

“Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

Matthew 7:13-14, KJV

# The Narrow Way

Matthew 7:13-14



There are:

1. Two gates
2. Two ways
3. Two companies of people
4. Two destinations

## TWO GATES

### The strait gate

- ▶ narrow, compressed, restricted
- ▶ Jesus
  - ▶ The door – John 10:7-9
  - ▶ The way – John 14:6
- ▶ More narrow than just belief in Jesus
  - ▶ John 3:5; Luke 13:3
- ▶ Not by compulsion but by deliberate choice
  - ▶ John 7:17
- ▶ Because it is narrow, much effort
  - ▶ Luke 13:24
- ▶ Following the teaching of Christ
  - ▶ 7:21-23
  - ▶ John 6:44-45
- ▶ “Whosoever will”
  - ▶ Matthew 11:28-30

## TWO GATES

### The wide gate

- ▶ Unrestricted
  - ▶ Many beliefs, many practices
  - ▶ Because it is wide, little effort required
    - ▶ Can wander and drift through
    - ▶ Can follow the crowd through
  - ▶ Many presentations, shapes, and forms
    - ▶ Culturally-driven
  - ▶ May look like the gospel, but upon close inspection, has something added, removed, or substituted
- ▶ Galatians 1:6-9
  - ▶ It is the gate of
    - ▶ “Faith-only”
    - ▶ The sinner’s prayer
    - ▶ Denominationalism
    - ▶ False religion
    - ▶ Hinduism
    - ▶ Buddhism
  - ▶ Welcome sign reads “no change required – do your own thing”

## TWO GATES

- Only 2 gates
- If you do not choose the narrow gate, then you have chosen the wide gate
- No neutral way
- “I don’t want to make a decision”
- Matthew 12:30

## TWO WAYS

### The broad way

- ▶ The wide gate puts you into the broad way
- ▶ As wide as can be; unrestricted; unconfined
- ▶ A way of lawlessness – 7:21-23
- ▶ A way of
  - ▶ Self-seeking – Romans 2:8
  - ▶ Love of the world – 1 John 2:15
  - ▶ Conformity to the world – Romans 12:2
  - ▶ Independence, Indifference, half-heartedness, fruitless life
  - ▶ Doing what feels good – Hebrews 11:25
- ▶ It is a way that one can
  - ▶ Drift into from the narrow way – Hebrews 2:1-4
  - ▶ Choose to return to – 2 Peter 2:22
- ▶ In this broad way, you can choose to, among other things,
  - ▶ Be enamored with the love of money and this world's goods
  - ▶ Imbibe in alcohol
  - ▶ Use profanity
  - ▶ Dress like the way of the world
  - ▶ Shack up
  - ▶ Cycle through husbands or wives
  - ▶ Desecrate the Lord's day by choosing to do something other than assembling with the saints
  - ▶ Design your own worship to God

## TWO WAYS

### The narrow way

- ▶ The strait gate puts you into the straitened way
- ▶ Confined, constricted, “hemmed in like a narrow gorge between rocks”
- ▶ Confined by the law of Christ
  - ▶ Matthew 7:21-23
  - ▶ 2 John 9
  - ▶ As narrow as truth
    - ▶ Truth is ONE – Ephesians 4:4-6
  - ▶ Believing and practicing the truth – 7:24
- ▶ Is a way of
  - ▶ Holiness – 1 Peter 1:15-16
  - ▶ Transformation by the
    - renewing of the mind according to the will of God – Romans 12:2
- ▶ A disciplined life – 1 Corinthians 9:27
- ▶ Reverence and godly fear in worship and service to God – Hebrews 12:28
- ▶ Continuing in doing the will of Christ – James 1:25
- ▶ It is traveled and completed with much effort – 1 Peter 4:17-18



## TWO COMPANIES OF PEOPLE

### Few

- ▶ The strait gate leads to the narrow way traveled by the few
- ▶ Christians
  - ▶ Acts 11:26; 26:28; 1 Peter 4:16
- ▶ Family of God
  - ▶ 1 Timothy 3:15
- ▶ God's people have always been few
  - ▶ In the days of Noah
  - ▶ In the days of Israel
  - ▶ In the last days
- ▶ Why so few?
  - ▶ Not because God desires few – 1 Timothy 2:4
  - ▶ Not because God has not made provision for all – 1 Timothy 2:6
  - ▶ Because few want to be – John 7:17; Mark 8:34
  - ▶ Because few diligently seeking – Hebrews 11:6
- ▶ Made up of young and old, Jew and Gentile, male and female, rich and poor, small and great

## TWO COMPANIES OF PEOPLE

### Many

- ▶ The wide gate leads to the broad way traveled by the many
- ▶ Large crowd of people
- ▶ No criticism from the world; many friends
- ▶ The company is large
  - ▶ Atheists
  - ▶ Agnostics
  - ▶ Lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God
  - ▶ Not only....
    - ▶ The murderer but also the hater, the unforgiving, and the bitter
- ▶ The homosexual but also the fornicator
- ▶ The thief but also the covetous
- ▶ The “big” liar but also the “white” liar
- ▶ The outright hater of God but also the lukewarm
- ▶ The doer of evil works but also the fruitless
- ▶ The irreligious but also the Christian who will not assemble with the saints
- ▶ The one who never obeyed the gospel but also the Christian who returns to the world

## TWO ETERNAL DESTINATIONS

### DESTRUCTION

- The wide gate leads to the broad way traveled by the many to the destination of eternal punishment in hell
- Matthew 25:46
- The law of sowing and reaping cannot be violated any more than the laws of science created by God can be violated
  - Galatians 6:7
  - Of one's own choosing
    - Romans 2:5, 8-9
    - Proverbs 8:36
- Fruits of the way received in this life also
  - Proverbs 13:15
    - Often broken homes, disease, discontentness
- God has no pleasure in the wicked dying
  - Ezekiel 18:23
- But God's judicial wrath is a righteous thing
  - 2 Thessalonians 1:6

## TWO ETERNAL DESTINATIONS



### LIFE


- The narrow gate leads to the straitened way traveled by the few to the destination of eternal life in heaven
- Matthew 25:34
- Fruits of the way received in this life also
  - 1 Timothy 4:8



There are:

1. Two gates
2. Two ways
3. Two companies of people
4. Two destinations

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- ▶ Your destination cannot be eternal life unless you are walking in the narrow way, and you cannot be walking in the narrow way unless you have entered by the strait gate
  - ▶ Have you entered by the strait gate?
    - ▶ If you have not entered by the strait gate, then you have entered by the wide gate into the broad way which can lead only to eternal punishment
    - ▶ Enter by the strait gate now!
      - ▶ Hear the gospel – Acts 11:14; Romans 10:17
      - ▶ Believe the gospel – Romans 10:10
      - ▶ Repent of your sins – Acts 17:30
      - ▶ Confess Jesus as Lord and Christ – Romans 10:10
      - ▶ Be baptized for the remission of your sins – Acts 2:38
    - ▶ Then you will be rejoicing on the narrow way with the few that leads to eternal life
      - ▶ Now live faithful unto death and you can receive the crown of life – Revelation 2:10

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- ▶ If you entered the narrow way by the strait gate, are you still walking the narrow way?
    - ▶ The narrow way is characterized by faithfulness, fidelity, and loyalty to Jesus Christ in all things
    - ▶ If you've drifted into the broad way, come back to the straitened way by repentance and confession of sin to God