

THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISION IN LIFE

Matthew 7:13-14

An Entrance to the Kingdom

Matthew 4:23; 5:20; 7:21

TWO GATES

The Narrow Gate

1. A Personal Decision

“Do not presume to say to yourselves, ‘We have Abraham as our father,’ for I tell you, God is able from these stones to raise up children for Abraham.” (Matthew 3:9)

2. A Humble Disposition

“Truly, I say to you, unless you turn and become like children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matthew 18:3)

3. A Perfect Person

“I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.” (John 10:9–10)

The Wide Gate

“And you were dead in the trespasses and sins in which you once walked, following the course of this world, following the prince of the power of the air, the spirit that is now at work in the sons of disobedience—” (Ephesians 2:1-2)

TWO WAYS

The Hard Way

Spiritual Opposition

“For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places...In all circumstances take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming darts of the evil one.” (Ephesians 6:12, 16)

Verbal Persecution

“Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account.” (Matthew 5:11)

Physical Tribulation

“For it has been granted to you that for the sake of Christ you should not only believe in him but also suffer for his sake.” (Philippians 1:29)

Divine Affliction

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Worldly Distraction

“Turn my eyes from looking at [vanity] worthless things; and give me life in your ways.” (Psalm 119:37)

Lofty Expectation

“You therefore must be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.” (Matthew 5:48)

Personal Submission

“If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.” (Matthew 16:24)

The Easy Way

TWO DESTINATIONS

Destruction

“There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way to death.” (Proverbs 14:12)

Life

“You make known to me the path of life; in your presence there is fullness of joy; at your right hand are pleasures forevermore.” (Psalm 16:11, ESV)

TWO GROUPS

“Believers are not few in number because the gate is too narrow or too small to accommodate more. There is no limit to the number who could go through that gate, if they go through in God’s way, in repentance for their sins and in trust in Jesus Christ to save them. Nor is the number few because heavenly space is limited. God’s grace is boundless, and heaven’s dwellings are limitless. Nor is the number few because God desires that most people perish. He earnestly desires ‘for all to come to repentance’ (2 Peter 3:9)

*Every person who will come to Jesus Christ
can come to Jesus Christ.”*

“All that the Father gives Me shall come to Me, and the one who comes to Me I will certainly not cast out..For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes on Him, may have eternal life; and I Myself will raise him up on the last day” (John 6:37, 40).”