



FRANKLIN ROAD

baptist church

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GUIDANCE



THINK WITH ME FOR A FEW MOMENTS ABOUT GUIDES. KEEP IN MIND THAT THERE IS AT LEAST SOME DEGREE OF HUMILITY NEEDED IN USING A GUIDE FOR IT IMPLIES THAT WE AREN'T CERTAIN WHERE WE'RE GOING OR HOW TO GET THERE.

I'VE ALWAYS THOUGHT IT WOULD BE NICE TO HIRE A HUNTING OR FISHING GUIDE, BUT IN REALITY, I HUNT RABBITS AND MOST OF MY FISHING IS FOCUSED ON PANFISH. I DON'T THINK THAT THERE ARE GUIDES THAT SPECIALIZE IN THESE.

ANOTHER TYPE OF GUIDE IS GPS. MANY OF US USE SOME FORM OF THAT WHEN GETTING FROM POINT "A" TO POINT "B." WHEN I'M IN MY TRUCK I USE GOOGLE MAPS ON MY PHONE AND OUR CAR HAS A BUILT-IN NAVIGATION SYSTEM. I USE IT WHEN HEADING TO AN UNFAMILIAR LOCATION HERE IN INDIANAPOLIS AND ESPECIALLY LIKE IT ON TRIPS.

THE BEST GUIDANCE SYSTEM IS GOD'S WORD. IT NOT ONLY TELLS US HOW TO GET FROM HERE TO HEAVEN BUT HOW TO LIVE FROM DAY TO DAY AND HOUR BY HOUR. I RECENTLY CAME ACROSS THIS VERSE FROM PSALM 86: 11. "TEACH ME YOUR WAY, O LORD; I WILL WALK IN YOUR TRUTH; UNITE MY HEART TO FEAR YOUR NAME."

THE FIRST PHRASE "TEACH ME YOUR WAY," IS LIKE SETTING THE GPS. YOU HAVE TO HAVE A DESTINATION IN MIND. WE MUST DETERMINE THAT WE WANT TO KNOW GOD'S WAYS AND ACKNOWLEDGE THAT WE NEED TO HAVE THEM TAUGHT TO US. MAY GOD HELP US HEAD TOWARD HIM.

THE NEXT STATEMENT IS SOMEWHAT LIKE A PROMISE. "I WILL WALK IN YOUR TRUTH." IN ORDER FOR OUR GODLY GUIDANCE SYSTEM TO WORK WE HAVE TO STAY ON HIS DIRECTED PATH. THE HEBREW VERB INDICATES AN ACTIVE AND INTENSIVE ACTION. VARIOUS "TRUTH-CLAIMS" CONFRONT CHRISTIANS DAILY. MANY OF THEM WILL SEEM CONVINCING BUT ARE DECEIVING BY NOT LINING UP WITH GOD'S WORD. WE WOULD DO WELL TO REMEMBER THAT ADAM AND EVE FAILED BY DISREGARDING GOD'S TRUTH.

"UNITE MY HEART TO FEAR YOUR NAME" IS THE FINAL ELEMENT OF GOD'S GUIDANCE SYSTEM. THE NIV PLACES THIS AS A PRAYER "GIVE ME AN UNDIVIDED HEART." IT'S EASY TO BECOME DISTRACTED IN ROUTE TO OUR DESTINATION. THOSE DETOURS CAN BE DEVASTATING TO OUR SPIRITUAL WELLBEING. LET'S COMMIT TO STANDING IN AWE OF GOD WITH UNDIVIDED ATTENTION AND AFFECTIONS.

NOT GETTING RABBITS OR CATCHING FISH IS DISAPPOINTING AND NOT FINDING A PARTICULAR LOCATION CAN BE FRUSTRATING; BUT MISSING GOD'S WAYS WILL BE DEVASTATING. MAY OUR PRAYER ALWAYS BE "PLEASE GOD GUIDE US."

LOOKING UP!

PASTOR CHUCK CIRCLE