

Certainly an “Inconvenient Truth” (II)

“This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and EVERY LIVING CREATURE with you...NEVER AGAIN will the waters BECOME A FLOOD to destroy all life.” Genesis 9:12-15

Last week, I began a discussion on Global Warming which is a topic that is quickly becoming the #1 political agenda item in America and throughout the world. Al Gore has revived his political aspirations by winning an Academy Award for his contributions toward the movie “An Inconvenient Truth” and he is using his “Global Warming” scare tactics and agenda to transform the 2008 Presidential Race. Recent polls reveal that most Americans (and most Christians) believe him and are accepting his message as TRUTH. But, as I asked last week, is it SAFE to accept Al Gore’s viewpoints on Global Warming as being accurate and to ASSUME his recommendations are good for this country and the world? To answer these questions, let’s review the basics of where Al Gore’s message came from originally.

Global Warming is the term given to the observed increase in the average temperature of the Earth’s ocean and near-surface air in recent decades and its *projected continuation* into the 22nd century. Since around 1860 until 2007, the average air temperature near the earth’s surface has risen about 1.3 degrees Fahrenheit. If the temperature continues to rise at the current rate, some scientists (and politicians!) are predicting that the average air temperature near the earth’s surface could be as much as 6 to 11 degrees higher than now by the year 2100 A.D. It is these “temperature rise PREDICTIONS” that have Global Warming alarmists so concerned!

You see, an increase in global temperatures can in turn cause other changes, including sea level rise (i.e. coastal flooding and land erosion), changes in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events (i.e. hurricanes and cyclones), changes in agricultural yields (i.e. fewer crops, less food), glacier retreat (i.e. ice melting), the extinction of various species on earth, and increases in various dangerous tropical diseases. Just the threat of our polar ice caps melting and causing increased ocean levels can lead governments and politicians to panic because over two-thirds (2/3) of the world’s cities that have over 5 million in population are NEAR THE COAST.

These POTENTIAL disastrous “world wide” effects of Global Warming has led to the United Nations establishing **The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)** in 1988. The IPCC is staffed and monitored by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP). The stated goals of the IPCC are to assess the scientific evidence relative to human-induced climate change, predict the current and potential effects of these changes, and develop courses of actions to reduce this human-induced climate changes. Since their inception in 1988, they have produced three major environmental “assessment” reports (1990, 1995, and 2001) and a fourth report is due out this year (2007). Because the IPCC consists of scientists from around the world, the United Nations promote their work as being completely “unbiased” and scientifically “undeniable”. That is why the IPCC findings and recommendations are quoted and used by politicians (like Al Gore) more than any other scientific view-point on the topic of Global Warming.

And what are the findings and recommendations of this IPCC panel? In short, the IPCC has concluded that the major contributors to increased temperatures on earth are emissions of greenhouse gases and aerosols due to HUMAN ACTIVITIES. These gases and aerosols (such as Carbon Dioxide, Methane, and Ozone) can absorb and emit increased levels of infrared radiation from the sun into the earth’s atmosphere and its surface, thus leading to a rise in the average temperatures on our planet. The IPCC cites what they believe to be the two major causes for the increased “greenhouse” effects we are “supposedly” experiencing. The first is the increased utilization of “fossil fuels” as a source of power during the modern Industrial Age. The burning of these fossil fuels to produce electricity, run manufacturing plants, and power our automobiles will lead to even more disastrous long-term weather effects according to the IPCC reports. Additionally, the modernization of Third World Countries (such as Africa, South America, and China) is considered to be a significant contributor to Global Warming. As these “undeveloped” geographic locations have begun to cut down some of their forests and build manufacturing plants to harvest and utilize their own natural resources to improve their lives (as Europe and the United States have “already” done), the IPCC claims this has not only caused an increase in greenhouse gases, but also has decreased the amount of absorption of these dangerous gases (i.e. less plants and TREES to convert CO₂ to useful oxygen).

The IPCC’s (and thus the Al Gore politicians) recommendations to solve the “proven” Global Warming problem is to REGULATE the emissions of greenhouse gases in industrialized (i.e. modern) societies and to RESTRICT the industrialization of Third World countries. For the modern societies (like USA), this means spending TRILLIONS upon TRILLIONS of dollars in RESEARCH and scientific development of new and improved technological methods to continue human progress without increasing greenhouse gas emissions. For the under developed nations (like Africa), this means preventing them from utilizing their natural resources (such as coal and oil) in order to improve their standard of living (i.e. better drinking water, better housing, better transportation, more food, etc., etc.). To implement these recommendations, Al Gore and the United Nations are suggesting a “World Wide” Governmental ENFORCEMENT Body which will set the STANDARDS by which each nation will have to abide by, as well as ensure these standards are met (i.e. by political and/or military force!?!).

So, hopefully, this clarifies for you the basic problem and suggested “fixes” of Global Warming that we hear so much

about. Next week we will look into the IPCC's findings to see if they really are "unbiased" and "based" on irrefutable science. We will also review the "real" motives behind the IPCC's recommendations to solve this "proclaimed" problem.

Until then, keep in mind that a Christian should NEVER TRUST a person or a group that suggests that the world could be destroyed by floods again (Gen 9:12-15). Also, we should never join up with anyone who recommends supporting a ONE WORLD GOVERNMENTAL AGENCY, nor a plan to solve a problem through HUMAN MEANS ALONE! For Jesus clearly has said: "...*apart from ME, you can do NOTHING.*" (John 15:5c)

- Pastor Louis