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Righteous Living  
Matthew 7:13-14

There are only two ways of travel in life. The truth is, you are either on your way up or down, to heaven or hell. There is no way of travel outside of the two ways mentioned in verses 13 and 14.

## The Two Ways (Matthew 7:13-14)

Jesus plainly said, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leads to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leads to life, and few there be that find it."

There are two gates—strait gate and wide gate. The "strait gate" is Jesus. Jesus is the gate (threshold, entrance) to the Father. By Jesus we have access to God the Father (Ephesians 2:18). By Jesus, we participate in all the blessings of grace (Ephesians 1:3). Jesus is the gate of heaven (John 14:6). Entering the strait gate requires faith in Jesus.

Wide gate is any means, method, avenue, way of life a person takes other than Jesus.

The two gates indicate choice. The gate we enter determines the direction in which we are headed. The wide gate leads to destruction and the strait gate leads to life. Jesus plainly tells us which gate we should choose. He says enter in at the strait gate. The right choice is the strait gate. After hearing Jesus, we choose which gate we will enter into. Jesus does not make the choice for us. The choice is ours. From the very beginning God gave man choice to accept and obey Him or reject and disobey Him.

Examples:

Genesis 2 Trees in the Garden of Eden—the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil

and the Tree of Life.

Deuteronomy 30:19 This day I call the heavens and the earth as witnesses against you

that I have set before life and death, blessings and curses. Now choose life, so that you

and your children may live.

Joshua 24:15 And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose you this day whom

you will serve; whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of

the flood, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell; but as for me and my

I. The Wide Way:

A. Beginning: wide gate which allows many to enter. The wide way is with simplicity and without sacrifice. In other words, whoever enters in by the wide gate are not required to give up anything. It doesn't require letting go of the

world, loving the world- the things of the world, hating people, defrauding people, idolatry, dishonest and wicked behavior. You enter in and remain just as you.

Heavily populated-the wide gate and wide way is chosen by most people. Jesus

said many people are on the wide way:

B. End: Destruction. This destruction is not the annihilation of material possessions. Destruction is immaterial. The wide way leads to everlasting destruction—eternal damnation.

Paul in 2 Thessalonians 1:7-9 said, "And to you who are troubled rest with us, when the Lord Jesus shall be revealed from heaven with his mighty angels, in flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God, and that obey not the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall be punished with everlasting destruction from the presence of the Lord, and from the glory of his power."

John said in Revelation 20:15, "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."

Revelation 21:8 "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burns with fire and brimstone: which is the second death."

## II.

The Narrow Way:

A. Beginning: narrow gate which denotes difficult is the way. The picture is one of a narrow and difficult path between two cliffs. The way that leads to life is difficult because it requires a righteousness that exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees (Matthew 5:20). Matthew 5:21-7:12 Jesus reveals righteousness. When it comes to the righteousness requirement of God, many people respond to God like the people responded to Jesus in John 6 when Jesus told them to drink of His blood and eat of His flesh. John 6:60 says, "When many of His disciples heard it, they said, 'This is a hard saying; who can obey it?'" They felt that too much was required of them to follow after Jesus. The narrow way requires denying self, taking up the cross and following Jesus (Matthew 16:24). The narrow way requires giving up your life for Jesus' sake (Matthew 16:25).

B. End: Life.

Romans 6:17-23 *But God be thanked, that ye were the servants of sin, but ye have obeyed from the heart that form of doctrine which was delivered you. Being then made free from sin, ye became the servants of righteousness. I speak after the manner of men because of the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye then in those things whereof ye are now ashamed? for the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God,*

*ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*

Jesus said, "Only a few there be that find the narrow way." The reason there are only a few is because of the narrow way is...

1) Difficult to enter in:

Luke 16:16 says, "The Law and Prophets were until John; since then the good news of the kingdom of God is preached, and everyone forces his way into it."

2) Unpleasant to the flesh:

Only those who are truly spiritual, who have set their minds upon the things in heaven, shall enter the straitened way that leads to life.