

BOBBIE

The Wonder Dog



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BOBBIE

The Wonder Dog

Bobbie, a collie dog, lived with the Brazier family in Silverton, Oregon, which was a small city near the Pacific Coast. The family decided to take a car trip across the U.S.A. in a Studebaker Touring Car. They loaded up the car, tying down some luggage between the trunk of the car and the back bumper. There was no room inside the car for their dog. That was no problem for Bobbie. He jumped on the top of the luggage and was ready to make the long trip. Back in the 1920s, the roads were not always paved and often the ride was bumpy, but Bobbie never bounced off his perch. Through foul weather and fair, the dog kept his balance. Day after day they traveled by wide rivers, over mountain passes that seemed to touch the sky, and then across the Great Plains in the blazing heat of late summer.

After travelling like this for 2,500 miles, the Brazi-ers stopped to get gas and a bite to eat in a small Indiana town. It was their custom to let Bobbie run and get some exercise during short stops. As they were

entering a restaurant, they saw a pack of local dogs chase Bobbie down the road. They weren't worried about Bobbie, because he was an excellent runner. They just figured he would return to the car after the chase was over. However, Bobbie didn't return. The Braziers searched for him for three days. Heartbroken, they continued without their dog.

A few weeks later on their return trip, they stopped in the same town where Bobbie had been lost and inquired about the dog. Unfortunately, no one was able to provide any information about their pet. They made the long trip home to Silverton without Bobbie.

The family gave up hope of ever seeing their dog again. One day, eleven-year-old Nova Brazier was walking down a muddy city street in Silverton when the girl saw a half-starved, weather-beaten dog walking with its head hung low. The dog looked more dead than alive. To her astonishment, something about the dog reminded her of Bobbie. When she called the dog's name, it feebly trotted up to her with its stump of a tail wagging. The dog's hair was matted and dirty, and he was nothing but skin and bones, but by the markings on its face she knew it was Bobbie.

Somehow the dog had managed to walk close to 2,500 miles from Indiana to Oregon. Bobbie became known as "Bobbie, the Wonder Dog," and his remarkable story was carried in newspapers across the country. People speculated that Bobbie had backtracked along the same route the car had taken when it had traveled east. Various people who lived

along the route sent in reports that they had fed and sheltered a dog for a night that had matched Bobbie's description. A few hobos said they had shared some stew with him. Many people guessed that Bobbie hunted mice and small game on his journey home.

If Bobbie's story is true, it might be the greatest journey a dog ever made. But if you choose not to believe it, I can understand why. I'm not certain I believe it either. I think it's beyond the ability of any dog to make such an epic journey.

But Bobbie's story reminds me of another story of a Man's truly epic and wonderful journey. Although on this journey He did things that are naturally impossible for men to do, I believe the account of it with all my heart and hope you will too.

The journey this Man made began with His birth into the world. The boy had no natural father. Do you believe that possible? I do because it was prophesied hundreds of years earlier. **"Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel"** (Isaiah 7:14). His birth was just the beginning of His remarkable journey through life.

His parents called Him Jesus, and He spent His youth in a small town called Nazareth in the back-country of Israel. When He turned thirty years old, He started preaching, and His words astonished the world. They were full of life and truth, and they made His listeners feel the depths of God's love in their hearts. The Lord Jesus also did many miracles to relieve the suffering and needy. **"The blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are**

raised up, and the poor have the gospel preached to them” (Matthew 11:5). These miracles showed who He was. It takes supernatural power to perform miracles—power that comes directly from God and surpasses man’s natural ability. Do you believe He performed such miracles? I do. They might be impossible for men, but they are not to God.

After three and a half years of ministering to others, He was taken by cruel men, given a sham trial, and crucified. Nailed to the cross, it seemed like His journey had come to an abrupt end. But His story wasn’t finished: He was laid in a grave and three days later He came back to life. He was seen of many disciples, and on one occasion He ate fish and bits of honeycomb with them. One of His disciples, named Thomas, had the chance to put his finger into the spear wound in Jesus’ side.

Do you believe in the resurrection? I do. It shows, like nothing else could, the honor, love and high esteem that God the Father had for His beloved Son. The men and women who saw the Lord Jesus after His resurrection had nothing to gain by lying about it. In fact, telling the truth would cost many of them their lives.

In the last part of His journey, He was lifted up from this earth in a cloud and carried into heaven. In heaven, He took His seat on the right hand of God, His name being made higher than any other name in heaven or earth.

I think you would agree with me that the Lord Jesus made the most incredible journey through life that was ever made.

Now, whether or not you believe that Bobbie walked 2,500 miles to return home won't make any lasting difference in your life. However, whether or not you believe in the journey the Lord Jesus made makes a tremendous difference. The salvation of every human being hangs on whether they believe it. **“By grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God”** (Ephesians 2:8). Faith in Christ matters a great deal. It matters, because without faith in Christ, people who pass out of this world will enter into a lost eternity. **“I said therefore unto you that ... if ye believe not that I am He, ye shall die in your sins”** (John 8:24).

Will you believe the record that God gave of His Son that you might be saved? I believe it, and I hope you do too.

“Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved” (Acts 16:31).

My Citizenship will show you how to take a journey to the best homeland possible. ◀



MY CITIZENSHIP

February 23, 2011 — what a day! I headed to downtown Worcester, Massachusetts, where I would be part of a citizenship ceremony. *Did I forget my resident alien's card?* I don't know how many times I checked to see if I'd brought this important, required document. Plus my other documents — my British passport, marriage certificate — would I need these too? After several unnecessary checks, I was relieved to see that I still had my alien's card and several other documents I wouldn't even need. I just wanted to be sure . . .

As I sat in my vehicle parked in the gray cement parking garage, it came to mind that the most important citizenship was already mine. The moment I was saved, I became a citizen of heaven: **“Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellow-citizens with the saints, and of the household of God”** (Ephesians 2:19). I also knew that God would never be fumbling for papers! At the time of my salvation, my name was written in the Lamb's book of life: **“There shall in no wise enter into [heaven] anything that defileth, neither whatsoever worketh abomination, or maketh a lie: but they which are**

written in the Lamb's book of life" (Revelation 21:27). The matter of my eternal security and citizenship had been settled.

I accepted Christ at ten years of age while living on the island of Bermuda, my childhood home. I had wanted for so long to have this great gift and had tried so hard to get it. But no amount of being good or "acting saved" could help me. The night before I was saved, I repeated a sinner's prayer and wanted to see a light or an angel... ANYTHING to verify that I had passed from spiritual death unto life. Nothing happened.

The next day, as I thought about being saved, I remembered that the Bible tells us how Christ died and shed His blood on the cross for sinners, and that when He died, He had everyone in mind, even someone born many, many years after His death. He knew about ME and MY sins. I concluded that if His death wasn't enough to save me, then I would be lost forever. I quit *trying* to be saved and *trusted* in His Word. Thank God, that was enough—based on the authority of God's Word, which says, "**He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life**" (John 3:36). I was saved! What joy! What peace!

I entered the foyer of the designated location for the ceremony to find it already teeming with people from other nations. Barring mishaps, we would all be declared citizens of the

United States of America. We would be ceremoniously rewarded for successfully meeting all the citizenship requirements this government placed upon us. It meant being herded upstairs, stripped of our alien's card and given informational packets. Then we were ushered into the main hall for the judge's speech, our oath and the final pronouncement that we were U.S. citizens, at last.

Walking back to the parking lot, I caught a glimpse of my reflection in a storefront window. Did I look the same? I was so thrilled it seemed as if my countenance shone with a special glow.

I smile when I think about it now, because someday I will shine with Christ's likeness. Then I'll meet the righteous Judge who will reward all those who have trusted in Christ, the One who died to set me free. **"If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed"** (John 8:36). He gives me the courage to live for Him. One day I'll gather with the redeemed from all nations, and we'll sing a new heavenly song in our heavenly home. What a day of rejoicing that will be!

I hope you too will come to know Him. Make sure you have what it takes to be a citizen of heaven. It is all found in Christ Jesus who said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life"** (John 14:6).

In *Are You Headed the Wrong Way?* you'll get expert directions to make certain you're really on the way to a home in heaven. ◀

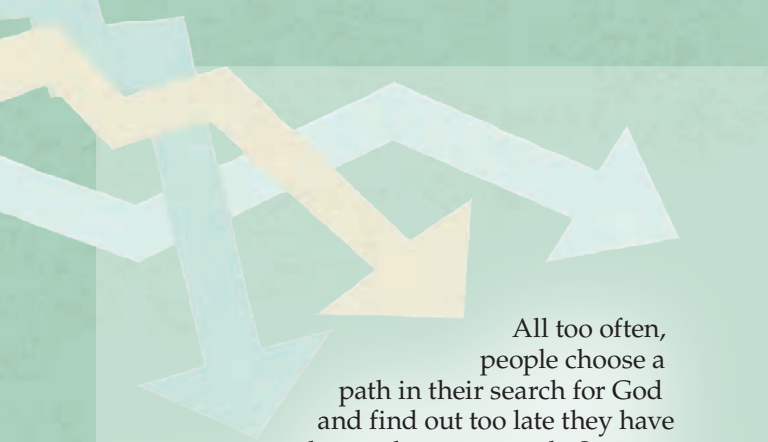
Are You Headed the Wrong Way?



Four children and four adults died in an accident because of a minivan that traveled in the wrong direction. The minivan collided with two cars as it traveled southbound in the northbound lanes of the Taconic State Parkway near New York City. After striking an SUV, the minivan flew into another vehicle before it rolled down an embankment and burst into flames.

Those who died included the driver of the minivan, four of the five children inside, and three men who were inside the SUV. The AP reported: "It was the second wrong-way crash on the Parkway on Sunday."

This tragic story is a strong reminder of our need to be alert and safe when driving a vehicle. It also is an illustration of a Bible message that addresses our relationship with God. According to the Bible, **"there is a way which [seems] right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death"** (Proverbs 14:12).



All too often, people choose a path in their search for God and find out too late they have chosen the wrong path. Some people believe that all roads lead to heaven and that all religions offer a way to God. Some believe that sincerity is enough. Others believe that we can find God through good deeds, a moral life, or intellectual enlightenment. Still others believe there is no God and that science or philosophy is all we need to find meaning and fulfillment in life.

People who hold these views may be sincere, but they are traveling the wrong road. They're going the wrong way.


When it comes to knowing God and having a personal relationship with Him, choosing the correct route is very important. Going the wrong way on a highway can result in tragedy, but going the wrong way in the search for God can result in something far worse.

Without God we are lost. And if we continue on the wrong path, we will not find Him. This means we will remain in our sins, which require God's judgment.

The Bible says we are all sinners. As such, we've all traveled the wrong path. **"All have sinned, and come short of the glory of God"** (Romans 3:23). It also states, **"The wages of sin is death"** (Romans 6:23). But that isn't all. The Bible says that the people who do not know God **"shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of His power"** (2 Thessalonians 1:9).


The fact is, there is a God, and there's only one way we can know Him. There's only one way we can be saved from sin and have peace with Him. That way is Jesus, the Son of God. He said, **"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by Me"** (John 14:6).

Because of God's love for us, He has made it possible for us to know Him personally and to be saved from our sins. He promises forgiveness and eternal life to all who put their faith in Him. **"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son,**



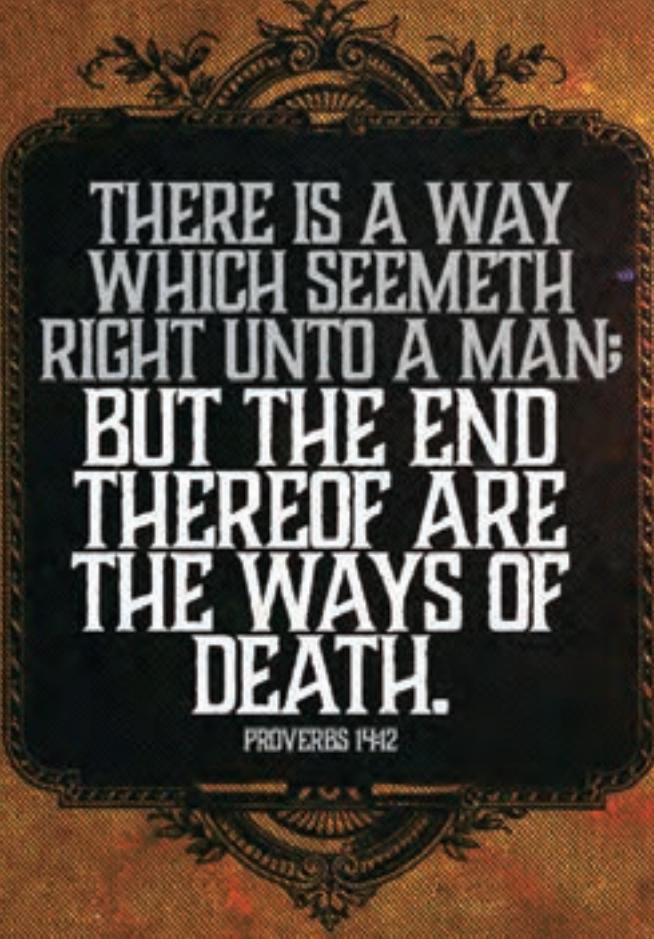
that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" (John 3:16).

Jesus died on Calvary's cross and was buried. He arose from the dead three days later. He "was delivered for our offences, and was raised again for our justification" (Romans 4:25).

You have a decision to make. Will you go the wrong way? Or will you accept the only way that God has provided? 

SHARE GOD'S WORD

If you know Christ as your Saviour, consider cutting out the page to the right and getting permission to post it on the community bulletin board at your local grocery store, Laundromat, community center or other public place.



THERE IS A WAY
WHICH SEEMETH
RIGHT UNTO A MAN;
BUT THE END
THEREOF ARE
THE WAYS OF
DEATH.

PROVERBS 14:12

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*“The blood of Jesus Christ His [God’s] Son cleanseth us from all
sin” (1 John 1:7).*

