

KINGTON BAPTIST CHURCH

ONLINE NOTICE BOARD – 35

IT's become fashionable to take on certain causes and projects. Radio and television promote a set of priorities. Maybe the most obvious of these fashionable campaigns has to do with climate change. This has gained such importance that it absorbs a great amount of the energy and public statements of the world's 'great faith leaders', including many of the leaders of the Christian Church worldwide. The new song is 'save the planet' – it used to be 'save the people'.

This is a profound shift of emphasis. It represents a major shift away from the Bible's core message. The Bible is clear enough so far as the world is concerned – it tells us that *the world and the things of the world are passing away*. It speaks in the clearest terms of disasters, dangers and destruction that the world will experience. It says this deterioration is unavoidable and ultimately will be catastrophic. It makes clear the future is unpredictable and no amount of merely human effort will save the world from the consequences of human rebellion, greed, self-indulgence and exploitation.

In contrast to this fashionable message on saving the *planet*, the message of Jesus was save *people*, people who live in a world that is passing away. His message speaks of a new heaven and a new earth, a different set of values and a different salvation. None of this provides any excuse for the damage that we humans inflict on the beautiful world God gave for our home. The rebellion that lies at the heart of this misuse and abuse is a dreadful sin. But the remedy is not in the mistaken humanistic idea that we can recover this fallen world. The remedy lies in longing and desiring God's name will be hallowed and his Kingdom will come. Whatever hope there may be for the future of the planet it depends entirely on those two things, which are in reality one and the same: to hallow God's name is to welcome his Kingdom. When and only when God's *name is hallowed* will his *Kingdom come and his will be done on earth as it is in heaven*.

The mistake is not that the problems of climate change and the future of the planet are taken too seriously or given too much emphasis. The mistake is that these problems are not taken nearly seriously enough. The problem of sin – at the root of all this distress and disaster – is not taken nearly seriously enough. It is foolish to think men and women and human ingenuity are capable of solving these problems. They are not. The cause of this chaos is set out with great clarity and simplicity: *the love of money is the root of all evil*. Climate change, species extinction and all the related problems are ultimately about *love of money*. The truth is *you cannot serve God and money*. None of these problems will be solved or the situation in any way improved until God's name is hallowed and his Kingdom is welcomed with open hearts and minds.

***Seek first the Kingdom of God
and all these things will be added unto you!***