic operating system from God (our innate attributes = autonomic nervous system, involuntary muscles, reflexes, etc.).
            2.   All that we sense after birth is part of our software (environmental).
                  a.   There is direct programming (what we are taught).
                  b.   There is also indirect programming (what we learn from our senses otherwise).
      C.   A computer is only as good as its hardware and software.
            1.   The hardware of a computer must be maintained in order to operate properly and over time.
            2.   The software of a computer must also be maintained via protection/updates.
      D.   We humans are only as good as our "hardware" and "software".
            1.   Our hardware (bodies) must be maintained in order to operate (live) properly.
            2.   Our software (minds) must also be maintained if we are to function properly.

II.   Problems.
      A.   Bad hardware can be a problem for computers and for us as well. If we are not maintaining our hardware we will not be able to fulfill our programming no matter our knowledge or willingness.
      B.   Bad software.
            1.   Wrong information.
            2.   Bad programming.
      C.   Conflicting software (direct vs. indirect programming conflicts).
            1.   Taught (direct programming) one thing by parents/the church, yet shown another (indirect programming).
            2.   "Believing" one thing, yet living another is a "fatal error" (Rom. 6-8).
      D.   Infected software (virus).
            1.   Bad influence from outside (1 Cor. 15:33).
            2.   Infections can be systematic or simply program related, but both will cause crashes (Jas. 2:1-13).
      E.   Antiquated software.
            1.   We must be continually renewing our minds (Rom. 12:2; Phil. 2:5; 1 Thess. 4:10).
            2.   This is accomplished by study (2 Tim. 2:15; 2 Pet. 1:3-11) and synergy (Heb. 10:19-25).

Conclusion:
1.   God has given us a body, just as He did our Lord (Heb. 10:5). God has also given us all of the software necessary to operate exactly as He would have us to operate (2 Pet. 1:3ff). The question is whether we will dedicate our hardware to the running of God's software for His glory or not.
2.   Our Lord showed us the way. Let us follow Him (Phil. 2:5-16).
3.   Invitation.