

Earth is God's gift to man — is it a temporary gift?

Psalms 115:16 says, "As regards the heavens, to God the heavens belong, but the earth he has given to the sons of men."

What kind of gift is the earth that God has given mankind? Is it destroyed, beyond help? Was it meant to be a temporary gift?

The Bible provides the answers. The early chapters of the book of Genesis describe God's creation of the earth.

Genesis 1:31 says, "After that God saw everything he had made and look! It was very good."

God's creation was good, so why is the earth so polluted now? And why are there so many problems?

After describing God's righteousness in the previous verses, Deuteronomy 32 says of mankind in verse 5: "They have acted ruinously on their own part; they are not his children, the defect is their own. A generation crooked and twisted!" It is mankind's actions that have caused so many problems. Mankind in general is less concerned with spiritual matters and caring for the earth than with making money and amassing possessions. It is



sharon corcoran

- use it or lose it

showing in earth's condition.

So, will God destroy the earth just because mankind has not taken care of it? Think about it — if you were a landlord, and a tenant severely damaged your property, would you burn the house down? Or would you evict the tenant and fix the damage? Revelation 11:18 says God will "bring to ruin those ruining the earth."

2 Peter 3:7 says, "But by the same word the heavens and the earth that are now are stored up for fire and are being reserved to the day of judgment and of destruction of the ungodly men."

The tenants will be evicted. Since they can no longer remain on earth, there is nowhere else for them to go.

Should the fire be taken literally? Think about God as a landlord

again. The verse says the heavens and earth are stored up for fire. If you are a landlord whose tenant has damaged the house he lives in, would you burn down the house you live in along with the rental house to solve the problem? Of course not.

The fire is symbolic. It will be like the "lye of laundrymen" in Malachi 3:2 that will be a cleansing. Verse 3 goes on to describe refining and cleansing silver and gold, processes that involve fire. In both illustrations, the lye and the fire are symbolic of God's cleansing processes. He will cleanse the earth and mankind, removing those who are unwilling to be cleansed.

1 Peter 1:14, 15 says, "In accord with the Holy One who called you, do you also become holy yourselves in all your conduct, because it is written: 'You must be holy, because I am holy.'"

God requires holiness of His people. We know we aren't perfect and that we make mistakes, so how

can we be holy?

We make choices every day. Do our choices reflect a knowledge of and applying of Bible principles? Or are our choices motivated by greed, ambition, selfishness or laziness?

John 11:25, 26 says, "Jesus said to her: 'I am the resurrection and the life. He that exercises faith in me, even though he dies, will come to life; and everyone that is living and exercises faith in me will never die at all. Do you believe this?'"

When Jesus died for us, he provided a hope for our future through the forgiveness of our sins. His sacrifice helps us to be holy although imperfect. If we accidentally do something wrong or make some bad choices in life, we can be for-

given.

But if we choose to live contrary to God's will and purposes, how could He keep forgiving us? We would become those "ruining the earth."

Psalms 104:5 says, "He has founded the earth upon its established places; it will not be made to totter to time indefinite, or forever."

God created the earth to last forever, and as Almighty God, He does not have to allow mankind to ruin that. And He won't.

Psalms 37:29 says, "The righteous themselves will possess the earth. And they will reside forever upon it."

The earth was meant to be a beautiful, permanent home for righteous mankind. Those who are willing to do their best to conform to God's

will now will be cleansed in the future and will see all the wicked tenants evicted from the earth.

Those living on earth then will see the rest of the fulfillment of Isaiah 9:6, 7: "For there has been a child born to us, there has been a son given to us; and the princely rule will come to be upon his shoulder. And his name will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace. To the abundance of the princely rule and to peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and upon his kingdom in order to establish it firmly and to sustain it by means of justice and by means of righteousness, from now on and to time indefinite."

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October 21, 1904: Big Automobile In Town — The most powerful automobile ever driven into Goodland came in late Sunday afternoon.

The machine, which can develop 24 to 30 horse power, according as it is handled for speed or for the harder work of climbing grades, belongs to W.W. Price, a mining man of Colorado Springs and a cousin of C.M. Millisack, of this city.

With Mr. Price was his chauffeur, Fred W. Swift, but the automobile was double seated and could easily carry four.

Mr. Price said that he had traveled with his "Winton" from Cleveland to New York, from New York to St. Louis, and was in Goodland on his way to Colorado Springs. The chauffeur said he had made as 175 miles in eight hours on good roads during the trip.

From weekly issues of The Goodland News, provided by the Sherman County Historical Society. Since the paper was published weekly, some items were arbitrarily assigned a date.

College students, staff register to vote



JoAnn Clouse, bookstore manager at the Northwest Kansas Technical College, watched as new computer graphics instructor Shannan Garratt registered to vote last week at the student union. Students and staff at the college were able to register on campus for the Nov. 2 general election. Clouse took registrations from Oct. 4-18 and turned them in to County Clerk Janet Rumpel. She took about 30 registrations, including students registering in their home counties or Nebraska or Colorado.

Photo by Patti Purvis

Goodland graduate gets scholarship

A 2002 Goodland High School graduate will have a year of his education paid for at Emporia State University, thanks to a new scholarship.

Brian Coon, a junior transfer student, says he is happy to have the money after watching his older siblings accrue substantial debt to go to school.

"At that point," Coon said, "college becomes a burden. My goal was to get out of college without much debt, and to have one year paid for — it's wonderful. Without the scholarship, I

wouldn't be here."

Coon was one of seven recipients of the Virginia Endly Scholarship, which covers the cost of in-state tuition and fees, residence hall and meal plan expenses and the average cost of books and school supplies for a full-time student for one year.

Coon is majoring in biology and is a member of the University Honors Program. He graduated from Colby Community College this year.

Emporia State alumnus H. Merle

Endly established the scholarship in honor of his sister Virginia, who died in 1998.

She was a College of Emporia alumna and taught home economics from 1942-1989, when she retired after 29 years as an associate professor of home economics at Tennessee Technical College in Cookeville, Tenn.

Merle Endly received his master's degree in business from Emporia State in 1943. He was a commercial and residential painter in Utah for many years before returning to Emporia in 1999. He died in 2002.



Coon

4-H news

My favorite pop was what the Ruleton Eager Beavers answered for roll call at the September Meeting.

Aaron Duell, president, called the meeting to order. There were eight members, three leaders and one guest present. Adam Duell, secretary, read the minutes for the July meeting, and the minutes were signed and approved by Aaron Duell.

There was one communication to inform us that October is safety month. We would like to stress a safety talk to be given by the older 4-H members during this month.

We had two bills, one from the

Appreciation Barbecue and the other from Signs and Wonders for two banners we had bought to represent our club.

The council had met, and the after school project is in the making. The Achievement Award Ceremony is at 2 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 7, at the Christian Church. Open house was Oct. 2nd, and officers' training is Nov. 5th. The reporter had turned in the July report, and *The Goodland Star-News* published it.

It was decided to keep the same officers this year as in the 2003-04 year.

Aaron Duell showed the 4-H

Along with the induction, the club handed out awards to long-term members



Hansen

The Goodland Kiwanis Club got a new president, as Arlo Hansen of the Goodland Sinclair was inducted at the group's annual banquet.

Hansen, who had been vice president, replaced Eric Yonkey. Jeff Mason, treasurer, and Steve Sitton, secretary, were inducted for another term, and Brad Shields was taken on as new vice president and president-elect.



Whitmore

Ronald Vignery, 35 years; Richard Scheopner, 32 years; Richard Schwasinger, 25 years; Robert Boyle, 24 years; Kevin Rasure, 23

years; Mason, 21 years; Dale Schields, 20 years; James Wedermyer, 16 years; and Eric and Roxie Yonkey, 10 years.

Steve Sitton was given a Work-horse Award for keeping up the club's finances and chairing the annual Kiwanis Demolition Derby.

The rare Hixson Award also was handed out to Whitmore for more than 42 years of service to the club. The award, in honor of the first president of Kiwanis International, George F. Hixson, was given to Whitmore after the club earmarked a donated \$1,000 that was used to help eliminate iodine deficiency disorders worldwide.

video he has put together of all of the events and activities that 4-Hers have done this past year.

Devin Mangus, song leader, passed out kazoo's to the members, and they played several familiar songs. Cody Hooker had the club play tag for recreation. Devin Mangus declared a short break for recreation.

Announcements were the following: Open House on Oct. 2nd, record books due to leaders by Oct. 1st, Achievement Awards Nov. 7 and the next meeting at 2 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 9.

Submitted by Devin Mangus.

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