

“The Truth Shows the Way”
Matthew 7:13-14

I. Jesus gives the command to enter the narrow gate (v. 13a).

narrow

- στενός (stenos)
- properly, *narrow*; (figuratively) the closely-defined *path God ordains* to travel on to gain His *approval*.

II. Jesus describes the two gates (vs. 13b-14).

A. The description of the first gate is given:

1. The gate is wide.

wide

- πλατύς (platus)
- broad, wide; subst: a street.
- pertaining to great extent from side to side

2. The gate is broad.

broad

- εὐρύχωρος (euruchóros)
- spacious
- broad, spacious, wide.
- Pertaining to having ample room; spacious, roomy

3. The gate leads to destruction.

destruction

- ἀπώλεια (apóleia)
- destruction, ruin, loss, perishing; eternal ruin.
- *destruction*, causing someone (something) to be *completely severed* – cut *off* (entirely) *from* what *could or should* have been.

2 Thessalonians 2:2-3

³Let no one in any way deceive you, for *it will not come* unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of **destruction**, ⁴ who opposes and exalts himself above every so-called god or object of worship, so that he takes his seat in the temple of God, displaying himself as being God.

2 Peter 3:7

But by His word the present heavens and earth are being reserved for fire, kept for the day of judgment and **destruction** of ungodly men.

4. The gate is found by many.

B. The description of the second gate is given:

1. The gate is small.

John 14:6

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.

Acts 4:32

And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved."

2. The gate is narrow.

narrow

- θλίβω (thlibó)
- to press, afflict
- I make narrow (strictly: by pressure); I press upon, (b) I persecute, press hard.
- properly, rub together, constrict (compress), i.e. *pressed* together; (figuratively) *oppressively* afflict (distress), i.e. like when circumstances "rub us the wrong way" that make us feel confined (hemmed in); restricted to a "narrow" place.

2 Thessalonians 1:6-7

⁶ For after all it is *only* just for God to repay with affliction those **who afflict** you, ⁷ and to give relief to you **who are afflicted** and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire...

Hebrews 11:37

They were stoned, they were sawn in two, they were tempted, they were put to death with the sword; they went about in sheepskins, in goatskins, being destitute, **afflicted**, ill-treated...

John 10:1-2; 7-10

¹ "Truly, truly, I say to you, he who does not enter by the door into the fold of the sheep, but climbs up some other way, he is a thief and a robber. ² But he who enters by the door is a shepherd of the sheep.

⁷ So Jesus said to them again, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. ⁸ All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture. ¹⁰ The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I came that they may have life, and have *it* abundantly.

1 John 3:23

This is His commandment, that we believe in the name of His Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, just as He commanded us.

3. The gate leads to life.

John 5:25-26

²⁵ Truly, truly, I say to you, an hour is coming and now is, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live. ²⁶ For just as the Father has life in Himself, even so He gave to the Son also to have life in Himself...

1 John 5:11-12

¹¹ And the testimony is this, that God has given us eternal life, and this life is in His Son. ¹² He who has the Son has the life; he who does not have the Son of God does not have the life.

4. The gate is found by few.

III. Jesus' teaching underscores the importance of truth.

- A. It is easy to fall into deception.

Proverbs 16:25

There is a way *which seems* right to a man, But its end is the way of death.

Matthew 6:19-24

¹⁹ "Do not store up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy, and where thieves break in and steal. ²⁰ But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys, and where thieves do not break in or steal; ²¹ for where your treasure is, there your heart will be also.

²² "The eye is the lamp of the body; so then if your eye is clear, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If then the light that is in you is darkness, how great is the darkness!

²⁴ "No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be devoted to one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and wealth.

- B. We must be careful how we walk (live).

1. We must make sure that we are saved (that we know Christ).

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven *will enter*. ²² Many will say to Me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name, and in Your name cast out demons, and in Your name perform many miracles?' ²³ And then I will declare to them, 'I never knew you; DEPART FROM ME, YOU WHO PRACTICE LAWLESSNESS.'

2. And once we are saved, we must make sure that we do not drift from truth.

Philippians 2:12-13

¹² So then, my beloved, just as you have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your salvation with fear and trembling; ¹³ for it is God who is at work in you, both to will and to work for *His* good pleasure.

Proverbs 4:23

Watch over your heart with all diligence, For from it *flow* the springs of life.