

# Whose World? Let's Be Honest

## An Oikonomos Seminar on Christian Stewardship

### Woodland Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX

#### Handout for Week 3



*We are conducting an unprecedented experiment with the only home that we have.*--Dr. Katharine Hayhoe—Climate Scientist, Texas Tech University

#### **2021-2022 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, IPCC Report:**

- Humans are causing the earth to heat faster than any time in human history and faster than scientist previously projected
- Climate Change is affecting all of life, in all parts of the globe. It significantly contributes to poorer health, economic decline, and increased income disparity
- Outlines specific areas that need urgent attention.

#### **Rising temperatures are causing more unpredictable, severe weather events.**

- In 2020, the nation had 22 separate billion-dollar weather and climate disasters.
- Texas leads the nation for the most billion dollar weather events.
- In 2020 we had 5 billion dollar weather disasters, including hurricanes, hail storms and dangerous thunderstorms.
- Texas has had 3/500-year floods in just 3 years.

#### **Common myths that blame attempt to shift the blame for climate change**

- *The sun is causing it.* NASA studies beginning in 1970 show that Solar Radiance has been declining since the 1980s while temperature rises.
- *Volcanoes are causing it.* NASA studies (as do others) show global volcanic CO<sub>2</sub> emissions indicate that present-day volcanoes release less than one percent of the carbon dioxide released currently by human activities.
- *The earth's orbit is causing it.* NASA reports that orbital cycles operate on long time scales, ranging from tens of thousands to hundreds of thousands of years. In contrast, Earth's current warming has taken place over time scales of decades to centuries. NASA says that over the last 150 years, Orbital cycles have not changed the amount of solar energy absorbed by Earth very much.
- Go to the NASA website on other Climate Change myths.

## **How Americans feel about Climate Change**

- See Global Warming's 6 Americas by Yale Communications:
  - <https://climatecommunication.yale.edu/about/projects/climate-change-in-the-american-mind/>
- 76 percent of Americans believe Climate Change is real
- 70 percent are worried, 50 percent feel hopeless

## **The Christian Faith Brings Hope in the Midst of Despair**

- Jesus says that if we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive
- A large number of Christians refuse to own their responsibilities and instead make unbiblical arguments to avoid taking action
- To oppose taking action on climate change cannot be justified by scripture. God created the earth and put us in charge as stewards. Excuses about what WE expect GOD to do for us does not alleviate us from the responsibility God has assigned to us. See Week 1 study.

## **The First Action People Need to Take is to Talk Openly About Climate Change**

- Begin by listening to others and observing their interests
  - People like to talk about where they live, their jobs, their families, vacations, schools and alma maters. Everybody talks about the current weather conditions or high food and gas prices. These can all be used to discuss your concerns about climate change.
- Connect with them over things you are both passionate about.
  - This may include sports, hobbies, family, outdoor activities, favorite places to go, etc.
  - Connect with organizations like PTA, work or civic groups, charitable organizations, homeowners associations, neighborhood groups, book clubs, bible studies, church committees, etc.
- Inspire them to action. Leave them with something they can do.
  - Refer them to sources, groups, seminars, volunteer groups
  - Tell them about your activities