

The Gospel and the Environment. Gen. 1-3 Romans 8:18-25

Often in evangelical Churches the emphasis for the gospel is solely upon the Gospel being a message for our individual spiritual lives. The gospel message is one that exclusively relates to my walk with God. It seems strange then that Jesus death and resurrection could be a relevant issue to the environment.

How important are environmental issues to you?

How relevant is your Christian faith to the issues of environmentalism?

How often was this issue is talked about in your experience of Church?

Probably the best known passage which deals with the environment/creation is that of Genesis 1-3. How many times in chapter 1 is the phrase "it was good" repeated?

Why do you think this phrase is used?

Can we say it just like that today (without any parts that are not good)?

What is the very first command that God speaks to people v28-30? Does dominion mean violate and abuse? See Gen 2:15

Read Genesis 3:15-19 again but this time read them with the state of the environment in view. How many changes from God's purpose do you note?

This then leads us to Paul speaking in Romans chapter 8. Think on v19. Today an environmentalist would say "we wait for eager longing for the time when all polluting industries are shut down." What is the implication of Paul's statement?

How closely to our own desires and longing is the description of the created order in v20-23

Biologists often remind us that we are animals. Scripture does not use that language but how closely are we linked and bound to God's physical creation?

How does this address those who think that spiritual life is disembodied Ghosts?

Is part of our Christian contribution to the conversation about the environment caught up in v24-25. We can speak hope.

However is the best solution to just wait till the day when God will restore the creation? Are we obligated to do anything now? Why?