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SKYVIEW BULLETIN

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CLIMATE CHANGE

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An Introduction to the Environmental Crisis of Our Time

For the past several years we have heard a lot about "Global Warming." This issue has been hotly debated among scientists with some affirming that a warming trend is occurring, while others are saying the whole idea is an untrue myth.

Some who in the past have supported the theory have defected and are now denying that there is any significant global warming occurring.

This winter of 2010 has certainly raised some doubts as the coldest weather in many years left its mark on the world. Temperatures have reached all time lows in many parts of the world causing many to suspect that the whole Global Warming issue is nothing more than a hoax.

In fact, so much opposition has been raised that the term "Global Warming" has been changed to "Climate Change" in an attempt to

avoid some of the criticism this theory has caused.

All of this reminds me of some other "scares" that have been perpetrated on us. Do you remember the Y2K controversy? At mid-night on December 31st, 1999 a lot of bad things were predicted. Computers would stop, airplanes would fall out of the sky and many other calamities would occur. Of course, 2000 was ushered in without any of the predictions happening. Not too many years ago we were being warned about a coming "Ice Age." None of that has happened.

Can we destroy the earth? The answer to this is "yes" and "no." We can certainly be guilty of destructive and damaging things. We can abuse and misuse the earth. We can waste natural resources. We can certainly not be as ecology minded as we should be. We might even be able to destroy portions of the atmosphere. But only God has the power to utterly destroy the earth.

We are warned in the Bible, in 2 Peter 3:10-13. *"But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything in it will be laid bare. 11 Since everything will be destroyed in this way, what kind of people ought you to be? You ought to live holy and godly lives 12 as you look forward to the day of God and speed its coming. That day will bring about the destruction of the heavens by fire, and the elements will melt in the heat."* The earth along with the elements will be destroyed by God as He brings judgment upon all mankind. Man cannot utterly destroy what God has created.

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ELDERS

- Ron Bastien
- Don Greenlee
- Charles Murray
- David Roberts

DEACONS

- Ron Bentz
- Frank Edwards
- Jim Ingram
- George Loyd
- Andy Murray
- Dennis Trask
- Brad VanHaerents

PREACHER

- Charles Murray

MEN WE SUPPORT

- William Stewart--Kingston, Canada
- Bob Owen — Trip to Europe
- Mike Mendez —trip to Cuba

WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

- Worship.....9:30 A.M.
- Classes.....10:50 A.M.
- Worship.....6:00 P.M.

WORSHIP PLACE

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MAY 2010 BE THE BEST YEAR EVER!

Whether or not global warming is occurring or can occur, one thing is certain! God is in control! The Hebrew writer reminds us that not only did God make the universe but He is also sustaining all things by the word of His Power (Hebrews 1:2,3). We are also told that as long as God is in control and the earth stands there will be a change in seasons. "As long as the earth endures, seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, day and night will never cease." (Genesis 8:22). God's sustaining power will guarantee His control over the heating and cooling of the earth.

Is global warming occurring? I don't know! No one knows for sure. It certainly seems doubtful. But I do know one thing: if it is occurring it is not at the hands of men. God is causing whatever climate changes are taking place, if any are really occurring.

The truth of the matter is that most of the ecologists who are issuing warnings about climate change do not believe in God. They believe in evolution and consequently their theory on climate change fits the pattern they believe is a necessary change in the universe. Evolution, according to them, is still occurring. If they believed that God created all things and that God is still in control sustaining His creation, they would not worry about the perceived changes in the climate.

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What should be the attitude of a Christian toward climate change? Of course, we should be diligent to protect and properly use the wonderful world that God has created. We should guard against destructive things that could possibly mar the beauty of God's creation. But, we should also put our faith and trust in God that He is in complete control and not worry ourselves about destroying the earth. There will continue to be seedtime and harvest, cold and heat, summer and winter, and day and night until God determines to bring an end to the world's existence. If we stop and think about it and look back into the past, we will realize that there have always been cycles of changes in the climate. There have been extremely cold periods and extremely warm periods and this will continue as long as the earth stands. Our faith in God will give assurance that we do not have to worry about the physical universe. After all, Jesus has gone to prepare for us an eternal dwelling place (John 14:1-4). This heavenly dwelling can never be destroyed. Paul, speaking about physical things points out that when our body is destroyed in death we have an eternal house, not built by hands, but built by God Himself awaiting us (2 Corinthians 5:2).

We should also prepare ourselves for God's destruction of the universe when Christ comes in judgment. Peter tells us that "since everything will be destroyed... what kind of people ought you to be?" He then answers the question by saying, "You ought to live holy and godly lives." In the context that follows he says that we are to look forward to God's destruction of the earth and make "every effort to be found spotless, blameless and at peace with Him" (2 Peter 3:14).

As a Christian, living a godly and holy life, making every effort to be found spotless and blameless when Christ returns, I do not have to worry about climate change. As a Christian I can place my faith in the fact that God is in control and that the earth will remain until He determines the time for it to be destroyed. As a Christian, I can actually look forward to the elements melting with fervent heat by God's hand because I realize that I will have a heavenly abode that will last eternally.

Friend, are you prepared for God's judgment upon the earth? Are you a Christian? Do you believe that God created the heavens and the earth and that He is still in control sustaining His creation by the word of His power? This same powerful word by which He spoke the world into existence is His power unto salvation (Romans 1:16). We must believe that spoken word revealed to us in the scriptures (Hebrews 11:6). We must act upon that faith by repenting of our past sins (Luke 13:3). That faith should lead us to a confession that Jesus is God's Son (Romans 10:9,10) and faith should lead us to put Christ on in baptism (Galatians 3:26,27) because faith without the works of obedience is dead (James 2:24). Then we can live holy and godly lives as we look forward to God's judgment upon the evil world. We won't have to worry about climate change—we need only to be concerned with changing our lives to conform to the image of God's Son.



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The Life Of Christ**

**GOD'S
PLAN OF SALVATION**
Believe—Heb. 11:6
Repent—Luke 13:3
Confess—Rom. 10:9
Be Baptized—
Mk.16:16, Acts 2:38,
1 Pet. 3:21