

## Christian Survival (and Thriving) Truths

Wow- what a year! A pandemic (and all that goes with it: home-schooling and e-learning; worship at home; bible study via Zoom meeting and Facebook, assemblies without handshakes and hugs, but with masks and social distancing), Spring flooding in some parts of the country, murder hornets, triple digit heat, wildfires, a hurricane or two, and for me throw in there two family funerals and contracting Covid-19! I don't know about you, but if December 31<sup>st</sup> actually gets here, I plan to stay up late enough to make sure 2020 really leaves! But the most troubling of all, at least for me, is the collective state of our country. Shootings, riots, burning and razing entire sections of cities, protests (peaceful and otherwise)- I've stopped paying attention to news on any format... I just don't know what will become of all this! But recently (and thankfully!) my faith kicked in and I realized (more like remembered) some truths that God's Word teaches us to not only *survive* but *thrive* in just such circumstances as these...

- This world is *flawed* and will never be anything else, Gen.1:27-31 → Gen.3:6-7,17-19,23-24.
- This world is *not fair* and will never be anything else, Acts 4:1-3,17,21,23-26.
- This world is *futile* and will never be anything else, Rom.1:21-23 (see also Eph.4:17-19, "*in the futility of their mind*"); Rom.8:20.
- This world is *doomed* and *devoted to destruction*, 2Pet.3:2-3,10.

### But...

- ✓ There will be a *new heavens* and a *new earth* in which *righteousness* dwells, 2Pet.3:13.
- ✓ God is *more than fair*; He is *gracious* and *merciful*, Rom.9:22-26.
- ✓ Your life in Christ is everything but *futile*- we have been *redeemed* from such things, 1Pet.1:18-19; so act like it, 1Pet.1:20-25.
- ✓ Life's *futility* and *doom* is endured in *hope* and expectation of eternal *redemption* for those who love and serve God, Rom.8:20b-25.

### Conclusion

**This world** is *not your home*- those of faith are but *pilgrims* here journeying to a **heavenly home**, John 14:1-3; Eph.2:13-22!

When we realize that *this world*- with all its flaws, failures, and futility is **not** our home (and act accordingly, 2Pet.3:11-12!), then we have a future, and can not only *survive* but *thrive* in whatever the present presents!