

#5 THE DOCTRINE OF A CURSED WORLD

30 PRACTICAL DOCTRINES YOU NEED TO KNOW / DR. RANDY WHITE

THE CURSE ON THE EARTH IS FUNDAMENTAL TO A BIBLICAL WORLDVIEW

- Genesis 3:17-19 is foundational for our worldview for the time from Adam's fall through the Second Coming.
 - In ways we cannot fully know, we must recognize that **cursed is the ground** is the world in which we live.
 - A sign of the curse is **thorns and thistles**, which were apparently not present in the *uncursed* creation.
 - The greatest curse is that humans will **return to the ground** from which they were taken. We **came from dust** and **unto dust shalt thou return**.
- In Romans 18:19-23 gives more information about this curse –
 - If we live for what we see, we will be disappointed (v. 19).
 - We (**the creature**) are **subject to vanity** (so living for the achievements of this world is vain) (v. 20).
 - We look forward in **hope** (v. 20) for the time in which we are **delivered from the bondage of corruption** and given **glorious liberty** (v. 21).
 - We learn that it is not just the ground, but **the whole creation** that is under the curse (v. 22).
 - The curse has lasted from Adam's fall **until now** (v. 22). Nothing has happened since Paul wrote those words that constitutes a removal of the curse.
- Fundamental aspects of the curse:
 - The natural world is hostile to prosperity and well-being.
 - Death and dying is part of the world order. We hate it, but we must embrace it as inevitable, though not "natural."

FLAWED WORLDVIEWS THAT FORGET THE CURSE

- When one lives as if this world is *not* cursed, flawed conclusions will result.
- Flawed worldviews from a failure to consider the cursed creation include:
 - Flawed views of God: the effects of the curse prove there is no God.
 - "Natural evil" is proof that there is no God, or at least no *benevolent* God.

- "If god cannot control creation, then there must not be a god."
- Nature worship: the *curse* is "human infestation."
 - "Mother Earth" (Gaia) is the collective divinity of all of creation.
 - Nature worship is always at the expense of individual liberties.
- Economic Justice: the *curse* is capitalism.
 - Economic "Justice" and environmental activism always go hand-in-hand. (Read the 14-page "Green New Deal" resolution by Alexandria Ocasia-Cortez if you are not convinced).¹
 - This is the theme for environmental activism: *U.S. Capitalists have destroyed our planet, and the poor have felt the brunt of the destruction, therefore the capital must be taken from corporations and from the rich and distributed to the poor.*
- Health, Wealth, and Prosperity: the *curse* is lack of faith.
 - If you muster enough faith, you can overcome all effects of the curse.
 - Death and dying, thorns and thistles can all be overcome by faith (rather than by the restoration of all things).
- Social gospel: the *curse* is ignorance
 - Social gospel advocates see an *educational or political cure* to problems that stem from the curse.
 - The term *Social Gospel* has gone away, but the movement has not.

THE PERSONAL NATURE OF THE CURSE

- Understanding that we live in a world that groans under the curse, you are able to understand the problem of evil and suffering.
 - Why did you get sick?
 - Why did the stock market fall?
 - Why did the car accident happen?
 - Why did the tornado come?
- Understanding that we live in a world that groans under the curse, you are able to understand the solution to evil and suffering.
 - "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God...and THEN..." Matthew 6:33

¹ <https://assets.documentcloud.org/documents/5729033/Green-New-Deal-FINAL.pdf>