SOURCE OF THE ECOLOGY CRISIS – PART II

You have already read the article “The Historical Roots of Our Ecological Crisis” by Lynn White, Jr. In this article White attributes the current ecological crisis to the Christian worldview, which places man in dominion over the creation. In 1970 Francis Schaeffer wrote “Pollution and the Death of Man.” In this book Schaeffer responds to White’s view of the ecological crisis. I will make available to you chapter 4 of Schaeffer’s book. Read through this chapter and answer the following questions. We do have several copies of this book in the library.

(You can find this paper in the E-Reserves on the Library webpage. From the University library page, click on “Reserves.” Next click on “Access Electronic Reserve Materials.” In the textfield type “GSCI-1020” and then click the name of our class. You will be asked for a password. The password is “GSCI1020”.

Once the password is accepted you fill find three links. Select the one titled “Pollution and the Death of Man.” After reading chapter 4 by Francis Schaffer, answer the questions below.)

1. As pointed out by Schaeffer, why does nature have value?

2. What is unique about the Judaistic-Christian God and how does that affect our relationship with God and our relationship with nature?

3. According to Schaeffer, are “all men” our brothers? How does this affect how we should treat “all men”?

4. How does Schaeffer’s discussion of the “two humanities” apply to our relationship to nature?

5. Why is Platonism’s view of the material world as “low” or inferior wrong?

6. Does Schaeffer agree with White’s statement “many ‘Christians’ are worse off in the area of ecology than animists?” In light of this statement where does Schaeffer attribute the problem of the ecology crisis?