



BEACON

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“Going Green” Spiritually *Brad Green*

Thursday, April 22, 2026, marked the 56th anniversary of “Earth Day.” Those who celebrate “Earth Day” probably do so in many different ways and for just as many reasons. God placed man in “dominion over” His earth and all that dwells on land, air, and sea. Though man should take care of what God has given him to rule and reign over, man should never consider himself subservient to the creation. Sadly, many in the environmentalist movement have created a religious devotion to the Earth. God explicitly condemns those who “worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator” (Rom. 1:25).

Those who believe that the Earth needs man to save it disclose a lack of faith in God and His Son, Jesus:

For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether *they be* thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist (Col. 1:16-17).

“In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth” (Gen. 1:1), and He created it to last as long as He pleases. In fact, He made the Earth to last until

the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night; in the which the heavens shall pass away with a great noise, and the elements shall melt

with fervent heat, the earth also and the works that are therein shall be burned up (2 Pet. 3:10).

Our emphasis, therefore, should not be on saving that which is going to “melt with fervent heat” and be “burned up,” it must be on saving souls who inhabit the Earth. This is God’s view for man to “save the planet.”

The first thing man must do to save the planet is **plant the seed**. The Bible states that “the seed is the word of God” and that seed which falls

on the good ground are they, which in an honest and good heart, having heard the word, keep *it*, and bring forth fruit with patience (Luke 8:11, 15).

Second, to save the planet, we must use only **one book—the Bible**. How many trees could be saved every day if the printing of creed books and confessions of faith ceased? Jesus states that we will be judged by His Word (John 12:48), and the apostle Paul proclaims:

though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any other gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed (Gal. 1:8).

Third, we need to **protect our fountain**. “I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give unto him that is athirst of the fountain of the water of life freely” (Rev. 21:6). That fountain was opened when Jesus died on the cross (John 19:34). To keep the fountain clean, we must follow the words of Christ, “I am the way, the

truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me” (14:6). Adding to or taking away from God’s Word is like adding pollutants to the fountain (Rev. 22:18-19). Many pollutants, like the doctrines of “faith only,” “grace only,” and others, have been used to contaminate God’s plan to save. Man can only enjoy the blessings of the fountain of life through obedience to the Gospel which culminates in water baptism where one has past sins “washed away” (Acts 22:16). Any addition or subtraction to God’s plan is a pollutant, and a polluted stream cannot save.

Fourth, we must **conserve water**. God says that water baptism “doth also now save us” (1 Pet. 3:21) and that baptism requires “much water” (John 3:23). The Greek word translated, *baptize*, means “to immerse, submerge; to make overwhelmed (i.e., fully wet)” (*Strong’s*). Therefore, sprinkling and/or pouring is not baptism and if it is not baptism, it is a waste of water. Also, one must hear and believe (Rom. 10:17), repent of sins (Luke 13:3), and confess the name of Christ (Rom. 10:9-10), before being qualified for immersion. Since babies are unable to fulfill these prerequisites, any attempt to *baptize* a child is a waste of water. The only way we can conserve water is to simply and humbly obey God’s Will.

Fifth, we can save the planet by **avoiding hot air**. The apostle Paul warned Timothy to

shun profane *and* vain babblings: for they will increase unto more ungodliness. And their word will eat as doth a canker: of whom is Hymenaeus and Philetus; Who concerning the truth have erred, saying that the resurrection is past already; and overthrow the faith of some (2 Tim. 2:16-18).

Last, we can save the planet if we practice the Lord’s “**Recycling Program**.” Jesus says, Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world (Mat. 28:19-20).

It is God’s desire that men teach the Truth to others and then have those who have been taught go out and teach others, and so on. Notice Paul’s admonition to Timothy:

the things that thou hast heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men, who shall be able to teach others also (2 Tim. 2:2).

This is God’s plan for producing and reproducing Christians. By following God’s Word and only doing such things as He has authorized, we can fulfill our responsibilities to God to help “**save the planet**.”

Lenoir City, TN

Be Faithful unto Death

When one is baptized into Christ and becomes a Christian, he begins a new life (Rom. 6:4), in which he is to set aside the things of his old way of life (2 Cor. 5:17; Eph. 4:22) and excitedly pursue his new life in Christ and his new relationship with his Savior and Lord. Jesus summarized His expectations and made this promise, “be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life” (Rev. 2:10). What is involved in being faithful? Consider these ten things.

Grow. The Lord wants us to increase our knowledge, faith, and trust in Him (2 Pet. 1:5-11;

3:18), which we can do by regularly studying His Word (2 Tim. 2:15) and praying (Col. 4:2).

Worship. The Lord wants us to long to worship Him (John 4:24; Mat. 4:10) and praise Him from our hearts (Heb. 13:15; Eph. 5:19), especially on the first day of each week (Acts 20:7; Heb. 10:25).

Serve. The Lord wants us to look beyond ourselves (Phi. 2:3-4), and to find opportunities to serve others lovingly (Gal. 5:13) and do good to them (6:10), knowing that such is also serving the Lord Himself (Col. 3:24; Rom. 12:10-11).

Teach. The Lord wants us to show others the way to heaven by teaching the Gospel (Mark 16:15), living a Christian life (Mat. 5:16), and answering their questions (1 Pet. 3:15).

Obey. The Lord wants us to conform our lives to His will by submitting to Him (Jam. 4:7), walking by His side (1 John 1:7), and obeying His commands (Heb. 5:9; Mat. 7:21).

Prioritize. The Lord wants us to put Christ (Col. 1:18) and His church (Mat. 6:33) first in our lives, which will be evident in how we spend our time (Eph. 5:16).

Work. The Lord wants us to be busy in His kingdom (1 Cor. 3:9), remaining “steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord” (15:58).

Separate. The Lord wants us to set ourselves apart from the ways of the world (Rom. 12:2;

1 Pet. 2:11), to keep ourselves pure (1:15-16; 1 John 2:15-17), and to live godly lives (Tit. 2:11-12).

Endure. The Lord wants us to persevere through difficult times as Christians (2 Tim. 2:3), looking to Jesus as our example for strength (Heb. 12:1-3), and ever pressing on to the eternal goal of heaven (Phi. 3:14).

Aim. The Lord wants us to set our sights on the glorious reward of heaven (Mat. 6:20; Col. 3:1-4) and live every day in eager anticipation of the return of Jesus to take the children of God home with Him (Phi. 3:20-21; Tit. 2:13).

God calls upon us to “be faithful,” which entails staying true to Him, His Word, His church, and diligently seeking to please Him above all else! What a wonderful blessing!

Author Unknown

Most Blessed

H. L. Gradowith (Tim Smith)

Chorus:

And the windows of Heaven were opened wide
He poured from the bountiful blessings inside
And bestowed on me all of His very best:
Thus making me of all men surely most blessed!
I found my cup empty, my prospects were dim,
With no one to turn to I called upon Him:
Beyond expectations He answered my call:
My need to Him miniscule: He met it all!

Chorus:

And the windows of Heaven were opened wide
He poured from the bountiful blessings inside
And bestowed on me all of His very best:
Thus making me of all men surely most blessed!
I thought my plight hopeless: too great to overcome,

Every noble life leaves the fiber of it interwoven forever in the works of the world.

Author Unknown

Great fear welled within me, so dark, wearisome;
Then Heavenward I looked and called on my
Friend
And just like that my need had come to an end!

Chorus:

And the windows of Heaven were opened wide
He poured from the bountiful blessings inside
And bestowed on me all of His very best:
Thus making me of all men surely most blessed!
His Providence led me to His faithful few,
The ones who were willing His bidding to do;
In their place they stood and through them His
will done:
Things worked as they should and my need was overcome!

Chorus:

And the windows of Heaven were opened wide
He poured from the bountiful blessings inside
And bestowed on me all of His very best:
Thus making me of all men surely most blessed!

Deceased

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Michael Hatcher's YouTube Channel

<https://www.youtube.com/user/52MichaelH>

The best lessons a boy can learn are from his own mistakes, except those he learns from the mistakes of others.

Author Unknown

Sick

Remember in your prayers:

Bill & Peggy Crowe

Nancy Travis

Linda Worley

Carla Burleson

Bill & Pam Busch

Linda Parks

Please Remember

April 29

Fifth Wednesday Singing at 7:00 p.m., in the auditorium.

Defender and Beacon

Available Via Email

Send your email address to:

bellviewcoc@gmail.com

Weekly Services

Sunday

Bible Classes for all ages — 9:00 a.m.

Morning Worship Service — 10:00 a.m.

Afternoon Worship Service — 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday

Bible Classes for all ages — 7:00 p.m.

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