

## Walking to Reach the Milestone

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I have walked 1,000 miles since August 7, 2020, reaching my first milestone on the road to Seattle as I walk four miles daily around my neighborhood. The I-90 stretches about 3,000 miles across the US from Boston to Seattle. I have reached the first of three milestones today on September 17, 2021, 5 days before the 54<sup>th</sup> anniversary of my enlisting to serve in the U.S. Army at Fort DeRussy at Waikiki Beach Park in Honolulu, Hawaii at the age of 19. Nelson Mandela said, “Remember to celebrate milestones as you prepare for the road ahead.” Life is like a pilgrim’s journey headed towards a heavenly home. Every person is on this pilgrimage of life until they reach their destination.

The Bible says in Hebrews Chapter 11—also known as the “Faith Chapter”—that our ancestors in faith hoped for the heavenly home. Father Abraham was longing to go home, “For he was looking forward to the city that has foundations, whose designer and builder is God.” (Hebrews 11:10) People may go away on vacation or on a business trip for a while, but they want to come home when they are done. Home is where our family lives, where we are born and grow up. We miss our home, where our loved ones dwell together. Thus every pilgrim wants to go home. No one wants to be homeless, wandering aimlessly.

In the New Testament, our Lord Jesus says, “Let not your heart be troubled. Believe in God; believe also in me. In my Father’s house are many rooms. If it were not so, would I have told you that I go prepare a place for you? And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and will take you to myself, that where I am you may be also.” (John 14:1-3) The Bible says over 300 times that Jesus Christ is coming back. When he comes back, he will take his people, his church, the pilgrims in faith, to be with him in the glorious heavenly home eternally.

C.S. Lewis warns us about a journey that leads somewhere opposite to our heavenly home: “The safest road to hell is the gradual one – the gentle slope, soft underfoot, without sudden turnings, without milestones, without signposts.” Where can you find the milestones that will guide you to the heavenly home? It is in the person of Jesus found in the Bible. Thus we are to read and to study the word of God in our daily walk by faith and prayer. The Bible says, “Your word is a lamp to my feet and light to my path.” (Psalm 119:105) The Bible is the milestone ahead of us that helps us walk the right path and guides us in our spiritual darkness to see the light of the world. Jesus is the light of the world in the midst of the hopeless and helpless secular worldview pervading in today’s culture. It is the Lord Jesus who declared to all people groups in his word, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.” (John 14:6) Jesus is the only way to God through his death on the cross and his resurrection from the grave, which conquered the final enemy of all mankind: death. Why does man die after living for less than 120 years? What happens when man dies? Who gives the true answer about death? Jesus has the final word, as he died and rose again to live eternally. No one else has done it in human history except Jesus himself. Are you on the right path, on the pilgrim’s journey towards the final milestone that is the heavenly home, where you will live eternally? How can you turn around from your sin in this world to the forgiving God, who will give you rest? You can decide now to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Lord and Savior by asking forgiveness of your sin and to be born again as a child of God who will go to his heavenly home after living as a faithful pilgrim in this journey of life. Please do not wait another day. No one knows when the final hour is to come! The Bible says, “Behold, now is the favorable time; behold now is the day of salvation.” (2 Corinthians 6:2)

May God’s grace and his mercy be on you!