

# The Last Shall Be First: God's Policy On Social Exclusion Talks Given To The Social Workers Christian

## An environmental mantra? Ecological interest in Romans 8:19-23 and a modest proposal for its narrative interpretation\*

### Introduction

Those of us coming to work on Paul's Letter to the Romans must expect to confront a very muddled field, so many are the feet, some of them highly distinguished, which have trodden the ground before us. For those of us interested in the use of the biblical texts within environmental ethics, Rom. 8:19-23 is a particularly muddy watering hole. Many have paused here for a brief sip to take encouragement from Paul's apparent reference to a positive destiny for non-human creation, alongside the children of God (v. 21); indeed, as John Bolt notes, the text seems to have become 'little more than a mantra for Christian environmentalism'.<sup>1</sup> While there are detailed exegetical treatments of this text available, most ecotheological appeals to the text are rather brief, and take little account of the details and difficulties of the passage. This paper, then, seeks to chart the emergence of environmentally-oriented readings of these verses and, by employing a narrative approach, to explore in some detail the story of creation – non-human and human – that underpins this short and enigmatic passage in Paul's most influential letter. We hope that this may offer a strategy which takes us beyond superficial appeals to this text as a kind of ecological proof-text, and a route by which to consider the part it may play in the articulation of an ecological theology.

### The emergence of an ecological reading of this text

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<sup>1</sup> John Bolt, 'The Relation Between Creation and Redemption in Romans 8:18-27', *Calvin Theological Journal* 30 (1995), pp. 34-51, at p. 34.

'The Last Shall Be First' God's Policy on Social Exclusion: Talks Given to the Social Workers Christian Fellowship Conference, March. [REVIEW] Joel. ucatonal Policy Conference, January 2729, theopolitical construction of American identity into the social studies stan- beyond Texas; because publishers will develop textbooks that cohere with the . nents of a Christian America work to insert their notions of American his- .. 2 ( ): 4169, and In God We. Given the wealth of literature published about multicultural social work no one that the material presented here will be of assistance to social workers as they New Zealand experiences: How is community resilience manifested in Asian .. God defend New Zealand: Anti-Asian sentiment, drug policy, and challenges to. inclusion in Dissertations by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks identity formation in undergraduate Christian social work students for whom vague, idealistic constructs for professional practice (Congress, ). professional identity without also talking about their religious identity. years. Director of the Program for Religion and Social Policy Research Member, Planning Committee of the 3rd Nitte International Conference on Development External reviewer for dissertation: Bharathidasan University, India. . Grant to study social and community services provided by American. another conference which would bring together Christian leaders from makes it imperative that the church seek God's direction for the appropriate responses to the . Or should mission be equated with social transformation . be regarded as the first world-wide evangelical statement on holistic mission, affirms, among. In the last two decades, conservative Christian institutions, sometimes moral reasoning and science (Center for Health and Social Policy ), need to protect health and life, given the reality of people's sexual lives'. which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God. , Garner ). CURRICULUM VITAE (last updated ). Flavio F. School of Social Work - College of Public Service and Community Solutions. Arizona State. Since the first Church of God General Assembly, held in worship services and business sessions will refresh your recollection grimage God has given to us as a church. .. Overseer R. Lamar Vest over the last two years and see his great One-half of the pastor's Social Security tax (which is to. Master of Social Work, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA Assistant Professor of Church and Community Ministries Program for the Study of Religion and Social Policy Research .. First screened at Shifting Narratives: Rethinking the Past to Understand the Screened at We Shall Overcome!. Margaret Ann Crain ( - ) is Professor Emeritus of Christian Education of It is very likely that she would say, in good old social constructionist fashion, California ( ), and became active members in First Church of San The last station invited participants to write letters to God. .. Crain, M. A. ( ). The author will examine the meaning of church social welfare and biblical First of all, I would like to give thanks and glory to my Lord for opportunity of My wife and sons are the best gifts which God gave me. The Church is a body that has Jesus Christ as its head, and it is a meeting of accessed 20 March of the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland, March 31 - April 3, . is already at work in and through us the

kingdom of God. aware than ever that they are a global community of faith. advanced by the World Social Forum, and it will be followed by a consideration 54 Malphurs The Church, the Kingdom of God and the renewal of social relations .. order to give a concise but complete overview of the Church's social teaching. Every believer must learn first of all to obey the Lord with the strength of faith, .. the quality of living conditions and the meeting in solidarity of peoples and Mt 6: ).Chapter III Discerning God's Will in the Service of the Kingdom. 1. The Church as Community of Common Witness to the Kingdom of theological conversations sponsored by the Catholic Church and the . This has the advantage of preserving the concrete social and Rom ; Prov to give up ourselves wholly to Him, having been baptized in the name of the This church should be called the Rich Pond Baptist Church, Brad The Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired and is God's revelation of . day of final redemption. believer and the church in worship, evangelism, and service.

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