

Are we good Stewards of Creation?
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“The wrong attitude toward nature implies, somewhere, a wrong attitude toward God, and the consequence is inevitable doom.” T. S. Eliot

Does the Bible have anything to say about care of the environment? Yes, without question! I believe that all of us have been given the privilege of sharing in God’s creative activity. “God blessed them and said: Prosper! Reproduce! Fill the earth! Take charge! Be responsible for fish in the sea and birds in the air, for every living thing that moves on the face of the Earth” (Genesis 1:28).

God has given this world to us as a home where we live as tenants. This beautiful dwelling is furnished with an abundance of resources to meet our basic needs. We can enjoy these good gifts, but we also have a responsibility to our Landlord – God himself. Since we have been so favoured, we need to ask, what have we done and what are we doing with this sacred trust?

Ever since the industrial revolution, we have been extracting from creation far more than we have replaced. Now the bills are coming due – global warming, acid rain, holes in the ozone layer, loss of species and loss of hope. Suffering and death entered the world, not through a defect in creation but through its sinful misuse.

Foolishly, modern civilization recklessly devastates the natural environment on which life depends. For example, the Amazon rain forest, sometimes called the lungs of the planet, is being destroyed to make room for beef cattle. Increasingly the world’s limited water supply is being threatened. This summer, Nova Scotia experience its worst drought since 1880.

Energy conservation is one of the greatest challenges we face today. Cars could be manufactured to last longer and give much better mileage. Carpooling would result in fewer cars being refuelled. Also, the economic benefits of recycling should be considered. Unless we change our manner of living, we will use up all the natural resources of food and energy available.

Fortunately, there are solutions, if we are willing to pay the price. We can correct some environmental pollution if we act now. Almost all our problems with pollution are man made. Much of the abuse of our environment is caused by human selfishness and greed. Both politicians and individual citizens need to make commitments to safeguard God’s creation.

Some years ago, the Western world showed its vulnerability by experiencing, without warning, the first random failure of his life – sustaining technology. Over 30 million homes and factories in the North-eastern United States, Ontario and Québec lost their power. In the aftermath something classified as the “Great

Fear” began to show itself; a nameless, numbing fear that this overwhelming power failure might be a forecast of a future tech knowledgeable Holocaust, sending civilization into outer darkness.

I believe that this earth is God’s love gift to us. Since we are entrusted to be “His Stewards.” We are accountable to Him for the way it is treated.