

Fred's Thoughts on: -

## **God and the Climate change**

There are many times during the day when I question why I am here. I have a profound faith in God and through that faith, I recognise Jesus as the son of God. He had a purpose to his life. A purpose that must have been given by God. But do we? What purpose has God given us?

In all things we do there has to be a purpose. When we are born, we take a breath and sustain our being. But what is our being? In life we accumulate knowledge. We explore the world around us-whether Wrington or the Wider world (perhaps even as far as Winscombe!). I believe everything around us is given by God and we must also be given by God. Perhaps our being is our purpose? We are here for only a short time. Time in which we must sustain not only ourselves, but also our world. I believe we are part of the world and the guardians of the world. Our duty is to represent God in the world and to maintain and cherish the world, created by our Father in heaven.

It is a big ask. Especially when you see the damage, we are all doing to the planet with our profligate use of dangerous chemicals and substances. Manmade plastics have now been found in fish and other sea creatures, in the darkest depths of the oceans. Should we all, as Christians, be rushing to join Extinction Rebellion. Should we be carrying the banners of Green Peace to the gates of parliament? Should we all be members of CND?

How can we reconcile our purpose in being, through our beliefs, with these difficult issues? Should we be campaigning to save the earth?

What does the Bible say about this?

Those with greater minds than mine, when questioned on this, have turned to the very first verse of the Bible- Genesis Chapter 1 "***In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth***".

They follow by referring to Genesis 2:15 "***The Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to work it and take care of it***" As pointed out by such Christians as Billy Graham "God didn't tell him to exploit the world or treat it recklessly but to watch over it and use it wisely".

So, it is this clear guidance in the Bible that shows us we must work to protect our earth? Should we be standing together with all the environmentalists and gluing ourselves to the railings of parliament?

Well, there are those Christians who take an alternative view. They also turn to the scriptures "We need to look to scripture and line our emotions up with the word of God" (answersingenesis.org). They base their view on the premise that climate change is all fake news and that those talking about climate change are alarmist. They maintain that as God is in control we just have to sit back and wait for him to solve any problems. He made the world and everything in it, so he must be controlling the changes in climate.

Consequently, we must not be afraid of change. They refer to Peter 3 1-13 and Psalms 115:3 and 148:8 and "over all that live on earth" won't end by manmade climate change" and they refer to God's promise to Noah "While the Earth remains, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night, shall not cease" (genesis 8;22 )

They accept that within the terms set in Genesis we have an obligation to "care for creation for our good and Gods' glory. They refer to the balancing of our responsibilities and Gods sovereignty. Despite Gods sovereignty however they argue we have dominion over Gods creation Genesis 1;28. They make a very valid point oft quoted by the poorer nations in the world, that through the measures brought in to curtail climate change, the undeveloped world is pushed deeper into poverty. They are denied the chance to industrialise and grow their wealth. It is OK for the G7 nations to turn to more expensive types of fuel (solar, Wind power) because they have created by their past excesses the world pollution they are now striving to correct.

So can we say, that because God said we should be accountable to him for how we use his creation we must be concerned about the environment. Yes, we must. I do not believe that the climate change activists are being alarmist. They are as all Christians should be, speaking out in order that we all turn our attention to the damage we have done to this planet.

God has allowed us to have our own free will. We can do our own thing and we can make our own mistakes. Perhaps God in setting down how the world

would end and foretells the destruction we could ultimately cause. Will we destroy this planet, but the world is greater than this planet? Perhaps we should be creating an interplanetary space ark? After all God has created an immense universe. How many Earths are there out there to be discovered?

Why are we so arrogant as to assume that we are the only place that has mankind? Perhaps we should be exploring to take the word of God through the Universe. Perhaps we should be looking for the new world. Is that where God is steering us. God is love and should this planet cease to be I believe he will provide for us. Could this be all our purpose? Is the Holy Spirit leading us to new worlds and different, as yet unseen, parts of God's Creation? We as Christians have an obligation to educate all as to the purpose of life, and to carry God's word to all. We must not fail in this. It is the reason we are Here

I believe as Christians we have a duty to explore this world. To further our knowledge and tend to Gods creation wherever that leads us. That's our purpose.