

THE WORLDVIEW SERIES

A DEFENSE FOR AN ACTIVE, ENGAGING
AND CULTURALLY RELEVANT FAITH

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THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM ?” – PART 1

THE CHRISTIAN AND HIS WORLDVIEW

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Maturity, Worldview, Apologetics, Discipleship


Introduction to the Text:


Acts 17:28

Acts 17:28 NKJV

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

 **Live** zaŭw **zao**, dzah'-o; to be given life. To receive life. To be quickened.

 **Move** kine÷w **kineo**, kin-eh'-o; to be stirred or aroused or awakened.

 **Being** ejsme÷n **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.



created bara}, *baw-raw*; The absolute creation of; to make, to establish, to design, to bring into existence, to issue forth.

And immediately we are faced with the question – what's with environmentalists? Is environmentalism a **political** issue, a **moral** issue or a **spiritual** issue?

The Topic and Issue of the Environment is one that will not be going away but will only increase for these reasons (1) it's an Election Issue. (2) It's a Policy Issue. (3) it's an Economic Issue. (4) It's a Social Issue. (5) It's a Global Issue. And (6) It's a spiritual Issue

But Why? – Why is The **Environment an Issue at All?**

First of all - environmentalism SELLS and it's a multi-billion dollar business in the world today and it's increasing by the year.

To speak of or to address the environmental issue or ecology or environmentalism, you must confess that God is the designer of the environment – **because evolution wouldn't care. Evolution can't care because it can't think – it just does**

You cannot be a true environmentalist without recognizing the science of it all – and the science of it all has its origins in God

Our Biblical Worldview is Comforting Because It's Logical

Genesis 1:1

In the beginning **God created** the heavens and the earth.

Genesis 1:10-12

And God called the dry land Earth, and the gathering together of the waters He called Seas. And God saw that it was good. :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. :12 And the earth brought forth grass, the herb that yields seed according to its kind, and the tree that yields fruit, whose seed is in itself according to its kind. And God saw that it was good.

As Believers in God, we believe that He knows
what He's doing and what He's done...

Genesis 1:31

Then God saw **everything** that He had made, and indeed **it was very good**.

Very Good Until – Adam and Eve sinned and the creation was placed under God's divine curse. It's cursed not because of God but because of man.

Be "Nature" Wise and Know What "Natural" Means
in a Fallen World.

This world is in a fallen or condemned state of existence and what is called "Natural" to us today is really Unnatural to God. It is unnatural to God that humans kill one another and that baby birds get eaten by cats – death is unnatural to God.

Radical Environmentalists Believe that the "Natural State" or "Untouched Nature" is the Only way to live - - Question then arises. Is it morally (environmentally) right to engineer varieties of fruit to be insect or mold resistant ?

Isaiah 45:18

For thus says the LORD, Who created the heavens, Who is God, Who formed the earth and made it, Who has established it, Who did not create it in vain, Who formed it **to be inhabited:**

This means that the Creator also supplies for the demand

Genesis 8:22

Thus says the LORD, "While the earth remains, Seedtime and harvest, Cold and heat, Winter and summer, And day and night Shall not cease."

The Holy Bible Teaches Creation Care or Creation Stewardship

Revelation 4:11

"You are worthy, O Lord, To receive glory and honor and power; For You created all things, And by Your will they exist and were created."

Human Beings are under the direct Authority of the LORD of Creation and Mankind is the Caretaker of God's Creation.

Genesis 2:15

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

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.

"WHAT IS ENVIRONMENTALISM ?"

DEVELOPING A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

1.) The meaning of Environmentalism

The Merriam Webster Dictionary

ENVIRONMENTALISM

1. *The theory that views environment rather than heredity as the important factor in the development and especially the cultural and intellectual development of an individual or people group.*
2. *The advocacy for the preservation, restoration, and improvement of the natural environment; especially in the area of pollution control. 1. (It's Psychology) an adherent of environmentalism.*
3. *(It's Life Sciences & Allied Applications / Environmental Science) a person who is concerned with the maintenance of the ecological balance and the conservation of the environment. a person concerned with issues that affect the environment, such as pollution.*

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 – our God did it all).

THE **CHRISTIAN**, **CREATION** AND **CREATION CARE**

Did you know that - - Every Christian is to be careful about how we treat the environment. **This is where** we live for now. **This is where** we want to see God honored and His works enjoyed. – **The Christian enjoys the environment more than anyone else on earth.**

“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.

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

What Is Our Biblical Worldview On This Topic ?

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.

Psalm 8:4-8

What is man that You are mindful of him, And the son of man that You visit him? :5 For You have made him a little lower than the angels, And You have crowned him with glory and honor. :6 You have made him 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 keep what He’s made 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**,”

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:

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

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.

Romans 1:18-23

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.

Environmentalists

Drive cars made of highly toxic batteries, made of metal, made of glass, they wear clothing made of fiber, they wash with soap, they wear shoes and kill plants and eat them... why? How can a pure, honest environmentalist go to the bathroom without a profound sense of guilt and shame?

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 and homicidal.

Environmentalism Exalts the Environment Over the
Value of Human Life.

4.) The **fallacy** of environmentalism

Psalm 19:1-2

The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork. :2
Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

“You Christians Don’t Care About The Environment”

(wrong – we do not **worship** the environment)

THE CHRISTIAN, CREATION AND CREATION CARE

Did you know that - - this property that you’re sitting on was once a barren, vacant plot of dry dusty soil with not one tree or plant on it. Did you know that we had to bring in 100’s of trees, 1,000’s of plants and tons of water before we could use this land. There are more birds and more animals that traverse this site than at any other time known to us. –

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?

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
- (7) a misery index of daily living

in total, a false worship system

“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 babblers 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...

Come Forward for Prayer Tonight

End of Study

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