

THE STEWARDSHIP PAPERS

Traveling Home

We travel on roads much the same way we travel through life.

Some are long, some wandering, some busy, some quiet. There are dwelling places along the way, and if you're a traveler, there are rest stops. You can even choose most of the roads that lead to the place where you're going...and you can always choose your destination.

One day, recently, I chose to go home to visit my folks. It was a well traveled road, but as I was driving along, my mind began to wander, and before I realized what had happened, I'd missed the correct turn-off...and was thoroughly lost. Now, it took me awhile to figure out how to get back, for traffic was not conducive to U-turns, and I was suddenly forced into paying the strictest attention to the roads.

Meanwhile (you know how parents are...), my folks began to worry because I hadn't arrived at the expected time; and, worry being what it is, they began to imagine "the worst."

It took me awhile, but eventually I found my way back (though it certainly wasn't as easy as taking the right road in the first place); and when I finally arrived, I

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was welcomed with open arms...and relief. For, I had been “dead,” but now I was “alive”; I had been lost, but now I was found.

I guess I was pretty lucky, because I’d been traveling on a well-marked road and my parents don’t live that far away; but some people travel home to different states and even different countries, to places they may never have seen before...or to a country whose language they don’t understand. And those who wait for their arrival know not to expect them according to a rigid time table, but to patiently wait...and, if necessary, wait some more. (Family reunions are notorious for people arriving at all hours of the night or day.)

In traveling “home,” we are essentially traveling back to our “beginnings,” and God waits patiently for his entire family to arrive safely,

“...not wishing that any should perish,” [2 Peter 3:9]

and to turn around when we are lost,

“that all should reach repentance.” [2 Peter 3:9]

For, it’s easy to get lost on a road we’ve never traveled before, and life’s like that.

But, as any traveler can tell you, it’s much simpler if you’re following a “map.”

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