

“Joshua chapter one, verse number nine.

The Lord said, Have not I commanded thee, He's talking to Joshua, and he's talking to us.

Have not I commanded thee, be strong and of a good courage, be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed, and this is the part I want you to remember. For the Lord thy God is with thee, whithersoever thou goest. God is with you wherever you go.

Now, you're going to hear that verse quite a bit this coming week, because it is the verse that Bible School is built around.

Bible School this year is road trip on the go with God.

And we're into, I mentioned it earlier, we're into the final week of summer.

People are squeezing in these last vacations.

And these last vacations involve driving many times. Perhaps going to places you've never been before, right?

And you're excited about it, and you're ready to go, and you got the car all packed up. But if you've never been there before, how do you know how to get there?

Now hold that thought.

We're going to come back to it.

That's the road trip.”

“And then the last part of our thing for Bible School is on the go with God.

Well, maybe you're not going on a vacation.

Maybe you've already been.

But I would be willing to guess that you are still very much on the go.

I don't know about your life.

I know about mine and Crystal's.

And we are gearing up because school is getting ready to start.

And when school starts, sports start. And we have calendars all the way to December, actually.

So we know where we are going and when we are going.

We have multiple grandchildren involved in multiple things. I mean, we got rec sports, we got rec soccer, we got high school soccer, we got two different footballs, you know, because two different age groups.

We've got baseball coming in the spring.

We've got dance.

Granddaughter is into dance now, so that entails trades and all these other things, all the school events that are coming up. You know, we plan on being on the go. Somebody asked me years ago after I retired, they said, what are you doing now?"

"I told them, I'm an uber for goobers.

So that was hauling grandbabies to every place.

Best job I've ever had, I'll tell you.

Yeah. But you're on the go.

And in these sporting things, you know, I love the ones that are right here in town, but they're all not right here in town. And even though I live in Sillinois all my life, we're going to some places I ain't never been before.

How do we know how to get there?

Well, now, now, we have these.

I mean, these, Google Maps. Hello.

And have you noticed, fellas, have you noticed that Google Maps comes standard with a woman's voice?

If you've been married very long at all, you are used to that woman telling you how to drive.

That's okay.

And I know you can change that voice, but I never have.

It's just, you know, that's a very good marketing strategy, I think, because it works.

Now, before we had me, and I'm gonna date myself here, before we had this type of phone, we had a flip phone.

It didn't have no Google Maps on it."

"So I bought something called a Garmin. It was a little thing you set on your dash, or you stuck it on your windshield, and it would give you the turn-by-turn direction, just like Google Maps. Again, my Garmin.

In a female voice.

I'll never forget the first time we were traveling in Chicago, and my father-in-law was with me in the front seat, and he said, That little box of stills you ever turn to make, isn't it? I said, Yes.

And I'm listening, too.

Yes.

And it was just fantastic. But before that, we had road atlases and road maps.

And man, I can remember spreading the maps out, and then, you know, if you were traveling through multi-states, you had to buy a map for every state, unless you had a road atlas.

So then you just flip back and forth, and you do all the, you map out your route and everything. But before that, before they had maps, and before they had road atlases, they had compasses.

I remember I had a toy gun, a toy rifle, when I was a kid, with a compass in the stock.”

“And I could just go anywhere and never get lost, because I knew all the woods and everything.

That compass didn't mean a thing.

But that's what we had. And a compass, we're going to have a little science lesson this morning, along with a message, okay?

A compass is based on what they call magnetic north.

All right?

It all has to do with the magnetic field in the earth pointing it north.

But did you realize that a compass can be pulled by other magnetic fields, by metal objects that interferes with that?

Okay? So they were good up to a point, they would get you close to where you were going.

But before that, how did they know where they were going?

The north star.

And the north star represents, I told you about magnetic north with a compass.

The north star represents true north.

And that is really where this message came from.

True north.

I want to talk about true north.”

“And it morphed into a Bible school message because of the road trip and having to know where you go.

True north.

Psalms 8 and 3 of the New Living Translation says, When I look at the night sky and see the work of your fingers, the moon and the stars, you set in place. There are millions, it's not billions, of stars. There are galaxies we can't even see filled with stars.

And yet, God placed each and every one of them in their respective places. Psalms 147 and 4 says He counts the stars. He knows exactly how many are there.

And not only does He count them, He says, and He calls them all by name. Those stars have a name, and He knows their names, and He puts them exactly where they are supposed to be. And this North Star was placed where it's at by God for purpose.

Now, this is a science part.

Now, I got this from a science website, so gotta be right, okay?

Stars, in case you didn't know, the millions and billions of stars all tend to move a little with the rotation of the Earth."

"All of them except the North Star.

The North Star is perfectly stationed directly above the North Pole, through North, through North. Now, that star, it's had many, many names throughout history. I'm not gonna go into all of them, but I wanna share a few of them.

The North Star is known as the Pointer. The star of the sea, because, and I'm not all about an ocean voyage.

I just tell you, I'm not.

I'm real big on looking out of my boat and seeing the bank.

I like it. I like it a lot.

I've never been out there in the middle of no ways, but I have been told there are no street signs in the middle of the ocean.

There is nothing but water.

And these guys in days of old didn't have this GPS satellite stuff we got now.

They had the stars. In particular, they had the North Star. They called it the corner because it was always, once they realized that that star never moved, it gave them a sense of direction." "Once you find the North Star, once you find your direction and know that it's through North, every other direction just falls into place because you've got a point of reference. And they called it the pointer, the star of the sea, the steering star, the load star, and my favorite, the star at the top of the heavenly mountains.

What it's called?

Its technical name, its scientific name, is Polaris. Now, the thing about this, and this part just fascinates me. The North Star is 2500 times brighter than our sun.

It is 50 times larger than our sun. Well, why, why, why isn't it, why can't we, why doesn't it overshadow the sun? Because it is 433 light years away from Earth.

And just to help you out, one light year equals approximately 5.9 trillion, with a T, 5.9 trillion miles. So you mathematicians multiply 443 by 5.9 trillion, and that's how far away the North Star is.

Okay?

It's a lot.

I looked it up, and they run out of numbers.

They have a long number, about 14 characters strong, and it says plus whatever, a thousand and something."

"So the North Star is a long way off.

That's why it's bright.

And I absolutely love science to a point, because they all have tried to disprove the Bible from scientific facts, and they end up proving the Bible based on scientific facts.

I love the way God does that.

He allows that to happen. But these guys have staked it all out. And they have actually got a whole deal about the North Star.

They say it will be around in the year 25,800.

That's the year.

25,800.

It was just a load off my mind, because I was so worried.

And they've broken it all down, you know, from 2100 to 4000, to 7900, 10200, 13661, 20,500, and finally, 25,800.

Folks, we'll be in heaven way before then.

We'll be in heaven way before then.

But these scientists think it's all going to last that long. No, there won't be a northern star then.

There will be one great light, and His name will be Jesus.

I'm telling you that for a fact."

"Now, the north star, as I told you, its position never changes. All the other stars' positions shift around, but it never changes. It is a constant.

It is the only constant in all of the heavens as you look up. We need a constant like that for direction. Before we got to the point where we're at, with the GPS, satellite and everything else, we needed direction, and God knew we needed direction.

It was reliable then.

It's still reliable today. Once you find the north star, you know automatically we're east and west and south.

Then it goes south and straight behind you.

East and west, or on your left and your right. It's easy to find, and God put it there for our purpose, and that helps us navigate where we are in the world. But church, we need another true north in our lives, not just so we know where we're going physically, but so we know where we're going spiritually.

And Jesus Christ is that true north. He is never changing. The Bible says He's the same yesterday, today, and forever."

"And church, we need to hold on to that. We need to know that that's what it is. So when He is...

That's Hebrews 13 and 8, by the way.

He is that true north.

He is that north star.

Jesus, in John 14 and 16, Jesus said, I'm the way, the truth, and the life. And I love that because it is reaffirmed by science.

He is the way.

He is the truth. He is the true north. He is that way in our spiritual life, in our spiritual being.

We must align ourselves with the Word of God. And when we align ourselves with the Word of God, you know, we need to follow the teachings of Jesus. We need to learn from His examples.

We need to follow His guidance and allegiance home to heaven, because that is the true path.

And the true north is the north star, is our guidance system.

Now, it sounded easy, didn't it?

Align ourselves with the Word of God.

Follow the teachings of Jesus.

Learn from this example.

Follow His guidance and allegiance to heaven."

"It all sounds real easy, doesn't it? But you know what the problem is?

We live in a world that is constantly changing.

Constantly changing.

Nothing's staying the same. They are reinventing things. I mean, you know, one of my grandkids, it's been a while back, talking about the cell phones.

One of my grandkids asked Crystal, they said, Grammy, what kind of cell phones did you have when you were our age?

And it just blew their minds when Grammy said, honey, there weren't cell phones when I was your age.

We were like cave dwellers in our minds.

It's not that many years ago, we went to the Red Onion with some of our grandkids, and used to, up on the corner, there was a phone booth.

None of our grandkids had ever seen a phone booth, let alone use one.

For all they knew, that was Superman's dressing room, and that was it.

But that's how things have changed, and things have progressed, you know?

And in my opinion, it's a bad thing."

"There is, everything in the world is changing. The world is full of change. And if you get caught up in the change of the world, you're always looking for something new.

Now, you know I love, you used to love to trade cars.

I loved that new car's smell.

Do you know what happened after a little while?

It didn't smell new no more.

Your car goes from smelling new to smelling lived in.

And it just don't take long.

That's on purpose, so they kill you another new car. They can't. They couldn't.

And you get caught up in that.

People get caught up in living in a new house, or the latest this, or the latest that, you know. And you've got to be careful in what you get up.

We're always chasing the next big thing, the next best thing.

And if you're not careful, you can get drawn off the path.

And when you get drawn off the path, you need something to bring you back. Now, in your travels, and I'm condensing a lot of this this morning, okay?"

"But you're still going to get the point.

In your travels, have you ever traveled and made a wrong turn?

Yeah.

Has that wrong turn ever resulted in getting you a little bit lost?

I'm so proud of you men that are admitting it.

Because every time it would happen, and my children are still scarred from it, they remind me of it.

I would never admit it. And it usually happens.

Well, no, I'll say that.

If I took a wrong turn, I would tell them, there's something down here I want you to see.

Here's to the look of me. She says, you don't know where you're going.

Yes, I do.

We're off the interstate.

I know, but it's less traffic.

My kids still remind me of a place I took them that I thought was going to be really cool, and it was a mountain of dirt when we got there."

"Yeah, they still remind me of it. And usually, usually, you know, when you do take that wrong turn, and you know you took a wrong turn, and all of a sudden you look around, and you don't even know where in the world you're at, it's not a good feeling, is it?

No, it's not. No, it's not.

And it's even worse when your wife says, I told you. I told you. And then your kids jump on board.

Where we going, Dad? I got something I want to show you.

It's a pile of dirt, Dad.

I know.

It was supposed to be Fort Donaldson.

It's a pile of dirt right now.

Oh, it is.

No fort, no nothing.

It's just a dirt mound.

Anyway, it doesn't feel good, does it?

You kind of feel bad about the whole deal.

And it's a little bit scary. But you know what our scriptural reading said?

That God is with us forever we go.

Now, I'm going to admit this."

“They're here up in the bathroom, my wife, my kids.

I'm going to admit this.

That usually happens.

But I'm always looking for a shortcut.

I've even done it with the phone and with that garment I had.

And I would jump off the interstate, and my phone would immediately start talking to me and saying, recalculated, recalculated.

Until the last time, it would say, turn around now.

Turn around now.

It didn't get louder, but in my head, it did, with a greater emphasis.

You know what I realized in traveling and in life?

There's no shortcuts.

There's no shortcuts, people. If you want to go to heaven, there's only one way. That's through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

There's only one way.

There's no shortcut to get there.

There's no different route.

We have that one constant true north in our lives to guide us physically and to guide us spiritually.”

“And as long as you follow it, it will lead you home, because He said, I'll never leave you. And when you do wander off, when you do get off the right path, God said, I'll be there with you to bring you right back to where you need to be so you can get to where you want to go.

That's the thing.

All these deep tours I took, all these, quote unquote, short cuts I had, ended up getting me right back on the road I was already on.

Because that was the road that led home.

My short cuts never gained much of anything. We saw a lot of country. I'm the only one that seems to appreciate that.

It's like that and the same trees look old. They got the same trees at home you're looking at here in Kentucky.

So, why then? Why, I'm folding here, Greg. Why then?

There's so many people.

I'm trying to make a short cut to heaven.

Trying to find another way.”

“Trying to just live good enough, attend church enough, give enough, to make it into heaven. When the price has already been paid, and there's only one way, there's only one way, that's through Jesus.

There's no short cut. God knew in His infinite wisdom, we needed a North Star up in the sky, to be the true North, so we can navigate this life we live.

God knew we needed His Son in our lives to navigate this life we're in.

No more short cuts, people.

It's time we got on the right path.

The Bible only speaks of two.

One of them is broad and wide.

One of them is straight and narrow.

Only one leads to heaven. Only one. Are you on that path?

Are you looking for the true north? I can show it to you. I can show it to you in the night sky, because I found out how to find it.

I can show it to you definitely right here in this corner.

You know, personally, Jesus Christ. Or aren't you tired of just wandering around?

You got my picture up there, Keith?”

“Barbara, you got my picture. I know you can't see this real well, but this is the last point I want to make.

You remember when the Children of Israel were...

This is where they crossed the Red Sea right there, and God brought them all the way down through here.

That's Mount Sinai. Then God took them all the way up here.

This is Kadesh Barnea. That was where the 12 spies were supposed to go in and view the Promised Land right there.

And they came back, and 10 of them gave a bad report, and 2 of them gave a good report.

And because the children of Israel were afraid to go in and grab hold of what God gave them, he tells them there, it's in the 14th chapter of Numbers, he said, you are going to wander for 40

years. Now, they were going from here to here, from there to there. That is where they crossed the Jordan right there into the Promised Land.

They are right here.

But what they did, they went in circles.”

“They went like that, and then they went like that, and then they went like that, and all the way back.

All they had to do was go from there to there.

Do you know what happened to them?

They tried to go their own way. They tried to do it their way, not God's way.

And they wandered.

Are you wandering?

This is actually what they went in circles, right there.

Circle there, circle there, long circle there.

Church, are you tired of going in circles?

Isn't it time?

Isn't it time we got on the right path?

Stand with me this morning.

I know it's 11.32, but I've got you out early last year and three weeks. I got free time stacked up. So I want to share one more thing with you.

When you use this as a map, you put a lot of faith and confidence in it, don't you? Because you're going someplace you ain't never been for.

True story.”

“The first time I went to Florida, it was a few years ago, you know, feet in to where we were going. And man, we got down there, we were driving down. I know we're close because, you know, my phone tells me we're close.

And my phone said, you have a ride at your destination. And there is a field on this side, and an ocean on this side, and there is no resort, nowhere.

But I have a ride at my destination.

I've seen on television people following their phone driving right into the water, saying, you have a ride at your destination. Now, all the confidence you've got in this, and you do, you trust it, you win it. You have half that much confidence in the Lord.

Just half.

The Bible speaks about having faith as a grain of mustard seed.

If you've got that much faith in Jesus, you're going to be alright.

You're going to make it.

All it takes to be saved is that much faith.”

“Just that much faith. If you've got that much, if you've got another verse or something, okay, do one more verse or something, and then we're going to be dismissed. Give me one more verse.

Put your faith, put your confidence in the Lord.

Not in all the things in the world.

We'll put them in the Lord.”

As we sing.....

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