

## **“Having eyes, but unable to see...”**

A few years back it was common practice to travel, especially on vacations, with a map. In the case of my family, my wife was the navigator and I did the driving. She reads a map quite well and I do not remember ever being lost. There were a few occasions in which a quick decision would have to be made, I would make that decision and invariably I would be wrong. I would eventually learn that exploring a few new places along the way was ok and those incorrect decisions I would make usually turned into a short, new adventure because we would get to see new things or places that we did not plan on visiting. But we would always arrive at our destination. Today, the map is still quite useful and a person can generate a very good travel map via the internet with quite accurate directions. But the true gem in traveling today is the GPS systems available. You might have one on your cell phone or you might have bought one for the car. There are many portable devices and they are quite simple to use. It is still hard for me to believe that the small portable device actually communicates with satellites in the sky for the most up to date information in order to generate a travel route. A wonderful tool to assist travelers or those just going to a location they are not familiar with for the first time. Only once have I been misled and when I realized I was being sent down a dead end street.....well, when we finally arrived at the dead end the voice in the GPS quite simply said, “ turn around whenever possible.” A few nights ago my wife and I were leaving a local fall festival and I knew exactly how to get out of this area. After about 5 miles going down roads that were not familiar I finally asked my wife to turn on the GPS and simply let it know that we wanted to go home. And that machine actually led us around one corner, then another and quite a few miles later to get to a destination. The destination was not home but was actually where we started from when we left the fall festival. Around and around in a large circle to get back where we started.

Have you ever been lost and seemed like you were just going in circles? Easy to accomplish when one is traveling but it is also easy for that to occur during our daily lives when we are not traveling. I mean, have you had days that you just wish you had stayed in bed or just not left the house? Absolutely. There have been a few occasions (more than a few for me) in which, at the end of the day I would just moan and groan and say to myself.....what happened today? It just seemed like everything went wrong and good decisions were not happening. I know you have a smile on your face by now and I would like to think it is because you have been there as well. For sure, I am not alone.

Recently I had the opportunity to substitute for a Sunday School class and my topic for that class was “When Christ Returns”. This is something most important to understand. Christ is going to return. .

Do you remember the promise your Lord made?

***“And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.”*** (John 14:3)

Do you remember the promise your Lord made to a thief on the cross?

***"Today you will be with Me in Paradise"*** (Luke 23:43)

Do you remember the disciples standing on the Mount of Olives watching Jesus ascend into a cloud and two men in white clothing standing beside them spoke?

***"Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky?"***

***This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen him go into heaven."*** (Acts 1: 11)

Christ is going to return. It is going to happen. You do not need to continually go around in circles and wind up where you started. You do not need to continue being lost and not know which direction to take. A GPS can't help but your Lord can.

***"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*** (Matthew 7:7)

When I spoke about the Sunday School class and my title; the same title is a wonderful book written by Max Lucado. I highly recommend it.

When I spoke about the GPS can't help but your Lord can; not sure where to start? A good Bible preaching church; the Bible is the only place to start. (August 2008: "Absolute Truth/God's Word")

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