

# A Psalm for Google Maps

Like millions of others, I have an iPhone, and this year, Apple, Inc. – the company that developed the device – is celebrating the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the product. It's amazing to think about how the iPhone has advanced in that span of time and changed our lives.

It's hard to even figure out the number of uses available on the iPhone, including Google Maps to get us where we want to go.

If my wife and I are on an automobile trip, and we engage Google Maps, I have two female voices speaking to me. Guess which one I'd better listen to?

All of this reminds me of a story told by Dr. Mitchell Dillon, a graduate of Dallas Theological Seminary and a pastor of churches from Maine to Florida.



While traveling with his adult son, he asked him to Google directions to their destination. “As the voice commands on Google Maps began to direct us, I became concerned. It had us turning to proceed in exactly the opposite direction of where I knew we needed to go. When I mentioned this to my son, he didn’t seem the least bit concerned.”

“But what if it’s wrong?” Dr. Dillon asked his son.

“It won’t be wrong,” the son explained. “Sometimes Google anticipates traffic jams and sends you around them. Go ahead and follow the prompts.”

Sure enough, after a short detour, “we were heading in the right direction and arrived at our destination,” Dr. Dillon said. “No wonder,” he mused, “that so many sing the praises of Google Maps.” Then he added that perhaps the praise might go something like this;

## **A Psalm for Google Maps**

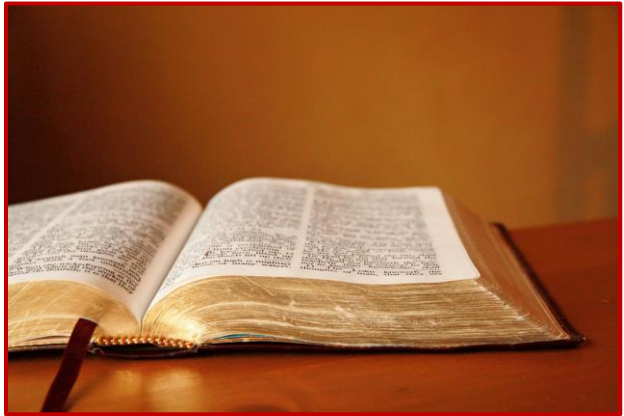
*Google Maps is my shepherd;  
I shall never lose my way.  
It makes me lie down in the plushiest hotels,  
And leads me to the finest restaurants.  
It guides me along the right route  
For punctuality’s sake.  
Yes, though I travel through the shadows of urban high rises,  
I will fear no breakdown,  
For you provide quick access to roadside service.  
Surely GPS tracking will follow me  
All the days of my life.  
And I will rely on my Google Maps forever.*

(more)

Such is a whimsical look by Dr. Dillon at one of the technological advances most of us are coming to depend on.

All of this raises an important question, however. Do you have as much faith in God as you have in Google Maps?

How do you respond when God suddenly redirects your life, sending you in what may seem to be the wrong direction or, at least, one that you might not choose for yourself? Do you rest in the confidence that every turn is purposeful – that God is taking all things into consideration as He guides you through life?



If Google deserves that kind of trust, what about the Good Shepherd?

Jesus is speaking: *I am the Good Shepherd. I know My own and My own know Me ... and they will listen to My voice* (John 10:14, 16 ESV).

– Beecher Hunter