

THE WORLDVIEW SERIES

A DEFENSE FOR AN ACTIVE, ENGAGING
AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT FAITH

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER WNX557 JANUARY 11, 2012

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM?” – PART 2

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS WORLDVIEW

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Maturity, Worldview, Apologetics, Discipleship

Acts 17:28 NKJV

for in Him we **live** and **move** and have our **being**,

- **Live** zaꝥw zao, dzah'-o; to be given life. To receive life. To be quickened.
- **Move** kineꝥw kineo, kin-eh'-o; to be stirred or aroused or awakened.
- **Being** ej smeꝥn esmen, es-men'; existence of personality, our individuality.

Genesis 1:1, 11, 20-21, 25-27

In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth. **:11** Then **God said**, “Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb that yields seed, and the fruit tree that yields fruit according to its kind, whose seed is in itself, on the earth”; and it was so. **:20** Then **God said**, “Let the waters abound with an abundance of living creatures, and let birds fly above the earth across the face of the firmament of the heavens.” **:21 So God created** great sea creatures and every living thing that moves, with which the waters abounded, according to their kind, and every winged bird according to its kind. And **God saw** that it was good. **:25** And **God made** the beast of the earth according to its kind, cattle according to its kind, and everything that creeps on the earth according to its kind. And God saw that *it was* good. **:26** Then **God said**, “Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness; let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over the cattle, over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth.” **:27 So God created** man in His own image; in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them.

Genesis 2:15

Then the LORD God took the man and **put him in the garden** of Eden to (*his mission*) **tend** and **keep** it.

tend and keep it.

Tend heb. *aw-bad'*; to work it, cause it, to keep it, master it, to service it.

Keep heb. *shaw-mar'*; to hedge it, to control it, to border it, to preserve it, to nurture it.

What is The Christian's View of the Environment?
It is a Biblically Based, Worldview of Creation.
(Creation Care or Environmental Stewardship)

That is - that the LORD God is the Design Creator and Sustainer over His creation and that He has ordained human beings to manage His creation.

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM?”

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1.) The meaning of Environmentalism

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary

ENVIRONMENTALISM

- 1. The theory that views the environment rather than heredity as the main contributing factor to the development of a people group, culture or individual.*
- 2. The advocacy for the preservation of the natural environment; especially in the area of pollution control and overpopulation.*

Let's give credit where credit is due.

Environmentalists correctly see that the environment itself is beautiful and remarkable and needs to be protected. – we agree with that
(but we reserve our boasting rights in God – our God did it all)

THE CHRISTIAN AND CREATION CARE

has been an idol in many churches in America today and the world for that matter.

God gave us the environment to use for the betterment of mankind. The Environment should be used by man to develop and to enhance the quality of life for all people. Proper creation care is the harnessing of the natural resources so we can increase the standard of living for everyone on a global scale.

HinduWisdom.Com

“Hinduism has always been an environmentally sensitive philosophy. No religion, perhaps, lays as much emphasis on environmental ethics as Hinduism. Hinduism contains the earliest messages for the preservation of the environment and ecological balance. Nature, or Earth, has never been considered a hostile element to be conquered or dominated. In fact, man is forbidden from exploiting nature. He is taught to live in harmony with nature and recognize that **divinity prevails in all of the elements**, including plants and animals. The masters of the past have always had a great respect for nature. Theirs was not a superstitious primitive theology. They perceived that all material manifestations or avatars are shadows of or from the spiritual realm. The Gita advises us not to try to change the environment, improve it, or wrestle with it. If it seems hostile at times tolerate it. Ecology is an inherent part of a spiritual worldview in Hinduism.”

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM?”

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

2.) The origin of environmentalism

We must first separate the word “**environment**”
from “**environmentalism**”

Throughout Human History, Pagan Worship Systems have always drawn its worshippers toward the “Things” that are seen as being the end-all and meaning to life. Thus there has always been the tendency by man to either ignorantly or willfully worship nature.

Unreached People Groups

Tend to worship their local environment or ecosystem.

Example: the natives in the rainforests of Brazil worship the trees because from the trees come the snakes and monkeys and birds that they use for food. Thus the giver of life is the tree (canopy).

Unwilling People Groups

These individuals see the environment as being our mother or Source. They believe that the earth has some form or ability to feel or to reason. They believe that natural disasters originate or “emanate out” from our mother-god.

It's That Zeal That Causes People to Say Things Like “***Mother Nature is Really Giving us a nasty winter***” or some other “personification” of Nature.

Mother Nature was the Ancient Goddess **Gaia** in Greek Mythology

Radical Environmentalists Are on Record Saying That *“The Increase in Natural Disasters is a Result of Mother Earth Being Angry with Us.”*

The Moon, The Sun, The Stars, The Wind, The Clouds are all objects of worship
(*Earth-First Conference 2009*)

What Is Our Biblical Worldview On This Topic?

Romans 1:18-25

For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, **:19** because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown *it* to them. **:20** For since the creation of the world His invisible *attributes* are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, *even* His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, **:21** because, although they knew God, they did not glorify *Him* as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. **:22** Professing to be wise, they became fools, **:23** and changed the glory of the incorruptible God into an image made like corruptible man—and birds and four-footed animals and creeping things. **:24** Therefore God also gave them up to uncleanness, in the lusts of their hearts, to dishonor their bodies among themselves, **:25** who exchanged the truth of God for the lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Genesis 1:28-30

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be **fruitful** and **multiply**; fill the earth and **subdue** it; (make it useful. Make it work for you. make it productive) have **dominion** over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.” **:29** And God said, “See, **I have given** you every herb that yields seed which is on the face of all the earth, and every tree whose fruit yields seed; **to you it shall be** for food. **:30** Also, to every beast of the earth, to every bird of the air, and to everything that creeps on the earth, in which there is life, **I have given** every green herb for food”; and it was so.

Psalms 8:6-8

:6 You have made man **to have dominion** over the works of Your hands; You have **put all things under his feet**, **:7** All sheep and oxen - Even the beasts of the field, **:8** The birds of the air, And the fish of the sea that pass through the paths of the seas.

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM?”

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

3.) The cause of environmentalism

The cause is a lack of belief and faith in the Creator God.

Some people today say they believe in God but - they either (1) do not see Him powerful enough to take care of what He's created or (2) He is no longer interested in His creation. – This is the “**I worship a little god**” religion.

But There is Another Meaning to the Word “Cause” such as;

Making the Environment a Cause or a Plan to Proliferate an Agenda.

Former Senator and Vice President Al Gore has Perfected **this Cause** for his own personal wealth and purposes.

1 Timothy 6:20 ESV

O Timothy, guard the deposit entrusted to you. Avoid the irreverent babble and contradictions of what is falsely called “**knowledge**,”

Science / knowledge *gnwōsiß gnosis, gno'-sis*; the act of knowing. The steps taken that confirm. The knowing or the science of a matter of observation.

1 Timothy 6:20 KJV

O Timothy, keep that which is committed to thy trust, avoiding profane and vain babblings, and oppositions of **science** falsely so called:

This “**Cause**” is now in our **Secular Schools** and Why Not?

The Designer has been expelled from school and so it's every man for himself.

The Environmental Hypocrisy

From clothes to phones to entertainment to iPads – they drive cars made of highly toxic batteries, made of metal, made of glass... why? And how can a pure, honest environmentalist go to the bathroom without a profound sense of guilt and shame about the whole event?

The God of The Bible has Engineered Into His Creation

SCRS Technology

(Self Cleansing, Revitalization Systems)

oil seepage, earthquakes, volcanoes, lightning, weather, rain...

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM?”

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

4.) The fallacy of environmentalism

Humanistic environmentalism is a contradiction.

(1) it's human or egocentric in its passions. (2) It is human in its dependence.
But (3) it is intellectually dishonest in its science.

Environmentalism Exalts the Environment Over the
Value of Human Life.

We Must Challenge The **Data**. Challenge the **Norm**

What's The Data Saying?

“You Christians Don't Care About The Environment”

(Wrong – we do not worship the environment)

Proper Development is Good. It's of God and Blessed by God to be a
Blessing to Mankind.

Genesis 1:28

Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth
and subdue it;

This is Going to Sound Strange But...

Have any of you been to New York City? Have you been Uptown?
Have you been to Central Park? – A brilliant work of vision and conservation and
population and commerce and engineering...

There is a Wrong Way to Develop

Isaiah 5:8

Woe to those who join house to house... till there is no place
where they may dwell alone in the midst of the land!

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM?”

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

5.) The effects of environmentalism

- (1) the economic effect upon the poor
- (2) decrease of social standards and health
- (3) loss of freedoms
- (4) increase in costs of food
- (5) rise in airborne and insect related diseases
- (6) shortening of life spans in underdeveloped nations

In total, a false worship system that has caused untold suffering and poverty worldwide.

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM?”

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

6.) The reality of environmentalism

The reality of secular environmentalism is that;
It's not so secular but is ancient paganism.

Humanistic Environmentalism Is **That worship of Gaia**, The Mother Earth of Greek mythology. Gaia, or Terra in the Roman culture is the mother of all. She calls upon her worshippers, her children to gather about her and to guard her for posterity. She needs the protection of her offspring to promote her future.

Genesis 8:21b-22

Then the LORD said in His heart, “I will never again curse the ground for man’s sake, although the imagination of man’s heart *is* evil from his youth; nor will I again destroy every living thing as I have done. :22 **“While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease.”**

Let me give you a little bit of history in advance.

On this issue of environmentalism, Christianity, logic, reason, science will lose this battle in the short term. – that’s right. We will lose this battle in the short term. But in the end, the Biblical reality does win and environmentalism as we know it – will be destroyed when The Creator returns to make good again what man has messed up.

There is a Day coming when... *Paradise will be Restored*

Romans 8:22-23

We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time. **:23** Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.

Wrapping This Up Toward The Cross

Acts 17:2-3,15-28

:2 Then Paul, as his custom was, went in to them, and for three Sabbaths (3 weeks) **reasoned** (*challenged*) **with them from the Scriptures**, **:3 explaining** (*unlocked or open up*) and **demonstrating** (*set in front of*) that the Christ had to suffer and rise again from the dead, and *saying*, “This Jesus whom I preach to you is the Christ”.... **:15** So those who conducted Paul brought him to Athens; and receiving a command for Silas and Timothy to come to him with all speed, they departed. **:16** Now while Paul waited for them at Athens, his spirit was **provoked** (*exasperate*) within him when he saw that the city was given over to idols. **:17** Therefore he **reasoned** (*challenged*) in the synagogue with the Jews and with the *Gentile* worshipers, and in the marketplace daily with those who happened to be there. **:18** Then certain Epicurean and Stoic **philosophers** encountered him. And some said, “What does this babbling want to say?” Others said, “He seems to be a proclaimer of foreign gods,” because he preached to them Jesus and the resurrection. **:19** And they took him and brought him to the Areopagus, saying, “May we know what this new doctrine *is* of which you speak? **:20** For you are bringing some strange things to our ears. Therefore we want to know what these things mean.” **:21** For all the Athenians and the foreigners who were there spent their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing. **:22** Then Paul stood in the midst of the Areopagus and said, “*Men of Athens, I perceive that in all things you are very religious; :23 for as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: TO THE UNKNOWN GOD. Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you: :24 God, who made the world and everything in it, since He is Lord of heaven and earth, does not dwell in temples made with hands. :25* Nor is He worshiped with men’s hands, as though He needed anything, since He gives to all life, breath, and all things. **:26** And He has made from one blood every nation of men to dwell on all the face of the earth, and has determined their preappointed times and the boundaries of their dwellings, **:27** so that they should seek the Lord, in the hope that they might grope for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us; **:28** for in Him we live and move and have our being,

Jesus Christ has come to set us free

and living your life for His glory is the most rewarding, logical, sensible thing to do with your life tonight...

_____ *End of Study* _____

© By Jack D. Hibbs, January 11, 2012