

## GENESIS 2:15 GREEN EARTHLINGS

<sup>15</sup>*The LORD God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.*

The six days of creation take us from chaos to stewards, those with the assignment to maintain and spread God's order in the world. From the secular humanist at one end of the human belief spectrum to the literalist, 6 twenty-four hour day creationist at the other, humankind is the most highly developed being in the world. Is it not interesting that the biblical mandate for humankind is to be faithful stewards of God's creation, while at the same time there is a contemporary drive among non-believers to protect our environment from abuse and waste?

It is easy for us in the Church to point the finger at the environmentalists and wag our tongues about their idolatry. We see them through the lens of Paul's words in Romans 1:25: *They exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator...* But at the same time, should we not be equally convicted by Paul's words in Romans 11:11, where he says that the acceptance of the Gospel by Gentiles is God's tool for stimulating belief among the Jews through envy. After all, these "idolaters" are fulfilling our call to the stewardship of creation much more consciously and better than most of us who call ourselves believers.

As God's vice regents in the world our focus is to be on God and his purpose for us. We are to worship God and part of that worship is taking proper care of his creation.

**Lord God, make me a better steward of all the gifts and responsibilities you have bestowed upon me. Bring order to my life so that whatever I do will bring you glory by making you known in the world. Amen.**