

The Strait Gate And Narrow Way
(Matthew 7:13-14)

1. This passage shows us that all ways are NOT equally valid.
 - A. There are essentially only two ways: the right way and the wrong way.
 - B. All of God's *ways* (**PSA 119:15**) so harmonize as to constitute only one *way*.
PSA 119:1, 14; JOH 14:6.
 - C. All of the various ways of error are so many versions of the wrong way; one may as well choose one as the other. **JOS 24:14-15.**
2. This passage also teaches that the right way is not popular.
3. The right way is *strait* and *narrow*.
 - A. strait: Tight, narrow; scanty or inadequate in spatial capacity; affording little room; of a way, passage or channel: So narrow as to make transit difficult. (see **ISA 49:20**)
 - B. The right way is not the easy way.
 - C. Those in the right way will be judged narrow-minded by the world.
4. Many do not enter into the right way precisely BECAUSE it is strait and narrow.
 - A. Most do not want a profession of religion that imposes difficulty upon them.
ISA 30:9-11.
 - B. The right way calls for self-denial which most are unwilling to do.
LUK 14:26-27, 33; MAR 10:21-27.
 - C. One cannot take the world with him into this way. **JAM 4:4; 1JO 2:15-16.**
 - D. It is this cost of discipleship that turns many away. **MAR 4:17-18.**
5. The wrong way is *broad* and *wide*.
 - A. This is the way of the broad-minded people whose main principle is "no principles."
 - B. This is the way of libertinism, ecumenism, pluralism, etc.
 - C. This is the road of *self-pleasing* instead of *self-denial*. **PRO 14:12.**
 - D. Most travel this road. **1JO 5:19.**
 - E. Many in this way are religious.
 - (1) One may believe in God and be in this way. **JAM 2:19.**
 - (2) One may believe in Jesus Christ and be in this way.
MAT 7:21-22; MAR 1:24; 5:7.
 - (3) One may be baptized and in the church and be in this way.
ACT 8:13, 18-23; 15:5; JUDE 1:4, 12.
 - (4) One may believe that the Lord is his personal Savior and yet be in this way.
2CO 10:7; MIC 3:11.
6. The way that leadeth unto life is the way of righteousness.
 - A. Consider **PRO 12:28; 21:21; ROM 2:6-7.**
 - B. Those in this way have a righteousness exceeding that of the scribes and Pharisees.
MAT 5:20.
 - C. Those in this way have the character described in the beatitudes. **MAT 5:3-11.**
 - D. Those in this way must be willing to be instructed and reproved. **PRO 10:17; 6:23.**
7. The narrow way leads to life.
 - A. Eternal life is sometimes set forth as a present possession and sometimes as a future attainment. **JOH 3:36; MAT 25:46.**
 - B. Eternal life is a gift of God by grace that is not attained by our striving. **ROM 6:23.**
 - C. Christ is urging His disciples to enter into the WAY that leads to life which is the way of righteousness. It is the way of Christ's exaltation. **HEB 1:8-9.**

- D. One who strives to enter into the strait gate is certainly doing righteousness which evidences that he is already born again and righteous and so assured of eternal life. **1JO 2:29; 3:7; ROM 6:22.**
- E. Apart from striving to enter the strait gate, one has no assurance of eternal life. There is no assurance of eternal life in:
 - (1) disobedience. **MAT 7:26-27.**
 - (2) ancestry. **JOH 1:12-13.**
 - (3) circumcision or any empty form of godliness. **GAL 5:6; 2TI 3:5.**
 - (4) self-righteousness. **ROM 3:20.**
 - (5) miracles. **MAT 7:22-23.**
 - (6) common good works. **MAT 7:11.**
- F. There is also a lengthening of earthly life that comes through being in the narrow way. **1TI 4:8; EPH 6:2-3; PRO 3:1-2.**
- 8. The broad way leads to destruction.
 - A. This is eternal destruction for those outside of Christ. **MAT 7:21-23; 2TH 1:7-9.**
 - B. Children of God who walk this way will meet with temporal destruction. **1CO 10:5-14; HEB 10:30-31.**
- 9. Compare this passage with **LUK 13:23-27.**
 - A. Compare this “few” with **GEN 13:16; 15:5; 22:17; REV 7:9.**
 - B. Also consider **JOS 11:4; 2CH 1:9; NAH 3:16; LUK 12:1.**
 - C. Considered by themselves, the children of God are an innumerable multitude.
 - D. Compared to the damned, the children of God are few. **DEU 1:10 c/w DEU 7:1.**
- 10. The way of righteousness will be fraught with failures. **ROM 7:22-23.**
 - A. For the wicked, unbelieving rejection of God and His ways is their most triumphant moment.
 - B. For the righteous, those same failures are their most miserable moments, and this is their comfort. **MAT 5:4 c/w PSA 32:3-7; 40:1-3.**