

Earth Day

As part of the church year, we celebrate many holidays and festivals, some religious, some cultural and some national. Recently in April, we passed a date that was only subtly mentioned in the prayers—Earth Day.

One of the reasons I mention Earth Day is that residents and businesses in Lumberton, including this church, recently received a yellow-topped garbage bin for recycling paper, glass, and plastics. So the water bottles, drink bottles, and juice bottles can now go in the recycling bin instead of the trash. The unused bulletins can go into the recycling bin instead of the trash. It is better for these items to be recycled than to sit in a trash dump for years before decomposing.

One of the concepts of the 21st century is living “green” and reducing our carbon footprint. In other words, leaving the planet in better shape for our children and our children’s children. We live in a society where most everything is disposable. If something is broken, we throw it away and get a new one. It is easier and cheaper to get something new than have something repaired. If we continue using our planet’s resources without trying to conserve and protect our natural resources, there will be nothing left for our children and children’s children. This rampant use is probably not what the writers of Genesis meant when they wrote “Have dominion over the earth.” The natural resources of the Earth are not limitless, but most of the Earth’s resources are renewable with the proper care.

We should be glad that God and Jesus do not share that disposable philosophy. Christ is the biggest and best recycler ever. Christ took a broken and sinful human race, gathered the pieces, and, with His sacrifice, renewed us, made us new with His blood. Jesus sought out the people who had been discarded by the proper Jewish society and made them whole and new. Jesus “recycled” the sinners into a people who mattered and a people who are loved. Jesus has saved us from the trash dump, Sheol.

The least we can do as Christians is to care for the resources and people of this planet and not turn it into a Sheol.

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