

Matthew 7:13-14 **Only Two Gates**

Introduction:

When it comes to life on earth there are only two possible choices, either the way that leads to eternal life or the way that leads to eternal death and destruction. Jesus tells us at the very outset you will see two gates, one is very narrow and the other is as broad as can be.

Robert Frost's poem: Two Roads diverged in a yellow wood..."

The difference of entering the narrow gate leads to the glory of God and face of Jesus and comfort of the Holy Spirit.

I. The Narrow Gate

A. A graphic view of life

1. What the Scripture says about "gates" (Luke 7:12; Acts 12:10; Matt. 16:18; Deut. 30:19; Jer. 21:8)

B. Life of every genuine Christian

1. The Christian begins narrow – (turnstile)
2. The Christian life leaves worldliness behind – I John 2:15
3. The Christian life leaves self behind – Eph. 4:22,23; Col. 3:8; Gal. 2:20 ; Matt. 16:24

C. Narrow or Small Gate

1. It's most difficult – v.14 (thlibo- "constricted") Note. Matthew 5:10-12
2. Persecution and suffering – II Tim. 3:12
3. The parable of the Sower – Matthew 13:18-23
4. Division in the family – Matthew 10:34-40

D. Continues to be narrow

1. No "holiday" in the Christian life
2. It's a good fight of faith – I Tim. 1:18
3. Endurance to the end – Matt. 24:13
4. Counting the cost – Luke 14:29-37
5. Few find it – I Pet. 2:21 cf. "many" Matt. 8:11; 20:28; Rev. 7:9

II. The Wide Gate

A. The exact opposite of the Christian's narrow way of life

B. Many ways to Hell

1. Personal philosophy
2. Religious works and morals
3. Staying in neutral

C. The doctrine of hell – Matthew 25:41,46

D. Why do people choose the broad road?

1. Some deliberately reject Christ
2. Others drift along with the crowd assuming there is security in numbers
3. Others for the sake of pleasure – (Moses Heb. 11:24-26)

Conclusion:

1. *Let me urge, you as Jesus does, "strive enter the straight and narrow gate" – Luke 13:24*
2. *Do not misjudge the unbeliever's "smooth sailing," now for blessing – Psalm 73:13, 16-17,24*

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