

# WHEN YOU ARE LOST, USE GPS

Genesis 3:15

## INTRODUCTION:

- A. There is a wonderful new gadget called Global Positioning Systems (GPS) available these days
  - 1. It is found in many new cars coming onto the market.
  - 2. It is also sometimes found on *golf carts*.
  - 3. You can buy *handheld models*. (Sky Caddie).
  - 4. I saw on TV that GPS systems are *one of the hottest items this Christmas Season*.
- B. The purpose: help you see where you are and which direction you need to go. Models found in automobiles will even talk to you and tell you when and where to turn.
- C. When you are lost, you can look to your GPS and find your way.
- D. Spiritually there is a GPS system that will show you the way when you are lost.
- E. That is **G**od's **P**lan of **S**alvation:

## I. REALIZE THAT PEOPLE NEED GPS.

- A. Some are "*DIRECTIONALLY CHALLENGED*" and really need help getting where they need to be when they are driving.
- B. However, not everyone thinks they need it:
  - 1. "We're not lost."
  - 2. "I don't need to stop and ask for directions."
  - 3. **CARTOON**: A group of men go up to a friend of theirs: "We hear you stopped and asked for directions."
- C. *EVERYONE* is in need of a spiritual GPS.
  - 1. Some would deny that anyone will be lost. (Universalists).
  - 2. Some would say that a loving God would not allow anyone to be lost.
  - 3. Some would say that once a person believes in God, it is impossible for them to be lost.
- D. The scriptures clearly teach that some *WILL BE* eternally lost
  - 1. These shall go away into everlasting destruction, **Matthew 25:31-46**.
  - 2. He will take vengeance on those who do not obey, **2 Thess 1:7-9; Revelation 21:8**
- E. WHY are people lost?
  - 1. Because of sin, **Romans 6:23**.
  - 2. Because of their *OWN CHOICES*. (Not because of inherited sin from another i.e., (parents or Adam).
- F. People ARE lost and in need of *GPS*.

## II. GOD HAS ALWAYS PROVIDED A *GPS*.

- A. From the very beginning in the Garden of Eden.
  - 1. God has never left man without instructions as to what He expected.
  - 2. God's plan in the Garden: do not touch the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil.
- B. In the Garden, God unveiled his eventual GPS:
  - 1. "And I will put enmity Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; He shall bruise your head, And you shall bruise His heel." **Genesis 3:15.**
  - 2. That GPS was fulfilled in the NT: "[k]nowing that you were not redeemed with corruptible things, like silver or gold, from your aimless conduct received by tradition from your fathers, 19 but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot. 20 He indeed was *foreordained before the foundation of the world*, but was manifest in these last times for you." 1 Pet 1:17-20.
- C. This plan from the beginning has often been called the "Scheme of Redemption".

## III. GOD HAS ALWAYS HAD THE SAME *GPS*.

- A. His plan has always been FAITH and OBEDIENCE.
- B. OT EXAMPLES:
  - 1. Noah, Genesis 6:5-8.
  - 2. Moses and Israel in the wilderness, rock at Meribah.
  - 3. During the times of the Kings and Prophets.
- C. NT EXAMPLES:
  - 1. Pentecost, Acts 2:14-47.
  - 2. Ethiopian Eunuch, Acts 8.
- D. God's Plan of Salvation today. What did Jesus say?
  - 1. "Therefore I said to you that you will die in your sins; for if you do not believe that I am He, you will die in your sins." **John 8:24.**
  - 2. "I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." **Luke 13:3.**
  - 3. "Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven." **Matthew 10:32.**
  - 4. And He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature. 16 He who believes and is baptized will be saved; but he who does not believe will be condemned. **Mark 16:15-16.**
- E. God has always expected obedience to His *GPS*.

#### **IV. HOW THE BIBLE IS LIKE A MODERN GPS:**

- A. The Bible tells us which direction to go, *Colossians 3:1,2*.  
“If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. 2 Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth.”
- B. The Bible tells us when to turn, *Luke 13:3*.  
“I tell you, no; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish.”
- C. The Bible tells us what to avoid, *1 Corinthians 6:18* (flee fornication).
- D. The Bible tries to get you to turn around, *Acts 26:20*.
  - 1. “Make a legal U-turn...”
  - 2. “and then to the Gentiles, that they should repent, *turn to God*, and do works befitting repentance.” *Acts 26:20*.
  - 3. “Let him turn away from evil and do good; let him seek peace and pursue it.”  
*1 Peter 3:11*.
- E. The Bible has an ultimate destination in mind, *Matthew 7:21*.  
"Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven.”

#### **V. THE BIBLE IS UNLIKE A MODERN GPS: THE BIBLE NEVER GIVES US WRONG DIRECTIONS.**

- A. “Lead me, O LORD, in Your righteousness because of my enemies; Make Your way straight before my face.” *Psalms 5:8*.
- B. The more time we spend reading and studying it, the more clearly we understand the commands our Father has given us.
- C. With the Bible as my guide, I don't have to worry about going in the wrong direction.

#### **VI. WHAT IF I NEGLECT THE GPS?**

- A. What good would it be to have a GPS in your car if you never turned it on, or if you thought you knew a better way?
- B. “How shall we escape if we neglect so great a salvation?” *Hebrews 2:3*.
- C. Answer: WE WON'T.

## CONCLUSION:

- A. Have you neglected **God's Plan of Salvation**?
- B. That is the only way to heaven, ***John 14:6***.
- C. Will you begin to follow His Plan today?

Ricky Phillips  
Martin Church of Christ  
Martin, TN

[www.martinchurchofchrist.org](http://www.martinchurchofchrist.org)