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A Lifelong Quest

By 1912 Roald Amundsen had successfully travelled to the South Pole and returned safely. Slightly behind him was Robert F. Scott who wanted to beat Amundsen to the pole but fell short. One of the problems was thought to be the choice of animals. Amundsen used dogs to pull sledges and Scott utilized horses. The horses died shortly after coming off the ship and ultimately doomed the safe return that Scott and his company intended. Scott also used wool garments and not down to protect from the cold which is believed to be a factor in his death as well. Since these two had made it to the pole, Sir Ernest Shackleton intended to be the first to travel across the Antarctic continent passing through the pole. Shortly after reaching the coast of Antarctica, Shackleton's ship became ice bound and was crushed by pack ice. He and his crew were trapped but all managed to make it back to civilization in 1917. Shackleton returned to the area in 1921 desiring to map the coastline and study Antarctic meteorology but died before being able to start the expedition. History is filled with adventurers who spent a lifetime with a singular goal in mind. Some to climb mountains and others to be the first to discover something new. Many who began their journey came short of reaching their goal. Biographies of such individuals make for interesting reading and good movies but it is sad to think of a life spent in a lost pursuit. When we think of getting to Heaven, it might seem almost as impossible as going to the South Pole, landing on the moon or discovering a new element. The reality is far different. God has provided a means for us to not only begin the journey, but has promised help along the way and the assurance we will reach our destination if we don't give up. Speaking of the destination we seek, Paul states, "***But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. But God hath revealed them unto us by his Spirit: for the Spirit searcheth all things, yea, the deep things of God.***" (2 Cor 2.9-10). God has provided the means to make it to Heaven through his son. Christ stated, "***...I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.***" (John 14.6). Christ opened the door between man and God so that we might be able to reach him as Paul indicated when he told the Athenian philosophers that they could find him because he is not far from every one of us (Acts 17.27). God has also given us instructions for making the journey successfully through the word he has revealed to us. God's word shines as a light and guide in a world of darkness. "***For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.***" (2 Cor 4.6). Through the revealed word we have all the information necessary to survive the storms of life and reach the calm God offers. Peter states, "***According as his divine power hath given unto us all things that pertain unto life and godliness, through the knowledge of him that hath called us to glory and virtue...***" (2 Pet 1.3). This revelation was completed in the first century and although some do not believe it, the word will stand until Christ comes again. Christ stated, "***Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away.***" (Matt 24.35). The revelation was given as God intended and there is no need for updates or correction. Jude points out that the will of God was "***once delivered unto the saints.***" (Jude 3). Armed with the word of God with determination in our minds we will succeed. Paul states, "***Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked.***" (Eph 6.16). On our journey we have help along the way as the writer of Hebrews states, "***...for he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee.***" (Heb 13.5). Although Heaven is a little farther than the South Pole, there's a lot more help available to get there.

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