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## Gish's "God's wounded world: American evangelicals and the challenge of environmentalism" (book review)

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# Book Review

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Gish, M. (2020). *God's wounded world: American evangelicals and the challenge of environmentalism*. Waco, TX: Baylor University Press. 258 pp. \$44.95. ISBN 9781481311731

From the beginning of environmentalism as a movement and the rise of evangelicalism and the American religious right, Melanie Gish uncovers the people who have pioneered the creation care movement and the organizations that were founded to provide avenues for Christians to join in caring for our planet. In her book, *God's wounded world*, Melanie shares the dreams and struggles of the founders and leaders within the creation care movement, the organizations they helped to found and how these organizations try to engage the evangelical community in environmental change. Based on her doctoral thesis, there are extensive notes and bibliographic information documenting her research and providing a thorough basis for future discourse on the creation care organizations and their influence within the American evangelical community.

To not be over general regarding the many facets of environmentalism, the book focuses on four topics within the environmental ideologies: science vs. Scripture, (over)population vs abortion, anti-consumerism vs capitalism, and government regulation vs individual responsibility. The organizations presented through their founders share the challenge of the common view that environmentalism is a liberal or progressive cause. Demonstrating faith and a mandate to help others, the founders of the creation care organizations establish the need for stewarding the earth as an avenue to help fulfill the Great Commission. While these organizations may work with non-Christian environmental groups on occasion, they seek to remain true to their Christian calling and mission, guiding questioning Christians through the challenges presented by present-day environmentalism to find a Biblical framework for caring for the earth.

While the book is indeed a scholarly look at the influence of creation care organizations within the American evangelical church, it is accessible to anyone looking to discover the history of environmentalism within the Christian context. The focus on specific Christian environmental organizations provides a directed analysis of the creation care movement in American society. It is highly recommended for college and university settings.

## Reviewer

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