

Forward
Address for Church July 1965

While waiting for the lights to change at a busy intersection I glanced ahead and saw a large bill board. On it was written

Civil Defense - Survival

Phone for
Information.

Turning the words over in my mind it seemed as if they might be quite fitting for a sermon, address, or just a discussion group.

We are all interested in survival in one form or another. That is why we work. Or why we don't work! We work to get enough to eat, ^{so we can stay alive} and then some folks are afraid that as work might kill them ~~then~~ they had better not work so they too may survive.

The act of staying alive.

The lights changed and I took my place in the rush of traffic. As I drove I thought again of that word 'survival'. Looking at the lovely city around me I was again aware that in a twinkling of an eye roaring traffic, human beings, great buildings, streets and all that man has achieved could be hurled into an indescribable intolerable smothering ruin. In his attempt at survival this is ^{the point} ~~that man~~ ~~at which~~ man has arrived. This is the point to which he has come. In his attempt to defend himself against his brother in God he can now look down into an abyss more dreadful than the wildest nightmare. He has been so engrossed with his own personal survival that he finds he has created the very tools with which to utterly destroy himself. To blot himself physically off the earth.

Then what is survival? To me it goes deeper than the mere keeping alive although that would appear most important from a physical point. It is not how we keep alive it is what we keep alive.

Our faith, our hope, our love. Faith
hope and charity and "I say unto you the
greatest of these is charity." It would
appear that survival of these three
could be termed true survival. This is
the survival that surmounts all
things physical. This is what goes on
and on through centuries, three millenniums
this is the core of eternity. If our faith
and our hope and our charity do not
survive then truly we do enter the utter
darkness spoken of in the Bible.

Society in the main tends to
destroy itself even while building anew. Then
in an effort to survive all sorts of
expedients are resorted to. We tend to forget,
or if not forgotten, set aside the Christ of
1900 years ago. He does not seem to fit
in with our idea of modern living.
Yet we cannot escape him. In our
endeavour to physically survive we push
him aside and only when we achieve the

immensity of what we have ^{attempted} ~~done~~ to
we realize that Jesus Christ is still the
centre and object of our survival that
all else pales into insignificance when we
reach out to him.

Our society, ^{Like Peter} ~~as we know it~~ has taken
those first few steps on the waters and
then faith being weak we have glanced
into the abyss of physical survival we
have created for ourselves. and found that
there is no survival at all. So we reach
out and call "Save me Lord or I perish."

The spiritual overcomes the temporal and
we realize that to truly live, to truly survive,
man must build toward the spiritual and
the temporal will take care of itself.