

“What the Bible Says about Environmentalism”

Selected Scriptures

Dr. Cliff McManis

August 30, 2009

Environmentalism: a secular worldview and philosophy of life espousing humanity’s recent intrusive evolutionary origin into nature’s longstanding sacred existence; a political, social, economic and religious system of thought that gives primary concern to preserving the equilibrium of nature (non-humanity) on a global scale.

1. The Bible authoritatively talks about the environment.

A. Its creation (Genesis 1-3; Colossians 1:16)

B. Its conservation
“He upholds the universe by the Word of His power”
(Hebrews 1:3)

C. Its consummation (Psalm 96; Rev. 21-22)

2. God created all things in six days.

“By faith we understand that the universe was created by the Word of God, so that what is seen was not made out of things that are visible” (Hebrews 11:3)

A. The earth
“And God spoke saying, ‘I am the LORD your God ... in six days the LORD made the heavens and the earth’” (Exodus 20:1-2, 11)

B. Plants

“And God said, ‘Let the earth sprout vegetation...And it was so’ (Genesis 1:11)

C. Animals

“And God said, ‘Let the earth bring forth living creatures ... livestock and creeping things and beasts of the earth...And it was so (Genesis 1:24)

D. Humans

“Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our own image, after Our likeness’...So God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them” (Genesis 1:26-27)

“And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth” (Genesis 1:26)

3. Humanity is God’s most precious creation (Psalm 8)

A. All humans have intrinsic value (Genesis 1;26; Psalm 139)

B. God created everything else for humanity to manage, use, and enjoy.
“everything created by God is good and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with thanksgiving by those who believe and know the truth, for it is made holy by the Word of God and prayer” (1 Timothy 4:4-5)

1. Animals
2. Natural resources
3. The earth

4. **God cursed creation because of sin (cf Genesis 3:14; 5:29)**

“Cursed is the land because of you” (Genesis 3:17)

“the creation was subjected to futility...to corruption...the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now” (Romans 8:20-22)

“the wages of sin is death” (Romans 3:23)

5. **God determines and controls the weather and the environment (Job 38-40)**

“O LORD God of Hosts, who is as mighty as You are?...You rule the raging of the sea; when its waves rise, You still them...The heavens are Yours; the earth also is Yours, the world and all that is in it, You have founded them” (Psalm 89:8-9, 11)

“He caused the east wind to blow in the heavens, and by His power He led out the south wind” (Psalm 78:26)

“As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease” (Genesis 8:22)

6. **God will create a new heaven and a new earth (Revelation 21:1)**

“O my God...of old You laid the foundations of the earth, and the heavens are the work of Your hands. They will perish, but You will remain; they will all wear out like a garment. You will change them like a robe and they will pass away, but You are the same, and Your years have no end” (Psalm 102:24-27)

7. **A Biblical Response**

A. Be discerning.

(1 Thessalonians 5:21; 1 Timothy 6:20-21; Titus 1:10-11; 1 John 4:1)

“examine everything”

B. Be a good steward.

(1 Corinthians 4:2; 1 Timothy 4:4-5; James 1:17)

C. Don't panic.

“be still and know that I am God” (Psalm 46:10)

D. Stay focused.

(Colossians 3:1-4; Hebrews 12:1-2; 1 Corinthians 15:58)

“Set your minds on things that are above, not on things that are on the earth”

“fix your eyes on Jesus”

For further study:

Think Biblically, John MacArthur

Right Thinking in a World Gone Wrong, John MacArthur

How Should We Then Live?, Francis Schaeffer

Understanding the Times, David Noebel

Climate Confusion, Roy Spencer

Liberty and Tyranny, Mark Levin

The Peace Mongers, Robert Culver

Scared to Death: From BSE to Global Warming,

Christopher Booker

The Politically Incorrect Guide to Global Warming,

Christopher Homer

The Environment: Opposing Viewpoints, William Dudley