

To Save Our Lives

Skip Gray

I. Introduction.

A. Just as early detection is essential for cancer, there are problems that need to be detected in our spiritual race before they destroy us.

B. There are several things we must be aware of that will destroy us.

II. Loving the world.

A. There is a place for human institutions (2 Corinthians 8:5), but we have to guard our hearts against the inclination to always want to be on the inside or look for promotion. (Romans 4:16)

B. We are not to love the world system.

C. Guard your heart against elitism.

D. Satan twists what is good.

III. Believing that newer is truer.

A. Read some church history to keep yourself in balance.

B. Jumping on every fad that comes along will kill you.

IV. Bigger is better.

A. Some of the great revivals in the church have been marked by the decrease in numbers.

B. Quality should not be sacrificed for quantity. There should be long term, healthy growth.

V. Success is noble and measurable now.

A. Failure is part of God's divine training program. (Luke 9)

B. Philippians 4:13 must be held together with 2 Corinthians 13:4. Weakness is part of success.

C. It is a deadly form of loneliness not to have time for the cross. (Matthew 4)

D. Success is not knowable and measurable now. Success may include the desert. It always includes the cross. (Matthew 16)

Application questions:

1. Which false belief do you feel is the greatest threat to the church today? Why?

2. How is it helpful to understand that success can only be measured fully down the road in ministry?

3. In what ways do you struggle to free yourself from loving human institutions? What have you learned in your struggle?
