

# ***Not Quite Right News from Mark Golden***

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## **Jesus Has Gone Green**

Many adherents to the Christian faith would prefer that Jesus return – instead of the church having to go green. 2,000 years have gone by since the famous Jewish teacher, reportedly announced, after his death and resurrection, that he would be returning one day. Over the centuries while waiting and worshipping, his followers have come up with a variety of ways to pass the time. Now, keeping up with a current eco-friendly trend, it can be said that Jesus has gone green.

You really didn't need to be a prophet to have seen this coming. Even in his lifetime, the Messiah led the way, and he was *waaay* ahead of the curve. One simple example is his miracle of multiplying food for over 5,000 people, using a single lunch basket of fish and loaves – all of which came without foil or paper wrappers and no wasteful bags! Minimal carbon footprint and litter free ministry? You bet.

Here are some of the changes taking place in the Christian church which is trying to gain more of a market share at the meeting table of the world's religions.

For over 100 years the red letter edition of the New Testament has been published. All the words spoken by Jesus are printed – up until now – in noticeable red ink. Get ready for politically correct green.

Leather bound Bibles will now be replaced with organic hemp covers. Material purchased from fair-trade, third world suppliers. Bibles printed on recycled paper are mandatory. Plus, the bindery attached, ribbon bookmark will be made from material purchased at second hand stores.

Hymnals, bulletins and directories will only be available online for smart phone, hand-held devices and laptop users or on projection screens. Church services, committee meetings and counseling appointments will be available by live streaming or Skype in order to keep down the use of carbon emissions by vehicle use.

New churches under construction, planning to display a life-size, wooden cross will now only purchase ones only made from fallen or diseased trees, no old-growth wood anymore. Some prideful denominations say they will use only wood scraps found at construction sites and cobble together a “good enough looking cross.” Way-to-go!

Other churches under construction say, “padded pews are out.” So are the fold-out, cushioned kneeling benches. Church members are asked to bring a pillow from home. Instead of purchasing more chairs or pews for congregational growth, people are encouraged to bring a bucket, bean bag or chair from home, and to car pool or bike to and from church. A special section will be provided for those who faithfully comply.

For Sunday school purposes, certain denominations have added the green, eco-preacher, Kermit the Frog as sort of a tag along, apostolic mascot or talkative, suggestive pet of the Lord. Others simply make him the 13<sup>th</sup> apostle. After all, there is a Bible story with a talking donkey.

During summer months, people are encouraged to come in swimwear since the air conditioning will be off. In the winter, to bring blankets, mittens and wool hats in order to save energy and keep the furnace off.

These changes might not hasten the Lord's return, but when he does come back, he will find his flock grazing in a much greener pasture.

Another story from REAL LIFE (that I made up!) This parody news story is for amusement. Any similarity to real people, places or things is fictitious and not to be taken as fact.