

GLEANINGS — May 10, A.D. 2015
Review Time

Two years ago on Mother's Day, a sermon on Genesis 8:22-9:3 was preached at New Life. The title of the message was Is the Earth Our Mother? Another God-breathed word, Psalm 24:1, introduced the main proposition of the message:

A Psalm of David. The earth is the LORD's, and all its fullness, the world and those who dwell therein.

Regrettably, sometimes we Christians go beyond DISTINCTION, and allow for an erroneous SEPARATION between spiritual matters and mundane matters. Instead of what Psalm 24:1 declares, some seem to believe that "the heavenly and spiritual things are the Lords, and all their fulness, but the world and those who dwell therein are the domain of the devil and the ungodly."

Thinking and living like Christians in every area of life includes the whole matter of the environment. It includes responding Biblically to trends and beliefs we see taking hold in our society. Let's review and briefly rebut some common ideas which are likely believed by many of our neighbors, and have possibly infiltrated our own thinking:

1. The earth is our mother?

No, God to Whom the earth belongs made man ruler over it. Galatians 4:26 identifies the spiritual mother of God's own: "the Jerusalem above is free, which is the mother of us all."

2. Mankind is a plague on the pure, pristine environment?

No, although human beings are sinners, it is God Himself who justly cursed the ground as a result of man's sin, cf. Genesis 3:17. We will not see the pristine purity of Eden again until that last enemy, death itself, is destroyed forever (cf. 1 Corinthians 15).

3. Man is only one animal species among many, perhaps different but not unique?

No, man is higher than all the earth's other creatures, and has the distinct privilege of being made in God's image, cf. Genesis 1:26,27 et. al.

4. Eating meat is evil?

On the contrary, although those who are free in Christ can choose to be vegetarians, God expressly gave animal flesh to man as food, cf. Genesis 9:3.

5. The earth is fragile! and corollary to that, 6. Man must act to save the planet!

Absurd! Surely man is responsible to be a good steward. Surely, wanton wastefulness and irresponsibility with God's gifts is odious. But God has promised to preserve the earth, and nothing man can do or fail to do is able to subvert that promise, cf. Genesis 8:21,22

God's word places man, His special image-bearing creature, in dominion over the earth. And the fifth commandment tells us to HONOR our mothers. Our wicked society has turned these precepts upside down: It would have worship the earth and treat our mothers like dirt!

Let's make sure we don't buy into it, that we don't allow the world to squeeze us into its mold.