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Saving the World

Perhaps the greatest challenge facing mankind today is the need to protect the Earth from destruction.

There's no doubt that the demands of 21st Century living have serious consequences for much of our world and its wildlife.

Global warming, and 'carbon footprints' have become everyday terms as we've grown ever more environmentally aware.

Yet the world around us is not the only environment we need to consider when we think of our long term future...

the World

Conservation

Over recent years more and more of us have begun questioning what we feel is a serious disregard for the natural world. Perhaps we need to realise that the Earth is not ours to do with as we like, no matter what!

The earth is the LORD's, and everything in it, the world, and all who live in it; for he founded it upon the seas and established it upon the waters.

Psalms 24: 1-2

And 2000 years ago, God demonstrated His concern for the world in a very dramatic way...

For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him.

John 3:17

But this wasn't meant in terms of ecology...

Danger

Damage to the ozone layer, oil polluted beaches and the dangers of radiation are some of the results of today's industrial processes. Yet on a personal level, human nature shows up its own harmful consequences in our lives...

The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity... hatred... jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition... envy... drunkenness...

Galatians 5 :19-21

And this applies to each one of us...

...for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans 3:23

...as one day we will all be made to account for the way we've lived our lives...



...people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment...

Hebrews 9:27

Thankfully God offers a wonderful 'rescue plan'...

Sacrifice

A popular view today is that the environment is being sacrificed in the interests of short term convenience and financial gain. But there was an even greater sacrifice which was made quite deliberately, and which offers everlasting 'benefits'...

...God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

Romans 5:8



If our world is to survive, it will need protection. This will almost certainly mean turning away from some accepted methods of production and manufacture. In the same way however, if we're to survive beyond

death we first need to turn away from all that we know to be wrong in our lives...

He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, so that we might die to sins and live for righteousness...

1 Peter 2:24

Then by asking Christ Jesus into our lives by faith we receive forgiveness and a completely new start... with a 'recycled' lifestyle!

...if anyone is in Christ, that person is a new creation; the old has gone, the new is here!

2 Corinthians 5:17

...to all who received him, to those who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God...

John 1:12

Commitment

The well-being of many species of wildlife is under increasing threat. Only considerable commitment to their protection will safeguard their survival.

In a similar way Christ Jesus makes clear the cost involved for those who would be His true followers...

Whoever wants to be my disciple must deny themselves and take up their cross daily and follow me. For whoever wants to save their life will lose it, but whoever loses their life for me will save it.

Luke 9: 23-24



Challenge

Though our physical world is of crucial importance, there's another 'environment' even more so...



For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.

John 3:16

To disregard ecological warnings will bring serious consequences, but to ignore or reject Christ Jesus would surely be unthinkable...

Very truly I tell you, whoever hears my word and believes him who sent me has eternal life and will not be judged but has crossed over from death to life.

John 5:24

...whoever does not believe stands condemned already...

John 3:18

Where will you spend eternity?