

BY MICHAEL  
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# Global Warming: SECULAR APOCALYPSE?

**H**umanity is sitting on a ticking time bomb. If the vast majority of the world's scientists are right, we have just ten years to avert a major catastrophe that could send our entire planet into a tail-spin of epic destruction involving extreme weather, floods, droughts, epidemics and killer heat waves beyond anything we have ever experienced," or at least so states *The Inconvenient Truth* description at [www.climatecrisis.net](http://www.climatecrisis.net).

Global warming due to human activity has become widely accepted as fact despite abundant contrary scientific evidence. David Deming, a University of Oklahoma geologist, contends that global warming has developed into "an irrational hysteria" with a dogmatic assumption that a one degree Celsius increase in borehole temperature data over the last 100 to 150 years is the result of human activity.

Researchers from the University of Ottawa state that the hypothesis that human release of CO<sup>2</sup> (which is an essential food for plants) is a major contributor to global warming is unproven. Environment Canada research scientists also state that allegations that extreme weather will increase in frequency and severity are unfounded—there has been no increase in extreme weather events in the past 25 years, and there is no indication that they will increase over the next 25 years.

There is, however, consensus that weather change is normal. Under dire predictions that 2006 would be the worst U.S. hurricane season ever, the season was in fact one of the mildest on record. How many remember that only 30 years ago scientists and the media were warning of a coming ice age? Dr. Allegre, an often quoted and renowned geochemist who initially signed "World Scientists' Warning to Humanity" (a highly publicized letter stressing that global warming's "potential risks are very great") has now recanted his views. "With the

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IMAGE BY NIKLAS JUTTERSTRÖM  
AND MARY WEGNER—PTM



Despite contradictory scientific data, global warming has become like a cultish religion where politicians and media pundits evangelize a message of global destruction, doom and gloom unless we repent and do what the self-appointed high priests dictate. Opinions to the contrary are viewed as heretical, and likened to that of holocaust deniers.

But why the dogmatic belief? It may stem from our need for an implied agent (a cause) for things we cannot control. No doubt there have been extreme weather events (e.g. hurricane Katrina) that terrify us. Stress researchers point out that humans have a difficult time dealing with things that appear “out of their control” and as a result we seek to identify reasons for events that we can exert influence over.

Man-made global warming fits this perfectly. Despite evidence that sun activity is the main cause of climate change and a natural occurrence, it goes against our

human nature to accept that we are not in total control of our lives (and climate). The global warming message espoused in the popular culture is one that promotes a view that man, and man alone is in control of this planet. We determine the climate, and we are the ones to fix it.

The idea that global warming is entirely the fault of human activity and fully within our ability to correct appeals to our vanity and a secularist world view—a world without God. Ultimately, the global warming apocalyptic message can remove our focus on God as the Center of all reality and can raise doubts about his sovereignty and love. □

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wealth of data now in,” Dr. Allegrè now concludes that “global warming is a natural phenomena—an over-hyped environmental concern of second rank.”

## The challenge of global warming —a Christ-centered response

**M**uch of the debate, if not all, about global warming centers around cause and blame. Weather cycles are changing, drought will worsen in some areas—that seems to be clear. But whose fault is it? The two possibilities are that 1) global warming is the consequence of man-made pollution, caused by unchecked human greed and lust, and 2) the degree of global warming we are witnessing is a natural cycle.

Many scientists are coming to believe, in terms of these two conclusions, that global warming is not a question of either/or but of both/and. Global warming is happening, and it is caused by a combination of natural progression, cycles if you will, and by greenhouse gases caused by the byproducts of human invention, innovation and industry.

The debate about cause and blame will no doubt continue, because political hay is waiting to be made. And when politicians see the potential to score points with the electorate by promising to solve the problem that others have created, hot air and gas-based emissions proliferate. Now that's global warming!

As Christians, our primary interest should not be political parties or even how we perceive moral issues.

Our primary interest is God's grace. How does God's grace address global warming—what is a gracious, Christ-centered response?

It has often been said that the earth is not inherited from our parents but borrowed from our children. Is that maxim part of a Christ-centered response to the challenge of global warming?

### Let Us Know What You Think!

Is global warming nothing more than an elaborate hoax or is it a real threat? If it is real, is it humanly caused or is it merely a natural cycle over which human beings have no control? Should we be alarmed, or should we continue with business as usual? Should we pass laws and create treaties that curtail industrial activity—perhaps at the expense of our economy? What do you think God expects Christians to do? Let us know what you think in 100 words or less. Email your response as soon as possible to [managing.editor@ptm.org](mailto:managing.editor@ptm.org), or “snail mail” us at Global Warming, *Plain Truth*, Pasadena, California 91129. We will publish selected responses in an upcoming issue.

—the Editors

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