

WHAT ARE OUR WAYS TO GET TO HIM?

People have many ways they believe they can be in a right relationship with God. Some *sincerely* feel just being in the mountains or at the ocean ('here') brings us to Him ('there'). [These places *remind us* that **there IS a God**, but they don't provide **the way** to God]. (Colossians 1:15-16)

Some *sincerely* believe that what they **DO** and **DO NOT DO** is **the way** to get to HIM. Some people *sincerely* believe that just because He created us **ensures** that we have an automatic "Get to Heaven" card like in a board game. Some people believe firmly that if we are just sincere, that is the way to get to HIM and get to Heaven.

Some people *adamantly* choose to believe that there is no God.

BUT THE QUESTION IS: WHAT DOES GOD SAY?

Well, God has written down **HIS WAY** to be in a relationship with Him. He wrote His directions (His map for our trip on Earth) down in the Bible. In it, He provided the compass His beloved Son, Jesus Christ, (**I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life: NO ONE comes to the Father except through Me. John 14:6.**) that He wanted us to use to arrive at our destination (Being in His presence for eternity). His compass is already *locked on True North (Jesus)* and is ready to use to get to our destination. Through Jesus, He has made sure that we are NOT off even one degree and there is no margin of error on THIS trip.

There is **NOTHING** that can get in the way to cause error (John 10:9). And God has even gone one step further by providing us with a trail guide (His Holy Spirit) to ensure that we arrive at our destination!

Some people may ask: what did Jesus do to provide the way to God? Well, Adam and Eve (by their choices in the Garden of Eden) caused a sin-stained rift between God and mankind (us!). We were now OFF COURSE! But God loved us, and wanted to bring us back on course. So, He sent His **ONLY** Son, Jesus Christ, to die for us. Jesus took our place and repaired our relationship with God (John 3:16). **BUT...The key is we have to take a moment and realize this and accept what Jesus did in our place and thank Him and God, His Father, for providing the way.** So, take a moment now, realize what He has already done for you, thank Jesus, and **sincerely** ask Him to come into your heart and life. By doing the trip God's way, our sincerity is encouraged and rewarded!

Then celebrate! You are accepted and loved and are on the correct course for Heaven. Jesus will **NEVER** leave you and His Holy Spirit will guide you through this life (Galatians 5:16). Talk to God daily (pray). Read His map (the Bible). Start with the book of John and the other gospels and continue to read the New Testament for directions on how to live the rest of your life on Earth. **This trip with Jesus will be the most exciting, exhilarating trip you will ever take with the most incredible destination!**

**Hacker's Hill Project
High Country Mission
Quaker Ridge Road
Casco, Maine**

Getting from 'Here' to 'There'

Arriving at Our Destination or Getting Off Course



IS THERE A FOOLPROOF WAY?

LIVING 'HERE'

It is a simple fact: We humans ALL live someplace. We live in remote places, in jungles, in deserts, or rainforests. We live in homes and apartments and 'flats' or on the street, in tents, in huts, under bridges and in trash or rubbish dumps. We live in palaces. We live in villages, towns and cities. We live in countries and on continents. Simply put, each one of us lives 'here'. But often, we wonder 'what if I lived 'there?'

GOING 'THERE'

'There' is any different place from where I live today. We may think it is healthier place or a more beautiful place or a more restful place. We may go for just a few days (vacation or holiday), or we may move 'there' permanently for a job or even be a refugee or asylum seeker. *Why* we go may differ, but *how* we go is the same. We need to make plans to go (when and where). We need to think of the entire trip and plan for what we will wear and eat on the way. We need to decide the method we use or how we must go (by a plane, train, car, and bicycle or on foot). We may need a map. Then, most importantly, we need to plan the route to help us go from 'here' to 'there'. Without a plan, we may never get 'there'!

LEAVING 'HERE' TO GET 'THERE'

Once we know the method we are using to get there, we need to look at *how* to get there. Back through time, we may have used oral history of our relatives, neighbors, and strangers to help us. We used the stars in the heavens to navigate. Then, we created instruments to help us. There are very sophisticated instruments used to launch spaceships, and satellites in orbit. Pilots use navigational tools to get us to our destination. On the ground, we may use compasses or GPS devices to get us from 'here' to 'there'. But do compasses and GPS devices ALWAYS get us where we want to go 100% of the time?

USING THE COMPASS AS OUR GUIDE

Very, very simply put, we start from where we are ('here'). We know north, east, south and west. We decide which direction to go. We align the compass to the north and lock it in. Using the tab, we can then set the direction we want to go and head off! We can also use the compass with a map as well. This involves getting a degree bearing. The key point is: if we head in that degree bearing toward our destination, we will arrive. But what happens if we (the human compass-users) are off course by **one degree**? If we are off course **by just one degree, for every mile we walk, we get 92 feet further away from the right heading!**

USING GPS AS OUR GUIDE

So, if the thought of getting off course using a compass is too risky, is using a GPS (global positioning system) a more trustworthy option? GPS uses satellites in space to help us get where we want to go. The GPS systems today are extremely accurate, but things like changes in the atmosphere and other factors (like trees) can make them less accurate (around 15 feet). Unfortunately, GPS can be WRONG! **In that case, we NEVER make it to our destination.** *We do not make it from "here" to "there".*

FINDING OUR WAY TO GOD

We use compasses and GPS systems to get around here on earth. As we have seen, they are not always accurate and, in some cases, just plain wrong! But what if we are really, really sincere in wanting to get to where we are going? What if someone is in the hospital or dying? What if getting 'there' is the MOST important thing we need to do? Is it possible to be sincerely wrong?

What if the place we want to get to is having a relationship with God? Is the way to get to know God the same? Do we have the way (like a compass or a GPS) to get us there? Is the way to Him based *on our way* along *with a sincere desire* to get to know Him? Could we try our best and still not make it to Him in the end? ***Is there a foolproof way to get to Him, since where we spend eternity is riding on it?*** The answer to the last question is **YES!**