

The Right Path to Heaven

Matthew 7:13-14

The Lord Jesus brings the whole Sermon on the Mount to the climax in Matthew 7:13-14 by calling His listeners to come to a decision. Here, Jesus paints a scene depicting a narrow gate and a wide gate and a narrow way and a broad way which lead to two destinations.

Since man's life on earth is short, temporary and uncertain (James 4:14; Job 9:25; Job 14:1; Psa. 78:39; Psa. 90:10; Isa. 40:7-8), the biggest most important question that you and I face is the question, "Are you on the right path to heaven?"

In these two verses, the Lord Jesus points out three basic truths about our eternal destiny.

1. There are only two possible _____ in life

Jesus says there are only two paths a person can travel through life: the broad way and the narrow way. The broad way speaks of a carefree life style. Believe what you want, live how you want without having to answer to anyone just as long as you maintain your religiosity. This lifestyle is called "the course of this world" (Eph. 2:2) or the "way which seems right unto man" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25 cf. Psalm 1:6).

On the other hand, the narrow or difficult way is the compressed and confined way that is described in Psalm 1:1-3. It requires the forsaking of yourself and carrying your own cross (Luke 9:23); it requires a devoted loyalty to Jesus (Luke 14:26). Life in the narrow way is hard because this is the lifestyle that the world hates (John 3:19). It is difficult because it is spiritual warfare (Eph. 6:12).

2. There are only two possible _____ in eternity

The broad way leads to destruction, and the narrow way leads to life. Those who believe in the divine work of Jesus Christ end up in eternal life in heaven while those who believe in and rely on their religious accomplishments will end up in the place of destruction called hell (Matt. 7:22) - where there is unquenchable fire (Mark 9:43; Luke 16:24), unspeakable pain and torment (Luke 16:24-26; Rev. 14:10-11) and eternal separation from God (Rev. 21:8; 2 Thess. 1:9).

The narrow road ends in life in heaven above - a place of joy, rest, peace, unspeakable beauty and glory (Rev. 21-22).

3. There are only two possible _____ you can make

Jesus makes it clear that man must make a choice. This choice begins with which gate he goes through. Jesus commands man to "Enter by the narrow gate." It's an urgent command. His terms to enter the gate have been laid forth in the beatitudes (Matt. 5:1-10). Now, He is calling men to Himself because He is the gate and He is the only way (John 14:6, Acts 4:12; John 6:35,48; 10:7,9; 15:5; 1 Tim. 2:5). Entering by the narrow gate requires a definite and difficult resolution (Luke 13:24, Matt. 11:12, cf. Luke 16:16). It also requires true humility (Matt. 18:3) and deep repentance.

The invitation of Jesus to enter the narrow gate is always open to all. And if you respond to God's call, you may enter into this gate that leads to life (John 5:24). You must choose between life and death, heaven and hell. There can be no neutrality when it comes to Jesus. He calls upon you to repent and follow Him the rest of your life. Where you will end up all depends on what you do with the Lord Jesus Christ.