

The Compass of Life

Compasses come in all shapes, sizes, and, material composition, but they all have one purpose for use, and that is to help the one with the compass to send his or her way. The compass must be accurate if it is to be of any use. "The magnetic compass is one of our oldest and most essential navigation tools. Compasses are considered mandatory equipment for anyone venturing out into the wilderness, and considering the ramifications of getting lost without means of reorienting yourself, it's hard to imagine why anyone wouldn't bring one. As illustrated by these stories, possession of a compass and the ability to read it correctly can mean the difference between life and death. For every one of these, there are hundreds of thousands of stories of people trekking safely to their destinations without major incident, thanks to planning, attention to detail and proficiency with a compass and map." {-copied}

Just as the compass is an essential instrument for those venturing into the wilderness regions of this world, so too is the Word of God, the Bible, for all of humanity in all regions of the world. The Bible clearly tells us that we will all physically die one day. "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment:" {Hebrews 9:27} The question is not if we will die, but when we will die. The Bible also tells us that every person will one day stand face-to-face with Jesus Christ. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." {II Corinthians 5:10} **ALL** of us will face Jesus Christ as Saviour or as judge but we will face Him.

Those who face Jesus as Saviour are those who have repented of sin and, by faith alone in His shed blood, have trusted Him as their personal Saviour. We call this "being saved" or "born again." This is possible because of what Jesus Christ did for sinful humanity. **ALL** of us are born with a sin nature and, from that nature, the various acts of sin are committed. The result of being a sinner is death, not only physical death but also spiritual death. This was God's promise to Adam in the Garden of Eden if he disobeyed Him. {Genesis 2:17} Adam did disobey {Genesis 3:7} and sin came into the realm of humanity and with it came death. The moment Adam disobeyed God, he spiritually died, and eventually he died physically. Therefore, it has been since the world began however, because God loves the souls of man so much, He provided a means of redemption and salvation. The **ONLY** place we may find this is in the person of Jesus Christ; He is God the Son who left the glory of Heaven. He took to Himself a body of sinful man so that He could die on the Cross of Calvary as the full and final payment of our sin debt. This is what John 3:16 tells us. "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." We also read about it in Romans 5:8, I Peter 1:18-19, and Hebrews, chapter 9. When Jesus died on the Cross of Calvary, He shed His innocent blood. This blood and **ONLY** this blood is what can away our sin. After Jesus died He was buried, in a tomb, and, three days later, He physically, bodily rose from the grave and at this very moment He is back in Heaven. {Matthew 28:1-6; Hebrews 10:11-12} The Bible clearly tells us that **EVERY PERSON**, who confesses being a sinner and repents, putting their faith in Jesus Christ and Him alone, has his sins forgiven, and saved, eternally. {John 3:36 a; I John 5:11-13} All of this is wonderful news and it is all in God's Word, the Bible. We have God's sure promise of Heaven when we die. {John 14:2; II Corinthians 5:1; Hebrews 11:10; II Corinthians 5:6, 8}

A compass tells the truth and to ignore its reading is an invitation for self-destruction. Someone may say that it would be foolish to ignore the compass reading, and that is true. Similarly, it is also foolish for people to ignore what God's Word says about the eternal state of the soul of man. Jesus Himself said that He was **THE** way, the only way to God the Father. {John 14:6} "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved." {Acts 4:12} God said that people who have believed on Jesus Christ for salvation are not condemned but those who do not believe on Him are at this very moment condemned. "He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God." {John 3:18} The eternal place for **ALL** who do not trust Jesus Christ as personal Saviour is the eternal lake of fire. "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." {Revelation 20:15}

God's Word, the Bible, is true, it is accurate, and no amount of tampering with it will change what God has said "For ever, O LORD, thy word is settled in heaven." {Psalm 119:89} God said it and that settles it; people just **NEED** to believe it! To ignore the true reading of a compass is foolish enough but to ignore the clear teaching of God's Word is even more foolish.

My friend, if you have not repented of your sin and trusted Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, then for the sake of your eternal soul, I plead with you to do so today lest it becomes eternally too late for you.

~Richard A. Ciarrocca/2018

All Scripture references are KJV