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## Viewpoints

*Observing events in our modern world from the viewpoint of our ascended Savior.*

### Celestial Navigation - October 31, 2015

*The Navy learned the value of celestial navigation, yet the Bible's is better.*

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In fourteen hundred ninety-two, Columbus sailed the ocean blue... using the sun, moon and stars as navigational aids.

Some 200 years after Columbus navigated to the New World, scientists like Isaac Newton (1643–1727) were enhancing this ancient technique of celestial navigation by developing instruments that employed mirrors. These doubly reflecting sighting tools helped the navigator measure the angle between the horizon and an object in the heavens. Since the resulting information was used to determine one's position on earth, the sextant (as this tool is called) was to a sailor what the Bible is to a Christian.

Indeed, the sextant was indispensable to navigators, that is, until 1996. That's when the Navy decided that the sextant was outdated. Why? The air force had orbited a network of navigational satellites. "By 1995, this network, the Global Positioning System, could pinpoint your location within feet." So the Navy began to box up and shelve its sextants so that by 2010 the curriculum manual no longer mentioned celestial navigation at all.

But guess what? Only five years after mothballing the last sextant, because cyber attacks are mushrooming, the Navy just reinstated celestial navigation in its recently updated curriculum. Sextants can't be hacked.

Celestial navigation isn't outdated after all. In fact, our modern, advanced era requires the continued use of the ancient sextant.

A quick search across the internet easily summons articles that ridicule the Bible as outdated. "Time to mothball it!" is the general hue and cry. Meanwhile, our world's modern advances have not only failed to fix our personal woes and society's problems, in many ways they've contributed to our problems. What do you make of the report that "experts struggle to explain an uptick in violent crime" as they confront this startling trend: "thirty of the biggest U.S. municipalities have seen increases in homicides compared to last year, as of the end of September."

Since the Bible is the very Word of God ([2 Peter 1:21](#) & [2 Timothy 3:16](#)) it's never outdated. And since the Bible is the absolute truth ([John 17:17](#)), it guards our hearts and souls from being hacked by malicious deceptions and weaponized desires.

We believers, because we still live in our sinful bodies, are vulnerable to being hacked by maliciously coded emotions, causing us to feel distant from God, or even rejected by God because of our sins. But even if our feelings are hacked, we still have the ability to navigate safely and correctly. We can get around these attacks because we have the Bible, the ultimate textbook that provides the ultimate form of celestial navigation. After all, it's taught by the one who created the sun, moon and stars.

Can you picture it: how we hold God's inerrant textbook in one hand, and the time-tested tool of the cross in the other hand? Like a sextant measures celestial bodies, the cross allows us to get a fix on the celestial body that came down from heaven to pay the full penalty of our sins by shedding his holy blood. So in spite of hacked emotions, we factually know precisely where we stand with God. We are Christ's blood-bought brothers and sisters.

What a mistake the Navy made to think that celestial navigation could be mothballed. In contrast, what blessings we have, we who know that the cross and God's Word is the ultimate celestial navigation, guiding us through life on earth to life in heaven.

**Your word, O LORD, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens. Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light for my path (Psalm 119:89 & 105).**

*Source Material (Links may become inactive over time.)*

[Seeing stars, again: Naval Academy reinstates celestial navigation](#) @ Capital Gazette  
[Obama, FBI director spar over the 'Ferguson Effect' on police](#) @ TheHill.com

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*Blessings to you and your loved ones, Pastor Mike Nitz*

