

Aftershocks!

Does the Church Have an Effective Theology of the Environment?

In light of the Global Environmental Crisis this workshop examines the realities of the current crisis and addresses the issues, including the new normal of adaptation to extreme weather events, energy consumption, and environmental pollution, and asks what can the church do about them? How should Christians respond?

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INTRODUCTION

- **Alvin Tofler** (1970) ‘*Future Shocks*’
- **Francis Schaeffer** (1970) “*Pollution and The Death of Man: The Christian View of Ecology*”
- Are we now experiencing ‘*Aftershocks*’?

1. EXPERIENCING SHOCKS FROM THE GLOBAL ENVIRONMENTAL CRISIS

- Earthquakes - *New Zealand* (2010/7.8), *Italy* (2016/6.6), *Haiti* (2010/7.0), *Nepal* (2015/7.8) *Columbia* (2017/5.9), *Chile* (2016/7.7)
- Hurricanes/Typhoons/Tsunamis/Flooding - *Philippines* (2013), *Haiti* (2016), *Peru* (2016)
- Wild Fires – *Australia* (2009), *Canada* (2016), *USA* (2016)

2. DOES IT MATTER?. It matters to:

- a. Suffering humanity
- b. Destruction of God’s creation/ Vulnerable communities
- c. Cost of rehabilitation
- d. Future Energy Consumption

- e. Sustainability of society

3. HOW SHOULD THE CHURCH RESPOND?

- a. Do we have an effective theology of environment?
- b. Creation, Fall, Redemption, and Future Hope
- c. Creation Care and the Gospel

4. WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

- a. Be Aware
- b. Do the Analysis
- c. Develop an Action Plan

Suggested Reading:

Edward R Brown Wright (author). *'Our Father's World: Mobilizing the Church to Care for God's creation'*. (2008).

Paul Douglas, Mitch Hescocx (authors). *'Creation for Creation: The Evangelical's Guide to Climate Change and a Healthy Environment'*. 2016

Francis A. Schaeffer, Udo W. Middelman (authors). *'Pollution and the Death of Man'*. (1970)

Robert S. White, Colin Bell (eds). *'Creation Care and the Gospel: Reconsidering the Mission of the Church'*. (2016)

Christopher J. H. Wright (author). *'The Mission of God. Unlocking the Bible's Grand narrative'* (2006)