

# Care of and for the earth

Psalm 24:1 NKJV: The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,  
The world and those who dwell therein.

Presented by Dr. Oscar Owens, Jr.

# Care for and of the earth

- **Psalm 24:1 NKJV:**
- **24 The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness, The world and those who dwell therein.**
- **"To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it." (Deuteronomy 10:14)**
- **Colossians 1:16 (NKJV):**
- **16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.**
- **Purpose:**
- ***To motivate the listeners to care for the earth and nature because God, in Jesus Christ our Lord, cares for the earth and nature.***

# Care for and of the earth

- 1) Let us care for the earth in gratitude to the goodness and grace of God manifested in nature and in Jesus
- **A. The earth and nature on the earth is God's, because God created it all.**
- **Psalm 24:1** NKJV: 24 The earth is the Lord's, and all its fullness,  
▪ The world and those who dwell therein.
- **Deuteronomy 10:14** "To the Lord your God belong the heavens, even the highest heavens, the earth and everything in it."
- **Colossians 1:16** (NKJV): 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

# Care for and of the earth

**B. God originally gave humans the role to steward, take care of the earth and nature.**

**Genesis 2:15:**

15 Then the Lord God took the man and put him in the garden of Eden to tend and keep it.

**Genesis 1:28:**

28 Then God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply; fill the earth and subdue it; have dominion over the fish of the sea, over the birds of the air, and over every living thing that moves on the earth.”

**1 John 4:16 New King James Version**

16 And we have known and believed the love that God has for us. God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God in him.

# Care for and of the earth

**C. Our sin separated us from God, but God has reconciled us, has made us God's friends by our faith in Jesus and what Jesus has done for us, therefore we must love and care for all that God loves and cares for.**

**Romans 5:8: 8 NKJV**

But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us.

**Romans 5:10-11** New King James Version:

10 For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life. 11 And not only that, but we also rejoice in God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom we have now received the reconciliation.

**Romans 5:10-11** New Living Translation

10 For since our friendship with God was restored by the death of his Son while we were still his enemies, we will certainly be saved through the life of his Son. 11 So now we can rejoice in our wonderful new relationship with God because our Lord Jesus Christ has made us friends of God.

**1 Corinthians 12:27** (NKJV): Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

# Care for and of the earth

## 2) Let us care for the earth in praise of God's glory and wonders revealed through God's creations

A. God's glory is seen by us in God's creations: God's universe, God's earth: earth's sky, earth's plants and animals, God's humans on earth.

**Psalm 19:1–3** (NKJV): The heavens declare the glory of God; And the firmament shows His handiwork.

2 Day unto day utters speech, And night unto night reveals knowledge.

3 There is no speech nor language, Where their voice is not heard.

**Romans 1:20–21** (NKJV):

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, 21 because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened.

# Care for and of the earth

**B. Seeing, attesting to the glory, beauty and wonder of God in God's earth and God's natural creations help us to give God our Creator praise and worship.**

**Psalm 8:1, 3-4**

"Lord, our Lord, how majestic is your name in all the earth! You have set your glory in the heavens... When I consider your heavens, the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, which you have set in place, what is mankind that you are mindful of them, human beings that you care for them?"

**John 1:3:** All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.

**1 Corinthians 8:6:** yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him.

# Care for and of the earth

**C. As we see God's wonder and glory in God's earth and the natural world created by God, we should be motivated to care for, to take care of God's earth.**

**Colossians 1:16** (NKJV): 16 For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him.

**Psalms 104:24–25** (NKJV): O Lord, how manifold are Your works!

In wisdom You have made them all. The earth is full of Your possessions—

25 This great and wide sea, In which are innumerable teeming things, Living things both small and great.

**1 Corinthians 12:27** (NKJV): Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

**Colossians 1:27** (NKJV):

27 To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

# Care for and of the earth

**3. Let us take care of the earth to protect earth's natural environment for it to be a blessing for us, other people and plants and animals alive today and for our future generations until Jesus returns.**

**A. Clearly humans motivated by ignorance, or greed have brought harm to earth's natural environment of plants and animals through behaviors that have brought harm.**

Pollution (causing global warming), cutting down huge numbers of trees (in the Amazon and other parts of the world), overfishing, causing extinction and near extinction of animals and plants (for example honey bees), reducing natural resources and diversity in nature

**B. We are learning new modes of human behaviors that can help God's natural world on earth become more healthy.**

Reducing carbon dioxide pollutants by reducing use of fossil fuels, supporting diversity among insects, plants and animals, planting more trees especially in urban areas, using solar energy, wind energy, electric cars, etc.

**C. We are discovering when we act in these more loving ways in our relationships with nature and the earth's environment, we learn to better love ourselves, other peoples, and all of our future generations, until Jesus returns.**

**Psalm 96:11-12** "Let the heavens rejoice, let the earth be glad; let the sea resound, and all that is in it. Let the fields be jubilant, and everything in them; let all the trees of the forest sing for joy."

**Psalm 139:14**

"I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

# Care for and of the earth

Conclusion: The Holy Spirit inside us will help to help God's natural world, God's earth and nature, to flourish to God's glory and the benefit for all humans.

**1 Corinthians 6:19-20 NKJV**

19 Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? 20 For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's.

**John 14:16-17**

16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you and will be in you.

Let us ask the Holy Spirit to help us to take better care of God's earth and natural creatures, and God's natural environment. With the help of our Holy Helper we can love each other and love God's creation! Hallelujah!

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