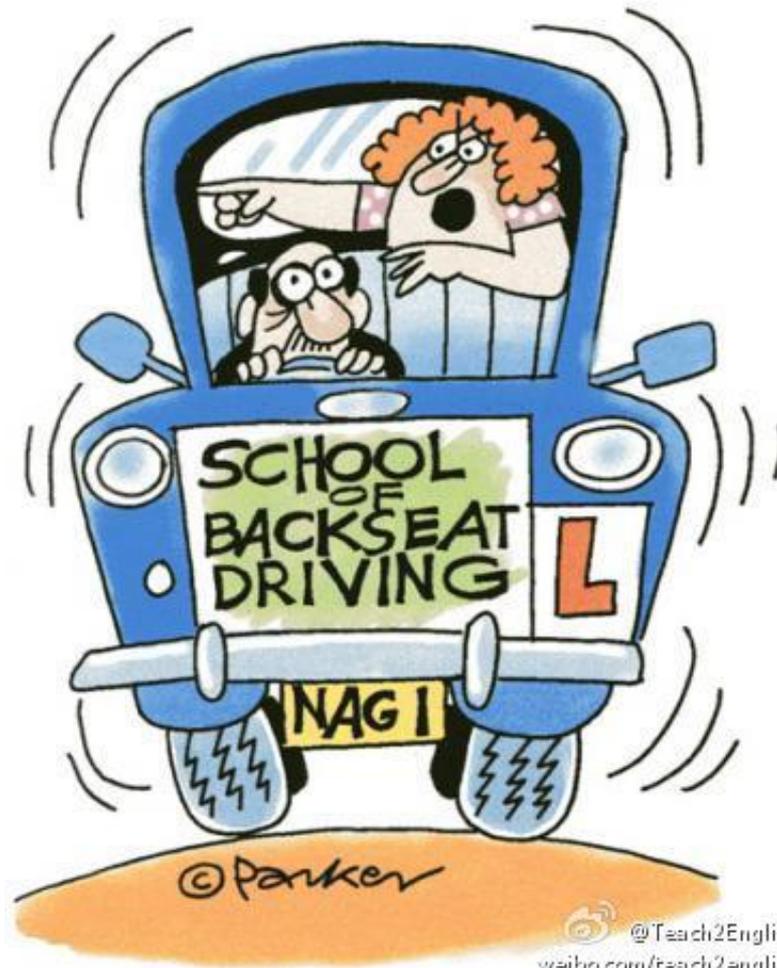




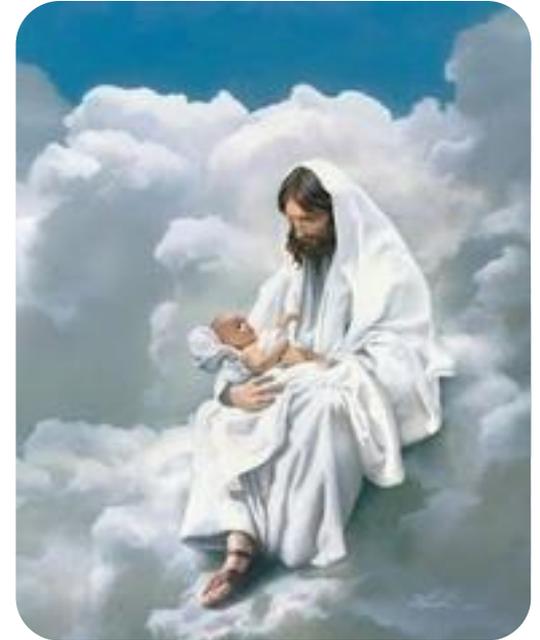
“Now John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim...for John had not yet been thrown into prison.” (John 3:23-24)



WHO IS DRIVING YOUR LIFE?

First Things First

- It all starts with God
- “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you; before you were born I sanctified you...” (Jer. 1:5)
- “In whose hand is the life of every living thing, and the breath of all mankind?” (Job 12:10)



Common Backseat Drivers¹

- Guilt
 - Controlled by past memories
 - Consider: Moses, Gideon, and Matthew the Tax Collector
- Resentment/Anger
 - Hold on to hurtful words or situations
 - We suffer most from holding on to resentment
 - “But now, do not therefore be grieved or angry with yourselves because you sold me here; for God sent me before you to preserve life.” (Gen. 45:5)
 - “So now it was not you who sent me here, but God.” (Gen. 45:8)



Common Backseat Drivers²

- Fear
 - “For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.” (2 Tim. 1:7)
- Materialism
 - Misconception: the more possessions I have, the more happy, important, and secure I am.
 - “Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword?” (Rom. 8:35)



Common Backseat Drivers³

- Approval of others
 - Parents, peers, coworkers, etc.
 - “No one can serve two masters.” (Matt. 6:24)



What is the purpose of life?

- Reciprocate God's love
 - “We love Him because He first loved us.” (1 John 4:19)
 - *“In commanding us to glorify him, God is inviting us to enjoy him.”* (C.S. Lewis)



What is the purpose of life?

- Love Others
 - “Love your neighbor as yourself.” (Matt. 22:39)
 - “We know that we have passed from death to life, because we love the brethren. He who does not love his brother abides in death.” (1 John 3:14)



How to love?

- “A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.” (John 13:34-35)



How love is expressed?

- Serving others
 - “Then the righteous will answer Him, saying, Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? Or when did we see You sick, or in prison, and come to You? And the King will answer and say to them, Assuredly, I say to you, inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these My brethren, you did it to Me.” (Matt. 25:37-40)
 - “For we are His workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works...” (Eph. 2:10)
- Telling others
 - “Simon, son of Jonah, do you love Me?” (John 21:16)
 - “Feed My sheep.” (John 21:17)

Becoming like the Lord Christ

- It is His desire
 - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; 21 that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. 22 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: 23 I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (John 17:20-23)
- Accomplished by the Holy Spirit
 - “But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.” (2 Cor. 3:18)