

# Whose World? Why The Facts Matter

## An Oikonomos Seminar on Christian Stewardship

### Woodland Baptist Church, San Antonio, TX

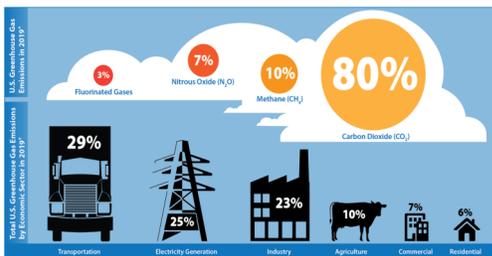
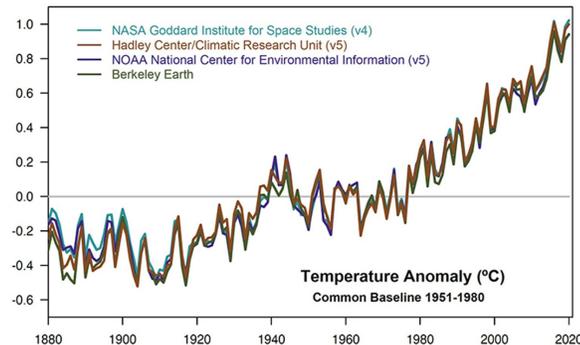
#### Handout for Week 2



#### The State of the Planet

- Over the last 50 years we have lost more than 68 percent of this planet's animals
- One million plant and animal species are threatened with extinction
- Human population has doubled since 1970 will reach 10 billion by 2050
- Humans are consuming natural resources 170 percent more than earth can generate
- Temperatures are expected to rise 2.5 degrees or more by 2050 in the US
- CO2 levels have risen to levels not seen in 3 million years
- By 2100, sea levels are expected to rise 1-4 feet around the globe.

#### Global Warming is caused by Greenhouse Gases particularly CO2



- Most CO2 emissions are from transportation, electricity production, industry
- GHGs hold heat and prevent the excess from escaping into space
- Increased levels of CO2 are directly related to increased temperatures
- The GHG Methane is more dense and will increase as permafrost melts

## Weather vs Climate

- Weather is the day to day current events
- Climate is the accumulation of weather events over 20 to 30 years

## How do we know Climate Change is affecting the world?

97 percent of the world's scientists concur that climate change is real and we must act now.

- Melting ice on the poles causing sea levels to rise flooding coastal areas
  - NASA predicts US coast line to rise 10 to 12 inches by 2050; up to 4 feet in other areas in the southern hemisphere
  - The Greenland ice sheets hold enough water to refill the Great Lakes 115 times over is melting has higher rates than previously thought
  - Greenland lost an average of 279 billion tons of ice per year between 1993 and 2019, while Antarctica lost about 148 billion tons of ice per year.
  - Poor living along coast lowlands are deeply affected by weather events
- More frequent and more intense rains, snows, hurricanes, while droughts increase
  - Increase in heat leads to increase in evaporation and more water vapor to fuel more severe storms
  - Higher temps offset large rains by evaporation, run off and population increases
- Wildfires projected to increase 33 percent by 2050
- Heat related illnesses increasing
- Earth stores 90 percent of the extra heat in the Oceans; High levels of CO2 cause higher oceans temps and higher levels of sea acidification
  - Resulting in coral bleaching and coral reef death
  - Fish are moving to deeper, cooler waters
- Higher heat levels are creating more droughts in major agricultural areas
  - Less water means less irrigation and poor crops
  - Drought resistant crops are being developed and necessary
  - More warm days increases insect population

The rainbow is a reminder that God has promised not to destroy us, but it doesn't mean we won't destroy ourselves.

*Today we have become the greatest threat to the health of our planet. We're the first generation to know what we're doing, and the last who have a chance to put things right.*

—Sir David Attenborough