

### The Universal Journey

Life is a journey from birth to death. No matter what you believe about it, you will eventually face the reality of what now lies beyond this life. There is no way to slow down or turn back. Moment by moment, day by day, we get closer to the end of our road.

Some people won't look at a map, check a compass or ask for directions. They are sure they can find their desired destination by their own sense of direction and dead reckoning. This might work if the only penalty for mistakes is missing a flight or the need to backtrack a few miles. But what if the penalty for error is death? The Bible says, **"There is a way that seems right to a man, But its end is the way of death."** (Proverbs 14:12).

### Does Every Path Lead Home?

While some people are convinced they can find their way without assistance, no sane person believes that every road leads to the same place. Yet some people claim that every spiritual path leads to heaven.

Jesus said, **"Enter by the**

**narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. "Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it."** (Matthew 7:13-14). Jesus claimed, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me."** (John 14:6).

### Losing Your Way

God has equipped humans with a sense of direction called the conscience. People have a sense of "right and wrong." According to God's word, **"all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."** (Romans 3:23). Most people would agree that they have sometimes violated even their own sense of right and wrong. They admit, "Nobody's perfect."

Our problem is that God IS perfect. He is "holy" -- completely perfect in character, power, and every attribute. Fellowship with God requires matching God's holiness, **"because it is written, 'Be holy, for I am holy.'"** (1Peter 1:16). Failure to be

holy separates people from God and ultimately results in God's judgment. **"...your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear."** (Isaiah 59:2). **"The soul who sins shall die."** (Ezekiel 18:20). **"For the wages of sin is death."** (Romans 6:23).

### Getting From Here To There

If you make one wrong turn you will never arrive at your goal, even if you follow the rest of the directions perfectly. In the same way nothing we can do changes the fact that we are sinners. We are polluted by sin in our past even if we never sin again. But to go to heaven, we must be sinless.

The Bible's answer is the work of Jesus Christ. He takes our sin and gives us His righteousness. **"Who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness."** (1Pet. 2:24). **"For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him."** (2Cor. 5:21).

### Accepting Help

Some people can't bring themselves to ask for directions. They are sure they can make it on their own. That can be dangerous. Many people who are lost in the wilderness perish because they won't stop and wait to be rescued.

Your good works can't save you from your sins. **For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God, not of works, lest anyone should boast.** (Ephesians 2:8-9). Religious observance of do's and don'ts can't get you to heaven. **"By the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in His sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin."** (Romans 3:20).

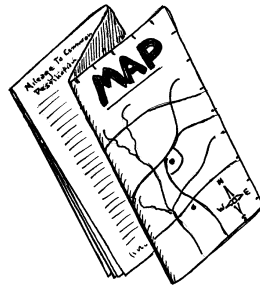
The only way to heaven is Jesus Christ and His offering for sin. **"But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God, through faith in Jesus Christ, to all and on all who believe."** (Rom. 3:21-22).

5

What can you do? **"Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved..."** (Acts 16:31). **"For whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved."** (Romans 10:13). Jesus said, **"The one who comes to Me I will by no means cast out."** (John 6:37).

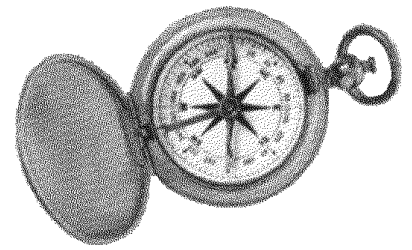
### How About You?

Life is a journey. Do you know where you are going? Have you made any wrong turns? Are you really going where you want to go? What are you counting on to make you right with God? Call on the Lord Jesus Christ for forgiveness and salvation. He alone can rescue you and lead you safely home.



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6



### **Life's A Journey**

**Do You Know Where You're Going?**

People get lost everyday. Someone misses his exit. A husband and wife argue about stopping for directions. Rescue teams search in the mountains to find a hunter who didn't come back.

The problem with being lost is the inability to get where you wanted to go. A Native American guide reportedly said to his hunting party, "I'm not lost, the village is lost." Surviving in the wilderness was no problem to him, he just couldn't locate the rest of the clan. The question is not, "Are you comfortable with your situation right now?" The question is, "Do you know where you are going?"

1