

USE OF THE GPS

For some time now, I have owned an automobile equipped with a navigation device called a Global Positioning System. I am fascinated by it – in large measure, because I am directionally challenged. You know about people like that, because, generally speaking, there is one in each household. It is awesome, indeed, to watch and hear the GPS measure, anticipate and direct a trip in the car, even to the most remote intersection or exit number.

In December 1993, the U.S. Secretary of Defense announced that the Global Positioning System had 24 GPS satellites operating in their assigned orbit and available for civil usage. The Department of Defense developed GPS and continues to operate it. The system was originally used to provide all-weather, round-the-clock navigation capabilities for military ground, sea and air forces.

Today, hundreds of thousands of civil users own receivers that are able to locate four or more of the solar-powered satellites orbiting the earth, figure out the distance to each one, and use the information to pinpoint an exact location. Besides navigation and location determination, GPS is used for making maps, establishing precise timing, and tracking the movement of people, animals and vehicles.

For the Christian, the Bible is “God’s Positioning System.” It lets us know where we are in our journey toward Christlikeness (which is what the name, *Christian*, means) and helps us track our spiritual growth. It is tempting to compare ourselves with other Christians, but that’s not an effective way to monitor our progress. There will always be some who are less mature, and others who are ahead of us. The Scriptures show us in what direction we should be moving.

The quality of our progress along the road of life will be helped considerably by use of this GPS.

--Beecher Hunter