

## ***Instructions from Above***

Last month my son-in-law and I took a wonderful journey across parts of five states. That wouldn't be unusual, except for the fact that we were on dirt bike type motorcycles (racing bikes converted to be street legal), and the trip was on unpaved back roads (some of which had no road signs), and we had no road map in our possession, and we encountered *terrible winds that tried to literally blow us off that road, and blowing dust that limited visibility* in some places (not to mention a surprise encounter with a five and a half foot diamondback rattle snake!).

But before you label us as "crazy" we did have guide, *sort of*. It wasn't a human guide, but an electronic one. It was expensive (\$400) Garmin GPS unit that told us every turn to make and showed us where every gas station and every hotel is along our route. HOWEVER, to make it to our destination we had to first open the unit, then followed the actual directions it gave us. The thing *actually took us on a very circuitous route through 5 days of wilderness, often no houses (cows, but no houses. Who tends these animals?)* One man we met on the way lives so far "out" that he drives 3 hours *each way* to buy groceries!

So, what's my point? To get to our destination, we had to follow the route on the screen, which was ***provided to us from satellites thousands of miles away, far up in the sky.*** We only got to our destination after 5 days of following the sky-born instructions. *And that is a perfect metaphor for life!*

We start our life's journey with no roadmap... that is until we are old enough to read! We have an ink road map from above the gives us directions for how to get to our destination, ***heaven!*** Yes, we will encounter winds that try to blow us off the road (Ephesians 4:14), and we will encounter limited visibility (God can see the future, we can't), and we will have surprise encounters with a snake (serpent – Genesis 3:1-19), and ***we really need the written directions from our GPS, God's Positioning System,*** to tell us which way to turn at each decision intersection!

When we follow the written system, we know where we are along the journey, we know our destination, we can judge whether or not we are on the right road, and we, by the grace of God and the blood of Christ, get to our proper destination! Expensive? Yes, very expensive; it cost not silver or gold, but the blood of Christ to both ratify the direction book (Hebrews 9:15-19) and purchase our immortal souls (I Peter 1:18, 19).

Life's road might lead us to the wilderness with few road signs and the journey beset with high winds, dust, serpents and fatigue, but praise God for His precious map to heaven!

Ray Wallace