

GLOBAL ISSUES

By David H. Snyder

Today's headlines from around the world are filled with news about wars, murders, power struggles, diseases, kidnappings, and much more. For many people, global issues can be something that creates fear and uncertainty. However, a biblical view of the evil taking place around us should help us focus on the greatest of all global issues.



When the media speak about global issues, they are usually referring to things like social, economic, political, and environmental concerns that affect the entire world. To be sure, all of these topics are important and there are aspects of these issues that play a part in the lives of everyone living on the earth. *Society* as a whole is not getting better but is rapidly getting worse. Of course, God already told us that *evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, deceiving, and being deceived* (2 Timothy 3:13). The *economic* outlook for many nations is far from hopeful as entire countries find themselves on the brink of financial collapse. This is to be

expected when mankind trusts in *idols of...silver and gold* rather than the true and living God (Psalm 135:15–18). When we consider *politics*, our thoughts often turn to corruption and deception. The Bible clearly warns us not to put our *trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help* (Psalm 146:3). Finally, *environmental* concerns seem to consume the lives of many. It is heartbreaking to see those who worship creation and serve *the creature more than the Creator* (Romans 1:25).

In response to the global issues mentioned above, many people turn to religion in an attempt to calm their fears and feelings of uncertainty. But religion is not the solution to the global issues plaguing the human race. In fact, in many respects religion itself often adds to the world's dilemma. For example, some religions have an agenda that includes world domination. Jesus Christ is the only true answer to the problems threatening our world today. This is one reason missions is so important. We have the answer to every global issue that has ever been or ever will be. The Bible explains the reason for the evil and destruction in the world and it proclaims that Jesus has already won the victory over that evil.

Society is turning to self-help books, psychologists, and many other venues in an attempt to solve their problems and make themselves better. Nonetheless, we know all men are inherently sinful and are sinners (Romans 3:23; 5:12) and Jesus is the answer to the sin problem. He is the

One Whom God made to be *sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him* (2 Corinthians 5:21). The *economy* is worshiped by those who are looking to money as the answer to their troubles, but we know having more money will not bring true satisfaction and peace. First Timothy 6:11 reminds us to flee things such as the love of money and to *follow after righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, meekness*. Obviously, these virtues can only be found in Jesus—He is the answer. Also, it is sad to think of those who look to *political* leaders for their salvation when the King of kings is the only One Who can and will establish a kingdom *with judgment and with justice from henceforth even for ever* (Isaiah 9:7). Again, Jesus is the answer. *Environmental* issues are important since we are to be good stewards of all God has given us. However, God uses nature to direct mankind to Himself. He reminds us that *the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse* (Romans 1:20). God's creation (general revelation) and God's Word (special revelation) proclaim that Jesus is the answer.

As Christians, we should definitely be interested in global issues since they affect every human being. Social, economic, political, environmental, and religious matters are indeed important. However, the greatest of all global issues is mankind's need of a Savior. This fact reminds us of our responsibility to *preach the gospel to every creature* (Mark 16:15). The Great Commission is a global imperative to give a global invitation to those affected by global issues. The need is tremendous and the evils of our day have caused many to question the meaning of life and to consider the things of eternity. The Lord reminded us that there is a great need for more *labourers* to be sent forth into His harvest (Luke 10:2). What about you? Are you willing to be used of the Lord as a missionary? We have been privileged with the responsibility of proclaiming the message that Jesus *is the propitiation for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world* (1 John 2:2). w