Wrong Way Roy

By Dennis Love
McDowell County

Several years ago I was out turkey hunting, and I heard a turkey gobbling his head off, but he was a long way from where I was standing in the woods. So, I decided to take off after him. I went up several large hills, walked out a ridge or two, and down a couple of valleys, and was closing the distance between me and him. I veered off to my right and then heard him behind me to my left. I finally closed the gap, and he was now in front of me. I found a good spot to sit down and do some calling. He would answer me, but he wouldn't commit to coming close enough for me to see him. He finally left, and so did I.

During all the moving and the action, I some way got turned around, and instead of walking out of the woods in the right direction, I was going the wrong way. I finally came to a dirt road, and to my surprise found myself several miles from where I originally entered the woods. I simply went the wrong way! If you're reading this, you have probably found yourself going the wrong way too at various times in your life. Thank God for Google and GPS on my phone, or I would find myself going the wrong way regularly.

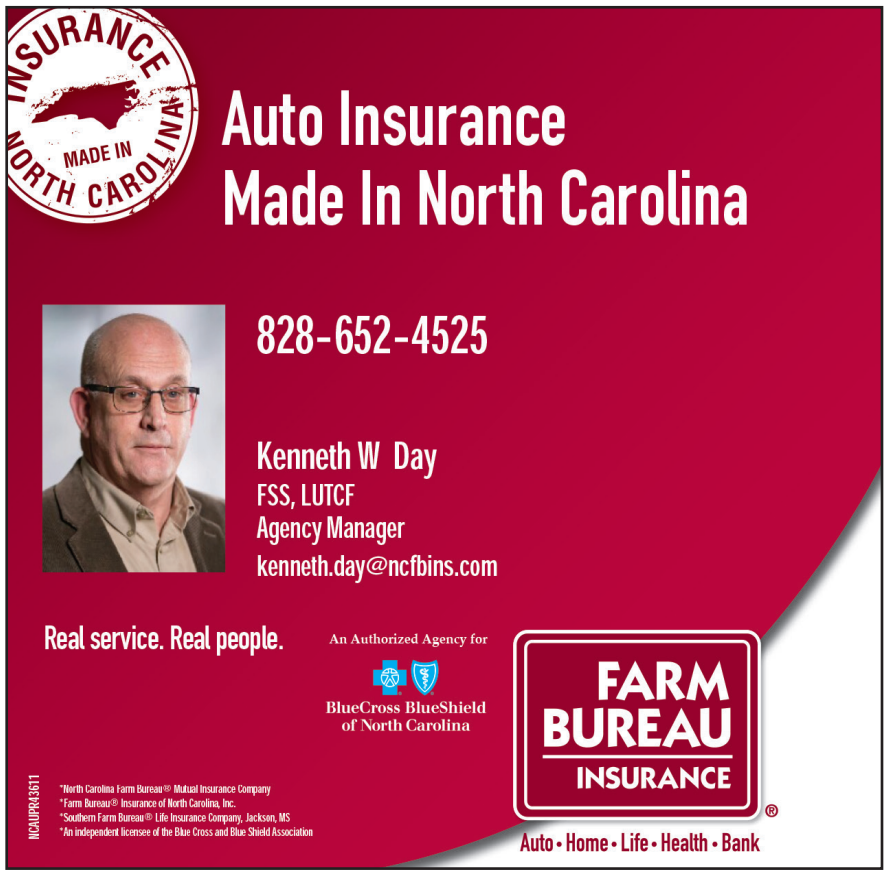
The Bible says in Proverbs 16:25, "*There is a way (path) that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."* On January 1, 1929, the National Football Championship game was played in the Rose Bowl between the California Golden Bears and the Georgia Tech Yellow Jackets. The team captain of the California Golden Bears was First Team All-American Roy Riegels. During the second quarter of the big game, a Georgia Tech runner fumbled the football. Roy Riegels scooped up the ball. As he started to run from the pack of tacklers, Roy somehow got spun around and took off running the wrong way towards the Golden Bears' (his team) goal line. He ran the wrong way sixty-nine yards before he was finally tackled by a teammate at their own one-yard line. Going the wrong way eventually cost his team a two-point safety. The California Golden Bears lost the game and the championship, 8-7. Roy Riegels became known forever as "Wrong Way Roy."

Roy believed he was headed in the right direction, but he was horribly wrong. I thought that I was headed in the right direction, but I too was horribly wrong. Many people think they are headed in the right direction in life. However, one day they will discover that the game was lost because they went the wrong way. "*There is a way that seems right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death."*

If you're reading this and you are going the right way, stop and thank God that you are not a wrong way Roy. Thank God that you are on the right path that leads to everlasting life. However, if you're reading this and you're going the wrong way, God is giving you another opportunity to turn your life around and start walking the right way. Wouldn't it be terrible to die and then suddenly discover that you went the wrong way? Jesus is the only way to Heaven and if you have trusted Him as your Lord and Savior, then you are going the right way. Don't come down to the end of your life and be labeled a "Wrong Way Roy."

Dr. Dennis Love is the Associational Missions Strategist for the Blue Ridge Baptist Association in McDowell County. Dr. Love has been in full-time ministry work for 31 years. He and his wife Vicki have been married for almost 42 years, and they have lived in Marion for almost 8 years. They have two sons, four grandchildren and two step-grandchildren. He can be reached via email at: dlovebrba@yahoo.com

But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Romans 5:8



A Resurrection Devotional

By Caron Cline
Burke County

Luke 24:1-12

The female followers of Jesus were faithful to the end. Nicodemus and Joseph of Arimathea lovingly prepared the body of the Lord with expensive spices, placed Him in a new tomb, and secured it with a stone. The women observed everything carefully, already making plans to return as soon as possible with their own spices and perfumes for their Friend. The Sabbath was quickly approaching; sundown on Friday evening. A long twenty-four hours of waiting lay ahead. Confusion, grief, and impatience surely marked every moment of those hours. How had this happened? But early on Sunday, the first day of the week, the women met with their offerings and hurried to the tomb. The stone was no longer sealing the entrance and one glance assured them that the body was missing! Where were the guards? Who had overpowered them? Who would want the bruised and bloodied body of Jesus of Nazareth? Suddenly, two men appeared, dressed in dazzling light. Their brilliance caused the women to drop their eyes to the ground in terror. Faithful endurance is always rewarded. Mary Magdalene, Mary, the mother of Joses, Joanna, and Salome among other ladies had not only followed Jesus for many months but also provided many of His monetary needs, willingly sacrificing time and resources. Jesus was their deliverer and worthy of every ounce of their love. Through His arrest, trial, scourging, and even as He hung on a tree, these women must have silently anticipated a supernatural release of His power which would deliver Him from this injustice. Surely a band of angels would come soon, remove the nails and prove once and for all His true identity as the long-awaited Messiah. But no angels came…no proof of His identity was offered. Jesus took His last breath, committed His Spirit to His Father, and declared that it was finished! Thirty-six hours later, these women who were not ashamed to openly follow Jesus in His life and His death, were chosen to receive this prophetic word from two heavenly messengers. '*He is not here, but He has risen*', just as He told you. Jesus' words previously spoken suddenly flashed across their minds and sealed the revelation forever. Immediately, the prophetic word propelled them forward to share the good news with the disciples, who struggled in unbelief. After all, these eleven should have been the first ones chosen to receive such supernatural information. However, revelation will come first to those who keep their eyes continually upon the Revealer of all mysteries. Faithful endurance is always rewarded!

Revelation 3:21 *"He who overcomes, I will grant to him to sit down with Me on My throne, as I also overcame and sat down with My Father on His throne".*

Caron Cline is a follower of Jesus Christ who loves to teach the word of God. Her desire is to see every believer growing in the grace and knowledge of the Lord.

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