



The Bible and Politics



The Bible and the Environment

Why Christians should be concerned
The creation mandate

The breadth of God's concern

The glory of our hope

Practical action
National and international

Local

Personal

Why Christians should be uniquely equipped to make a difference
"Work it and take care of it"

"Love you neighbour as yourself"

"Be on your guard against all kinds of greed"

"Thinking he was the gardener"

Questions for Homegroups

1. How do you think evangelism and caring for the environment fit together in the bible? What Bible passages help us understand this? Do you think your opinion has changed as a result of the sermon?
2. What difference does the resurrection of Jesus and the hope of a new creation make to our attitude to the environment?
3. “Global warming will be determined by negotiations at summits like Kyoto and Copenhagen, not by me” What is your response to this?
4. “Environmentalism is just the fashionable cause of the moment. Christians should stick with long term priorities of the gospel and justice and mercy.” What is your response to this?
- 5.. What do you think are the key ways that you could live more in harmony with your environment? Are there actions we need to take collectively as a church?

If anyone would like to take a lead in helping us as a church to take our environmental responsibility seriously, please do contact Peter Comont.

Internet Resources on the Environment

The John Ray Initiative

www.jri.org.uk

The John Ray Initiative is an educational charity which aims to provide Christian reflection and information sharing about environmental issues. It's mission is to "promote responsible environmental stewardship in accordance with Christian principles and the wise use of science and technology."

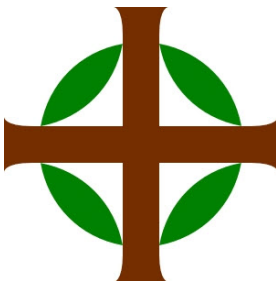
This is an excellent starting point for those who want to be better informed.



A Rocha

www.arocha.org

A Rocha is a practical conservation organisation now working throughout the world. It has five core commitments which it lists as Christian, Conservation, Community, Cross-cultural, Cooperation. It is involved with local conservation projects with an emphasis on science, research, practical conservation and environmental education.

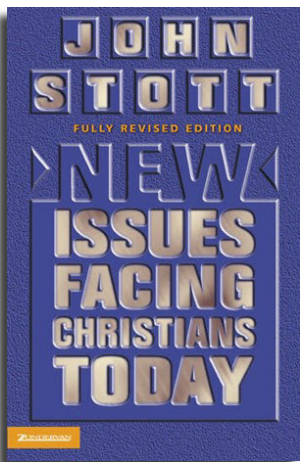


SAGE

www.sageoxford.org.uk

SAGE is a local, Oxford based, group of Christians concerned with the environment. They are involved with various local projects, and organise talks, prayer meetings, and environmentally interesting walks.

Recommended Books



New Issues Facing Christians Today **John Stott (IVP)**

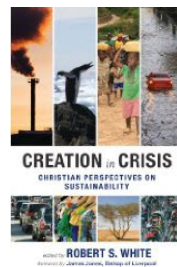
The chapter *Caring for Creation* in this book provides a very useful introduction to the topic including some suggestions for further reading. John Stott has been at the forefront of evangelical pastors calling for Christian concern for the environment.

THIS BOOK IS AVAILABLE TO PURCHASE ON THE CHURCH WEBSITE AT A SPECIAL PRICE OF £10.00.

Beyond this the Christian books on the environment are legion. Two particularly useful ones are mentioned below.

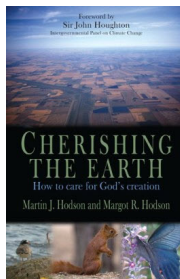
Creation in Crisis: Christian Perspectives on Sustainability **Robert White, Ed. (SPCK, 2009)**

'Creation in Crisis' represents the fruits of a workshop where leading scientists, economists and theologians sat down together to discuss the root causes of environmental unsustainability and to challenge each other to develop an authentically Christian response to this global crisis.



Cherishing the Earth

Martin and Margot Hodson (Monarch, 2008)
<http://www.hodsons.org/cherishingtheearth/index.htm>



This book focuses more on practical action. It is one of dozens of books coming out on the Christian market on this theme. I have chosen to mention this one mainly because the authors are local. The website provides a synopsis of the book and also updates on developments since publication.