

EVANGELICALS MISLED ON **CLIMATE CHANGE**

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Note from pastor Kevin Lea follows this article. – Updated April 11, 2006

Do you remember the day you found out one of your role models was imperfect? Perhaps you saw your mom punish the wrong sibling for breaking a vase, or you heard your kindergarten teacher swear. I'm finding myself just as disillusioned right now with several of our nation's prominent Christians.

An impressive list of evangelical Christian leaders has recently signed onto the "Evangelical Climate Initiative" (ECI), a statement calling for Americans to do what they can to combat climate change.

Some of the statement seems reasonable and biblical. Yes, Christians are called to be stewards of the earth. Yes, we're charged with caring for the poor. Yes, we want to stand for what is right, and even get involved politically when an opportunity arises. These assertions are agreed upon by nearly all evangelical Christians.

However, these Christian leaders step outside of their areas of expertise when they take on the issue of climate change. They assert, "Over the last several years many of us have engaged in study, reflection, and prayer related to the issue of climate change," but the majority of them are not scientists. They are also not economists, so they seem to be totally unaware of the economic ramifications of the ideas they are proposing.

In 2004, a group of leading economists from around the world gathered for the Copenhagen Consensus to prioritize world problems and to put together economic estimates of possible solutions. They ranked each of seventeen potential solutions according to a cost-benefit analysis of each one. The three proposed climate change solutions received the three worst rankings. The top-ranked solutions -- in other words, the solutions that could do the most good at the best cost -- included combating HIV/AIDS, providing micronutrients to those suffering from malnutrition, liberalizing trade, and controlling malaria.

You see, even if all scientists agreed that climate change is a threat, there's no good solution in sight. The Kyoto treaty, for instance, would reduce climate change only minimally while imposing economy-crushing

regulations on businesses and individuals around the world.

A forthcoming press release from The National Center for Public Policy Research explains:

Mandatory emission controls would result in more costly and less accessible energy. The Clinton Administration's Department of Energy estimated that the Kyoto Protocol's mandatory emissions reductions would raise gasoline prices by 66 cents and increase electricity prices by up to 86 percent by 2010. Driving up energy prices would have a disproportionate impact on the poor, who may be forced to choose between buying food and heating their home.

I bet the folks behind the ECI didn't bother telling the evangelical leaders some of these little-publicized facts. In fact, we've recently discovered one group that's behind this Initiative: the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, one of the primary funding sources of abortion programs around the world.

In addition, The National Center for Public Policy Research has formally requested the last three years of tax returns of the ECI's sponsor, the Evangelical Environment Network. The National Center's Amy Ridenour says the funders of ECI and EEN seem to have less to do with Christianity than with liberal causes:

What we are finding so far is what we expected to find: the group is a far-left environmental project funded by leftists with an interest in environmental issues and no track record of promoting or supporting Christianity, evangelical or otherwise. We are seeking, among other things, evidence that donors also fund explicitly anti-Christian activities. This would demonstrate that their interest here is definitely not the promotion of Christianity, but the hijacking of Christianity for political purposes.

The signatories of the ECI need to know who has duped them. They also need to know the truth behind so-called "global warming." If you are associated with any of the signatories, please let them know that the policies they are supporting are dangerous, especially to those they really want to help. Some of the bigger surprises on the list of signatories include:

- Dr. Rick Warren, author of *The Purpose Driven Life*
- Dr. Jack Hayford, television/radio evangelist
- David Neff, editor of *Christianity Today*
- Dr. Peter Borgdorff, executive director of the Christian Reformed Church
- Clive Calver, former president of World Relief
- Richard Stearns, president of World Vision

- Commissioner W. Todd Bassett of the Salvation Army
- Michael Nyenhuis, president of MAP International
- Dr. Timothy George, well-known author
- Countless Christian college and university presidents, including those heading up Wheaton College (IL), Calvin College (MI), and Gordon College (MA)

Note from pastor Kevin Lea:

Jesus was not unclear when He gave us His final marching orders before ascending to heaven. He said,

"All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, "teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen. (Matthew 28:18-20)

Jesus also said,

"But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth." (Acts 1:8-9)

For many centuries true Christians have been obedient to this call and many souls have been saved and headed to heaven as a result. But now we have very prominent "Christian" leaders telling us that our message should be to save the planet from global warming.

Those in the world love these leaders for getting off of the Jesus message and instead joining them in the futile effort to stop global warming. How do we know it will be futile? Because the Bible tells us that the future global judgment will be one of fire.

2 Pet 3:5-7 For this they willfully forget: that by the word of God the heavens were of old, and the earth standing out of water and in the water, by which the world that then existed perished, being flooded with water. But the heavens and the earth which are now preserved by the same word, are reserved for fire until the day of judgment and perdition of ungodly men. (NKJ)

Rev 8:7 The first angel sounded: And hail and fire followed, mingled with blood, and they were thrown to the earth. And a third of the trees were burned up, and all green grass was burned up. (NKJ)

Some say it is a fact that the oceans are getting warmer. Assuming they are correct, then the debate is over the source of this increasing heat. Is it due to human activity or increased geothermal activity on the ocean floor as the

world heads toward the judgment by fire?

*We are increasingly hearing about new volcanoes erupting on the ocean floor. Each ocean volcano adds billions of watts of thermal energy into the oceans. **IF** there are an increasing number of volcanoes on the ocean floor, then there must be an increasing amount of energy added to the oceans, which will result in increased ocean temperature. **IF** the oceans gain thermal energy from this and other energy sources, hurricanes will increase in frequency and intensity.*

*The hurricane season of 2005 was unprecedented in American history, but could it be that last year was only a small taste of what is yet to come? **IF** ocean temperature increase is the explanation for the recent increase in storm frequency and intensity, then any additional heating of the oceans will make hurricane intensity increase even more.*

It has only been since the advent of flight and high tech sensors that man has been able to understand how hurricanes form and then feed on the thermal energy of ocean surface water. The prophet Jeremiah (about 500 B.C.) spoke about "latter day" hurricanes, and how in the latter days men "will understand it perfectly."

Was Jeremiah speaking to our generation and how we would be able to send planes and sensors into the eye of the hurricane in order to understand how it gains its power to destroy? Could it be that he was foretelling the days that increased thermal energy would bring massive destruction due to hurricanes?

Jer 23:19-20 Behold, a whirlwind of the LORD has gone forth in fury-- a violent whirlwind [**using Hebrew word for great wind or hurricane**]! It will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The anger of the LORD will not turn back until He has executed and performed the thoughts of His heart. **In the latter days you will understand it perfectly.** (NKJ)

Jer 25:32-33 Thus says the LORD of hosts: "Behold, disaster shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the farthest parts of the earth. "And at that day the slain of the LORD shall be from one end of the earth even to the other end of the earth [**global hurricanes**]. They shall not be lamented, or gathered, or buried; they shall become refuse on the ground [**as happened on a small scale in New Orleans as they are still finding dead bodies, months later**]. (NKJ)

Jer 30:23-24 Behold, the whirlwind of the LORD goes forth with fury, a continuing whirlwind; it will fall violently on the head of the wicked. The fierce anger of the LORD will not return until He has done it, and until He has performed the intents of His heart. **In the latter days you will consider it.** (NKJ)

On a related note, comparison of satellite photographs of glacier areas on the earth over the last few decades have established that some (if not all) glaciers are receding with time. But again, the debate is about why. Is it because of human activity releasing “greenhouse gases”, or have the glaciers been receding for many centuries since the original “ice age” that resulted as a consequence of the global flood (see Dr. Walt Brown’s Ice Age theory at www.creationscience.com)? Or could the areas seeing the greatest melt-off be experiencing an increase in geothermal activity?

Whatever the cause of the melting, there is very little debate in the scientific community about what will happen if much more of the reflective ice and snow glaciers should melt. The science associated with the study of heat transfer concludes that any net decrease in the overall surface area (on the earth) of ice/snow associated with the ice caps and glaciers will reduce the amount of radiant heat that is reflected by the earth back into space. With less reflection, more thermal energy is taken into the environment and overall global warming will occur. If this results in more melting of the ice caps, then accelerated warming will occur, thus melting even more of the ice caps.

This runaway-melting scenario has nothing to do with man’s activity (except that some say we are causing the initial warming that is starting to melt the ice caps, and once started there is no turning it off). However, there is evidence that this melting has been going on for centuries, even before man brought on the industrial revolution.

The Bible states that during the coming tribulation period more than one-half of the world’s population will die. It also says (in Rev 8:7) that many of the trees and the grass will burn up. If one-half of the earth’s population dies, then one-half of the oxygen producing plants will be starved of the carbon dioxide that those breathing, car driving, people provided. As a result, any massive die-off of humans will also result in a massive die-off of plants and trees, just as the Bible predicts. Therefore, “greenhouse gasses” will not be a long-term problem. Instead, the Bible predicts that the earth will soon be starving for some carbon dioxide.

In summary, where does this leave the Christian? Are we to join the world in fighting global warming based on man’s limited knowledge of why it is happening? Or instead, are we to keep preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ to a dying world, warning them of the wrath to come? The answer is very clear to those who believe Jesus and want Him to be the Lord of their lives.

No matter what man does, the scriptures will be fulfilled. This world is about to be plunged into a time of unprecedented judgment by fire. There is one way to avoid the temporal misery of this world, and the eternal misery associated with being rejected by God; and that is to embrace Jesus as your Lord and Savior, if you haven’t done so already.

2 Pet 3:11-14 Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells. Therefore, beloved, looking forward to these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, without spot and blameless; (NKJ)

I Jn 2:15-17 Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.

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