

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY: Friday 4th August 2023

By Revd Kit Gunasekera

Love Thy Neighbour

Global warming, affects people and nature, from habitat loss, flooding, droughts, extreme weather events, disrupted food supplies and sea level rise. Today's alarming report on the BBC about the dramatic record breaking rise in ocean temperatures, is just one of many, many, warnings that has been sounded over the years.

In the Genesis poem, God creates nature and says its good. He gives human beings the charge to care for and steward nature, not to exploit it and destroy it for profit. Jesus said, love your neighbour as you love your self and told the parable of the Good Samaritan, to show that everyone, specially those who are distant and different to us, are our neighbours. Our neighbours around the world are going hungry, and been forced to migrate and being made homeless because of climate change. Anyone who follows Jesus teachings, cannot ignore their plight, or of that of nature. And human induced climate change, is something we can do something about.

With the stakes being so high, followers of Jesus should make every effort to find out more and educate themselves about this issue.

There are also some helpful ideas from [A Rocha UK](#):

"We must be crystal clear about the causes of **human-induced climate** change and redouble efforts to halt them...*approximately 79% of global greenhouse gas emissions came from the sectors of energy, industry, transport and buildings together ...*Burning fossil fuels remains the single biggest source of emissions. Getting our economies off fossil fuels, therefore, is the overriding priority.

We must preserve our natural carbon sinks, from the Amazon rainforest to our remaining UK woodlands, grasslands and wetlands, establish new ones, switch to climate-and-biodiversity-friendly farming, plant trees and open new greenspaces in our towns and cities.

We should use every tool God gives us. Pray for change, for our faith to sustain us in concerning times. Use our power as consumers. And critically use our voice and

vote to urge local and national politicians to use their much greater powers – to sign international agreements, pass laws, levy taxes, use the national budget to accelerate the right actions – to ‘keep as close as possible to [1.5 degrees](#)’.

BIBLE VERSES:

The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it,
the world, and all who live in it;
- Psalm 24:1