



Part 2: HEAVEN IS NOT MY HOME

UNDERSTANDING OUR FUTURE HOPE

More science and more technology are not going to get us out of the present ecological crisis until we find a new religion, or rethink our old one.

~ Lynne White Jr.

Many evangelicals come close to celebrating the demise of the Earth, enthusiastically citing the decay as proof that the return of Christ is very near. ... If we do not offer biblical foundations for environmental action, we will have only ourselves to blame if environmental activists turn to other, finally inadequate, worldviews and religions.

~ Ronald J. Sider

This world is not my home, I'm just-a-passing through
My pleasure and my hopes are placed beyond the blue
Many friends and kindred have gone on before
And I can't feel at home in this world anymore

~ Traditional American Christian Folk Song

This world *is* our home. We were made to live *here*.

~ Lela Gilbert

This is my Father's world, O let me ne'er forget
That though the wrong seems oft so strong,
God is the ruler yet.

~ Maltbie D. Babcock

Until the church develops an understanding of the gospel that relates it more to this life than the next life, it will cause difficulties on both sides.

~ Dallas Willard

Because we await the time when even the groaning creation will be restored to wholeness, we commit ourselves to work vigorously to protect and heal that creation for the honour and glory of the Creator.

~ An Evangelical Declaration on the Care of Creation

Christians have been slow to respond to the imperatives of creation care, and we evangelical believers in particular have been even more laggardly.

~ John Stott

I like the word 'laggardly'.

~ Bruxy Cavey

Our works, here and now, are not all transitory. The good that we have done will not simply disappear and be forgotten. This world is not a passing and futile phase; it will be taken up in God's new world. Our good buildings, our great inventions, our acts of healing, our best writings, our creative art, our finest clothes, our greatest treasures will not simply pass away. If they represent the finest works of God's image-bearers, they will adorn the world to come.

~ Paul Marshall

Plant a tree today.

~ Martin Luther, when asked what he would do if he knew Jesus was returning tomorrow

God's promises that in the end he will do for the whole creation what he did for Jesus on Easter day.

~ N. T. Wright

We believe that in Christ there is hope, not only for men, women and children, but also for the rest of creation which is suffering from the consequences of human sin.

~ An Evangelical Declaration on the Care of Creation

The Lord God placed the man in the Garden of Eden to tend and care for it.

~ Genesis 2:15 (NLT)