

Endorsement of “A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change” by Pastor Jack Graham

The purpose of “A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change” is to challenge believers to care about God’s creation and take reasonable steps in responding to environmental concerns with wisdom and compassion. It is a “call to action” not a “claim of authority” by those who signed it.

“A Southern Baptist Declaration on the Environment and Climate Change” acknowledges that not all Christians accept “global warming” as science. Nor can we understand the long-term impact of changes in the climate. I personally doubt the so-called science of global warming.

Notwithstanding, the paper simply affirms that human activity *can* and *does* have damaging effects upon the environment. This is a fact that cannot be denied.

When you read the full statement, you will find our endorsed statement to be Biblical and balanced in the midst of the panic and perversion we find on all sides of the moral question of creation care. You may read the full statement at baptistcreationcare.org.

I believe it is important to our witness in an unbelieving world to shine as lights in the darkness and to speak to the moral questions of our times. Jonathan Merritt, the author of the paper, has done a good job of raising the right questions and calling Christians, including Southern Baptists, to address these issues in a responsible way. I gladly signed and endorse this call to action in order to affirm my personal convictions regarding the stewardship of the earth, and to challenge my fellow Southern Baptists to think and pray deeply and act accordingly as their own conviction guides them.

Francis Schaeffer wrote: “...biblical Christianity has a real answer to the ecological crisis; it offers a balanced and healthy attitude to nature, arising from the truth of His Creation by God. It offers the hope here and now of substantial healing of nature...”*

May God give us all the courage of our convictions to speak and act responsibly as we share Jesus with our generation.

* Francis A. Schaeffer, *Pollution and the Death of Man: The Christian View of Ecology* (Wheaton: Tyndale, 1970), 81.