

# **Why Care for Creation?**

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from Psalm 24 (Jewish Study Bible, *JPS*)

The Earth is the Lord's and all that it holds,  
**the world and its inhabitants.**

Who may ascend the mountain of the Lord?

**Those who have clean hands and a pure heart.**

We shall carry away a blessing from the Lord.

**Such is the circle of those who seek your  
presence.**

## From a Christian Perspective

“Through Christ, God was pleased to reconcile to himself *all things*, whether on earth or in heaven, by making peace through the blood of his cross.” Colossians 1:20 (NRSV)

“Your righteousness is like the mighty mountains, your judgments are like the great deep; you save humans and animals alike, O Lord.” Psalm 36:6 (NRSV)

Then why do people of faith often *not* care for creation?

# “Stumbling Blocks” to Creation’s Care

Calvin DeWitt, Professor of Environmental Science, University of Wisconsin

*“The world is not my home; I’m just passing through.”*

Just because our bodies are not eternal, would we not take care of them (e.g., brush our teeth, visit the doctor and dentist)? So, too, with the environment.

Caring for creation is part of our lives of faith today, not in some distant future.

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*“There are too many worldly people out there doing environmental things.”*

Often, if people of faith are unwilling or unable to do the work, God/the universe sees to it that the work gets done anyway!

From a Christian perspective: In Isaiah 45, the Persian King Cyrus was anointed to do God’s work. (“I arm you, though you do not know me.” v.5)

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*“I don’t want to be an extremist or alarmist.”*

Frightening ourselves into action is far less preferable than caring for creation out of gratitude and love. Yet, is it wrong to sound the fire alarm when a building is burning?

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*“I believe our job is to do what we want with creation.”*

Christians often appeal to Genesis 1:28: “God said, ‘Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth and subdue it; and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the air and over every living thing that moves upon the earth.’”

Yet, “dominion” means responsible stewardship. For Christians, “dominion” is also to reflect God’s image, in which we were made.

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*“People are more important than the environment.”*

Recall the story of the flood (Genesis 6-9), in which every species is saved from the flood, not just humans.

“You save humans and animals alike, O Lord.”  
Psalm 36:6

# “Stumbling Blocks” to Creation’s Care last

Calvin DeWitt, Professor of Environmental Science, University of Wisconsin

*“I disagree with what some environmentalists say will happen” (and if I work for the environment, I’ll be supporting people with whom I disagree”).*

Doing what we feel called by faith to do should not carry a litmus test for who is allowed to do it.

Sometimes, promoters of doubt about the findings of environmental science have become experts in playing on fears and apprehensions.

“A Blessing” ([seasonofcreation.org](http://seasonofcreation.org))

*May the Spirit surprise you  
like a dove from above,  
or a swallow from below,  
but now and then like a blue wren!*

**Yes! People of faith should care  
for **Creation!****