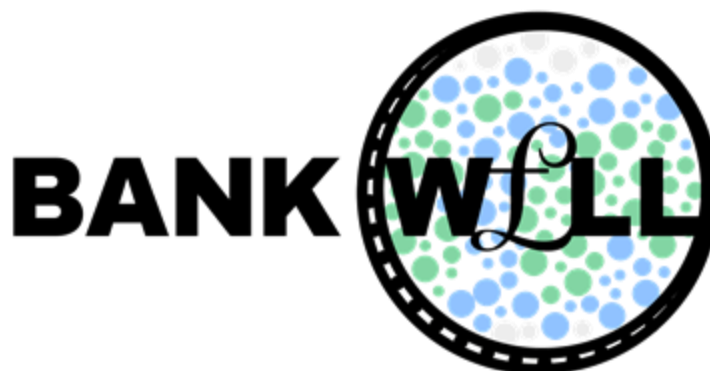


JUST LOVE



The Bible, the Earth, and Money

Stewards over creation

Genesis tells the story of God creating the world with its plants and animals, and the goodness therein. God creates humans from the dust to steward the world and reflect God's glory.

"The earth is the Lord's, and everything in it; the world, and all who live in it" - Psalm 24

"The heavens declare the glory of God; the skies proclaim the work of his hands" - Psalm 19

God's kingdom is characterised by righteousness, justice, peace, and the beauty of life. As Christians, we are called to live out these qualities. The commands to love God and love our neighbour epitomise participation in God's kingdom. In today's world, our decisions as consumers are connected to global supply chains, many of which manifest greed rather than love as they treat workers unfairly and unsustainably consume natural resources. Jesus speaks directly about how to use our money in line with God's kingdom:

"Sell your possessions and give to the poor. Provide purses for yourselves that will not wear out, a treasure in heaven that will never fail, where no thief comes near and no moth destroys. For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." - Luke 12:33-34

Financial Responsibility

Banks support businesses and industries by providing loans and purchasing stocks and shares. Both you and the bank profit from interest on these investments. The key question then is: *what are they investing it in?*

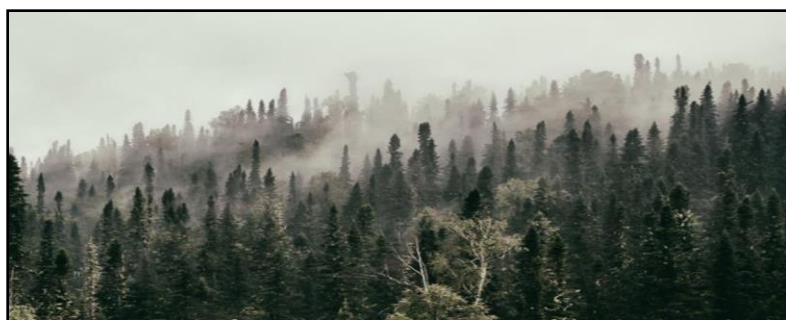
Many banks still invest heavily in fossil fuels and other industries that contribute to climate change. Since the Paris Agreement in 2016, the world's top 60 banks have invested £4.5 trillion in fossil fuels, with Barclays being the worst UK offender [1]. Climate science clearly demonstrates that burning these fossil fuels will lead to an increasing number of floods, droughts, or storms [2], disproportionately affecting the poorest communities [3].

"One who oppresses the poor to increase his wealth and one who gives gifts to the rich—both come to poverty" - Proverbs 22:16

By switching bank to one which is divested from fossil fuels, we decrease the funds that fossil fuel companies have access to. This is distinct from investment funds, where you can choose a fund based on its portfolio – your bank uses fractional reserves to invest more than the money you have deposited and allocate it according to their policies. Therefore, the most important effect is from collective action applying pressure on banks to change their strategy. At the same time, we can choose a bank which aligns with our values, prioritising loving our neighbour and the planet.

Find out more

- [Climate Theology Resource - Operation Noah](#)
- [Ethical Church Finances Research - JustMoney](#)
- [Abundant Community Theology - Tearfund](#)
- [Personal Account Switching - The Switch](#)
- [Why Switch to a Green Bank? - Switch It Green](#)
- [Banks and Climate - BankTrack](#)
- [Reports & Resources - Make My Money Matter](#)



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movement



OPERATION
NOAH

Faith-motivated. Science-informed. Hope-inspired.