

## “SAVE THE PLANET”

Thursday, April 22, 2010, marked the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of “Earth Day.” Those who celebrate “Earth Day” probably do so in many different ways and for just as many reasons. God placed man in “dominion over” His earth and all that dwells on land, in the air, and in the sea. Though man should take care of what God has given him to rule and reign over, man should never consider himself subservient to the creation. Sadly, many in the environmentalist movement have created a religious devotion to the Earth. God explicitly condemns those who “worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator” (Rom. 1:25). Those who believe that the Earth needs man to save it disclose a lack of faith in God and His Son, Jesus, “for by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by Him, and for Him: And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist” (Col. 1:16-17). “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1), and He created it to last as long as He pleases. In fact, God made the Earth to last until “the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up” (2 Pet. 3:10). Our emphasis, therefore, should not be on saving that which is going to “melt with fervent heat” and be “burned up,” it must be on saving souls who inhabit the Earth.

This is God’s view for man to “save the planet.” The first thing man must do to save the planet is **PLANT the SEED**. The Bible states that “the seed is the word of God” and that seed which falls “on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience” (Luke 8:11, 15). Second, in order to save the planet, we must use only **ONE BOOK – The Bible**. How many trees could be saved every day if the printing of creed books and confessions of faith ceased? Jesus states that we will be judged by His Word (John 12:48) and the apostle Paul proclaims, “though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed” (Gal. 1:8). Third, we need to **PROTECT our FOUNTAIN** – “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely” (Rev. 21:6). That fountain was opened when Jesus died on the cross (John 19:34). In order to keep the fountain clean, we must follow the Words of Christ – “I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me” (John 14:6). Adding to or taking away from God’s Word is like adding pollutants to the fountain (Rev. 22:18-19). Many pollutants, like the doctrines of “faith only,” “grace only,” etc., have been used to contaminate God’s plan to save. Man can only enjoy the blessings of the fountain of life through obedience to the Gospel which culminates in water baptism, where one has his past sins “washed away” (Acts 22:16). Any addition or subtraction to God’s plan is a pollutant, and a polluted stream cannot save. Fourth, we must **CONSERVE WATER**. God says that water baptism “doth also now save us” (1 Pet. 3:21) and that baptism requires “much water” (John 3:23). The Greek word translated, *baptize*, means “to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e., fully wet)” (Strong’s). Therefore, sprinkling and/or pouring is not baptism and if it is not baptism, it is a waste of water. Also, one must hear and believe (Rom. 10:17), repent of sins (Luke 13:3), and confess the name of Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), before being qualified for immersion. Since babies are unable to fulfill these prerequisites, any attempt to “baptize” a child is waste of water. The only way we can conserve water is to simply and humbly obey God’s Will. Fifth, we can save the planet by **AVOIDING**

**HOT AIR.** The apostle Paul warned Timothy to “shun profane and vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some” (2 Tim. 2:16-18). Lastly, we can save the planet if we practice the Lord’s **“RECYCLING PROGRAM.”** Jesus says, “go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world” (Mat. 28:19-20). It is God’s desire that men teach the truth to others and then, have those who have been taught go out and teach others, and so on. Notice Paul’s admonition to Timothy – “the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also” (2 Tim. 2:2). This is God’s plan for producing, and reproducing, Christians.

By following God’s Word, and only doing such things as He has authorized, we can fulfill our responsibilities to God to help **“SAVE THE PLANET.”**

- *Brad Green*