

Global Warming and Climate Change

by Rev. Tom Aicken

I have prepared this paper on climate change, partly because of the widespread confusion on this subject, partly because of the politically-motivated agenda behind the widely circulated errors, but mostly because of the fear-mongering, the cruel indoctrination of young children, giving them to believe that the world is going to end before their generation has a chance to do anything about it. Here, then, are ten things to remember:

(1) God's sovereignty. The Noahic covenant, God's promise regarding creation after the great flood, is found in Genesis 8:22, "While the earth remains, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and winter and summer, and day and night shall not cease." This tells us two vital facts to keep before us, a.) that our Creator sustains what He has brought into being, as well as controls everything that happens within it; and b.) that He will continue to sustain and control everything until it fulfills His own intended purpose for it, at which time, the New Testament makes clear, the Lord's Christ will come again (Acts 1:11) and all life in this present world will be terminated (Hebrews 1:10-12). This is the end that we need to watch out and prepare for (John 3:35,36), not an imaginary environmental catastrophe.

(2) Man's responsibility. When God first made man in His own image, He told him, Genesis 1:28, "Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth." With power like this, as we know, comes responsibility. So, yes, man does bear responsibility to tend and care for the environment over which he has been given dominion. He should conserve energy and other natural resources; he should regulate methods to preserve clean air and water; he should use technology and other tools at his disposal to tap into alternate ways of doing things, wherever needed, both for his own and future generations. But exercising responsibility also means learning the facts, behaving wisely, and not allowing oneself to be taken in by junk science and unsubstantiated theories of our environment. Environmentalism is a cash cow. Beware, for instance, of celebrities who are making excessive amounts of money, and who own several multimillion-dollar properties, as a result of peddling their environmental alarmism.

(3) Climate change is a very real phenomenon, and always has been. The earth's temperature, however, has increased by only one degree (Fahrenheit) in the last 100 years, which is a very moderate warming trend compared with other such trends in earlier centuries. Moreover, these warming trends are, over all, more beneficial than cooling trends.

(4) Increased levels of carbon dioxide do not heat up the sun. In fact, it is the heat of the sun which gives us increased levels of carbon dioxide, which in turn gives us more

vegetation (and so provides more food to eat) worldwide. An overwhelming 95% of the earth's carbon dioxide comes from the oceans. When the surface of the water heats up, it emits carbon dioxide; when it cools down, it absorbs carbon dioxide. Of the remaining 5%, much of that comes from volcanic activity and falling leaves in autumn. Only .4% (four parts in 1,000) of our carbon dioxide is estimated to be man-made. Even if we could somehow reduce that amount, it would produce no substantial change.

(5) Carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases are not destroying the ozone shield in the stratosphere. In fact, the most recent studies show that the hole in the ozone shield is getting smaller, that this ozone layer is actually in repair-mode.

(6) Predictions of accelerating man-made climate change are based, not on reliable scientific data, but on computerized models, which have too often proved (like carbon-14 and other radiometric dating methods which produce widely divergent results) to be woefully inadequate and inaccurate.

(7) Government-imposed carbon taxes are doing nothing at all to stop, or even regulate, carbon emissions. They are simply a means of letting an ill-informed public feel good that they are doing something to preserve the planet, a means of massaging the conscience, if you like, while the powers that be have found another source of income.

(8) It has been argued that ice caps are melting, and that polar bears are going to become extinct as a result of that. While some ice caps are getting smaller, others are getting larger. This happens naturally, and has more to do with precipitation than even warming temperatures. The earth was much warmer in the Middle Ages than it is today, and in spite of that we did not lose the polar bear population. In fact, we now have in recent years four times the number of polar bears than we had previously.

(9) It is also argued that sea levels are rising. There is some evidence that sea levels have been rising slowly for thousands of years, and at varying rates. This has continued in both warming and cooling trends. There is, however, no evidence of a human cause for this, nor that this poses any immanent threat. Also, there is no evidence that either the number or severity of storms is affected by climate change.

(10) Finally, fossil fuels provide a better health and economic solution for energy production than other fuel sources used by the world's poor such as burning dung, wood and garbage. It is unreasonable and utterly heartless to require poorer nations to use either solar or wind-power, both unreliable and expensive alternatives, or to remain as they are in poverty as they continue to use their present fuel sources. Abundant energy, instantly on demand and unintermittent, is essential to providing medical, economic and social progress for third world countries.

The IPCC (The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, established by the UN and whose members have been chosen, by the way, for their particular views on climate change) will not agree with much of the above. But it should also be noted that points 3 through 10 do receive the support of many climatologists. This present paper is not intended to prove anything, only to challenge its readers against accepting everything they hear from questionable sources, including our left-wing, agenda-driven media (1 Thess. 5:21,22).

What, now, can we learn from all this? There are two great dangers we need to avoid. The first is in thinking that mankind is destroying the earth, so much so in fact that, unless we adopt some expensive socialist plan to turn our present way of doing things around, our planet will become uninhabitable within the next generation or so. There is simply no evidence even to suggest that such thinking is true. Our Creator has displayed His hand in the intricate designs He has made, and has demonstrated His power to preserve life in His providential care over us. The Old Testament teaches this (see Psalm 19:1). Therefore, we need to learn to trust the Lord, and not rely on any arm of flesh (Psalm 121:1,2). We find all this in the New Testament as well. See Matthew 6:26 and Romans 8:19-23.

The other great danger we need to avoid is in thinking that all things will continue forever, without change, as they have been from the beginning of the world. The apostle Peter alerts us to that error in 2 Peter 3. The fact that life here on earth is not about to meet its demise in a way that many people would have us to believe does not mean that there is not a universal judgment at an appointed time which is still ahead, or that the end for any of us here in this world will not be much sooner than we suppose. The flood in Noah's day brought with it God's promise of all things continuing for a time, but it also serves as a warning of the fire and destruction yet to come (2 Peter 3:7).

The question that faces all of us, then, and we must not put off answering it, is this, 'Are we ready to meet our Maker and Judge?' God calls all people to Himself; He does so sincerely and without partiality. Isaiah 45:22, "Look unto Me and be saved, all the ends of the earth, for I am God and there is none else." Ezekiel 18:23, "Have I any pleasure at all that the wicked should die, says the Lord God, and not that he should turn from his ways and live?" The one and only way to come to God is through faith in Jesus Christ. Hebrew 7:25, "He is able also to save those to the uttermost who come unto God by Him." Acts 4:12, "Neither is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved." God can no more fail to love those who are in Christ than He can fail to love Christ Himself!