



## **Which Way Do I Go?** Tim Canup

In this life, we all travel somewhere; whether it is a simple trip to the grocery store, or a trip around the world. As we travel, at some point we may become lost. What then? There are three options available to us; we can continue on following our intuition, ask someone for directions, or look at a map. This life has been compared to a journey, and when we reach the age of accountability and allow sin into our lives, we become lost (James 1:12-15). The three options listed above apply spiritually. Let us consider each of the three options.

Sometimes, maybe because of pride, we refuse to stop and ask for directions when we are lost. Usually when this happens, we (as well as those traveling with us) become more lost than if we would have simply stopped for directions. When we follow our own sense of direction spiritually, we will never find our way to where we desire to be. Solomon said, “There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death” (Proverbs 14:12) and also, “Trust in the LORD with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). Following our own thoughts to find salvation can be a serious mistake indeed (Cf. Isaiah 55:8-9).

Stopping to ask someone for directions can be a helpful way of finding our way to where we want to be. However, we must remember, the directions given to us by another are only as good and trustworthy as the person giving them. We all have asked someone for directions only to become further lost. We can only prove the directions given are accurate by comparing them to a map. To prevent becoming lost by the directions given by men, we must compare them to God’s map (the Bible, Psalms 119:105). Paul commended the Bereans for doing this (Acts 17:11) and instructed those in Thessalonica to “Prove all things, hold fast to that which is good (I Thessalonians 5:21).

By looking at a map, we can know that we can accurately find our way; however, there are times when we need help reading our maps. By that, we are not claiming that it is impossible to read or understand the Bible. When it comes to God's map, sometimes we need a little help. The Ethiopian Eunuch sought such help when reading from the Scriptures (Acts 8:31). It is important to notice that the person the Eunuch asked did not give him his own personal thoughts, but rather, "Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same Scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35). When looking at our Bibles, let us carefully consider the things we read and always accept them for they came from the mind of God (I Corinthians 2:6-12). If we have trouble understanding God's Word and must ask another to help, let us make sure we accept directions that are in harmony with God's Word.

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