



THE WORD *Alive*

The Preaching Ministry of
Ashley River Baptist Church

THE ROAD LESS TRAVELLED Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for the gate is wide, and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and many are those who enter by it.

¹⁴ "For the gate is small, and the way is narrow that leads to life, and few are those who find it.

2 PATHWAYS

Jesus clearly defines the absolute NATURE of the choices that confront us in the pathway of life regarding our eternal destiny, and there are only two.

1. WIDE GATE – BROAD WAY

An easy pathway of life that is “broad” in its disregard of godliness with few boundaries of thought and conduct.

It is wide in the sense of tolerance, permissiveness, personal opinion and that we need leave nothing behind including our sins, pride and self-righteousness. It is the way of the world.

2. SMALL GATE - NARROW WAY

A hard way of life in the eyes of the world in that it is clearly marked with narrow boundaries set forth by God defining thought and action that is acceptable and pleasing to Him in keeping with His will and resulting in eternal life.

It is the life of obedient faithfulness to God through faith in Jesus Christ that requires self denial and that we leave EVERYTHING behind – *sin, selfish ambition, possessions, family and friends* – to the extent it obstructs the priority of faithful obedience.

2 PEOPLE

1. MANY - the careless crowd

The carefree multitudes selfishly travelling the road of life with no regard for God or the dreadful end toward which they are headed.

2. FEW - the faithful individuals

The happy yet despised band of faithful Christian pilgrims on an intentional journey with their backs turned to sin and the world and their focus on their eternal destiny.

2 DESTINATIONS

1. DESTRUCTION: eternal condemnation

Utter ruin and the eternal loss of all that is truly beautiful and lovely and brings joy, hope, peace and fulfillment in life, culminating in eternal condemnation to hell.

2. LIFE: eternal life

Eternal fellowship with God in Heaven and the glorious fulfillment of our purpose as created human beings.

1 CHOICE

Matthew 7:13 “*Enter by the narrow gate*”

Jesus clearly defines the absolute NECESSITY of the SINGLE choice to be made if we are to live a life pleasing to God and inherit eternal life.

ENTER: an imperative command of Christ that we MUST choose a life of faithful obedience - the narrow way.

“When you com to the fork in the road, take it.”

Anonymous

“Two roads diverged in a wood, and I-

I took the road less traveled by

And that has made all the difference.”

Robert Frost

CHALLENGE

People today seek the life of comfort designed according to their personal opinions and preferences that includes the right to make choices without restraint, commitment, or absolutes of a religious, moral or ethical nature. Jesus said, however, that the unrestrained life, as popular and appealing as it may be, leads only to destruction. We have only two pathways down which we may go in life and Jesus said, that the “narrow” pathway of faithful obedience alone leads to eternal life. Sadly few will find it, but the good news is, there’s still time to change the path YOU are on through surrender to Jesus as your Lord.