

**The Kingdom of Heaven
The Gates Of Eternity
Matt 7.13-14**

[Let me ask you a question, What does it take for a person to be saved? How does a person go about getting onto heaven?]

[This is perhaps the most important question you must answer in your lifetime. No other question is even remotely as important as this one question, “What must I do to be saved?”]

[We often speak of marriage as the most important question one will answer in their life time. While the question of a spouse is an incredibly important question for this mortal life, it pales in comparison to the question of what will happen to your immortal soul once you die.]

[In our culture today **Universalism** has become very prominent. Universalism teaches that every religion leads to heaven, leads to God. It teaches that if you believe,]

- [The Muslim religion is right and you practice that religion then you will be okay and you will be in heaven.]
- [That Buddhism is the truth and practice its religious principles then you will be okay and you will be in heaven.]
- [That Christianity is true and believe and practice its principles then you will be in heaven.]

[Universalism teaches that **there are many roads that lead to heaven**, and that God is whatever you believe He is.]

[**The Word of God says,**]

[*Romans 3:3-4 **For what if some did not believe?** shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? ⁴ God forbid: **yea, let God be true, but every man a liar;** . . .]*

In other Words, your belief or lack of belief does not change anything. God does not exist because you believe He exists, God exists because He is and your belief changes nothing. God is the great “I Am” and you, and your beliefs, change

nothing about God. You must come to God His way and only His way, any other way is the wrong way and leads to eternal damnation. Why? Because God said so.]

*[John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: **no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.**]*

[Now listen to what our Lord Jesus Christ said in the Parable of the gates to eternity.]

The Gates of Eternity

A. The Wide Gate (vs 13) [*– Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:*]

1. The Roll Call For Entrance. This gate is,

a. **The Gate of the Majority (vs 13; 1 John 4.3)** [*– ". . . Many there be that go in thereat:" - **The multitudes eagerly stand upon its threshold.**]*

[Some people feel that if some religious teacher has a large following then he must be right. Notice that many are entering in at this gate.]

[Joel Olsteen clearly teaches universalism and he has tens of thousands following him and his teachings each week. Yet the Word of God clearly reveals that universalism is in opposition to the revealed Word of God.]

[Just because multitudes are following some teaching does not make them right.]

[The Jehovah's Witnesses claim to be a growing religion and they do not believe that Jesus Christ is God.]

*[1 John 4:3 And every spirit that confesseth not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is not of God: **and this is that spirit of antichrist**, whereof ye have heard that it should come; and even now already is it in the world.]*

[The Church of our Lord Jesus Christ has always been a remnant. Don't follow this multitude into the torments of an eternal hell.]

2 Tim 4.3

- b. **The Gate of Moral Goodness (2 Tim 4.3-4; Isa 64.6; Jer 17.9; Titus 3.5)** – These are those who say **if it feels right then it must be right**. They will encourage you to just follow you heart.

*[2 Timothy 4:3-4 For the time will come when they will **not endure sound doctrine**; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; ⁴ **And they shall turn away their ears from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables.**]*

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Matt 7.13-14

A. The Wide Gate

- 1. **This Gate is,**
 - a. The Gate of the Majority

Jer 17.9

[Notice that these multitudes will find teachers who will tell them, just do what feels good and you will be okay. Just follow your heart and believe what you want to believe and you will be just fine. There are many ways to get to heaven.]

[The Word of God warns us to be careful about even our own hearts and feelings,]

*[Jeremiah 17:9 **The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?**]*

[The human heart is a deceiving teacher and will lead the lost and redeemed away from God; if it is not restrained by the Word of God and illuminated by the Holy Spirit of God.]

[If you think that your good works could ever make you good enough for God and fit for heaven, then you had better listen to the Word of God.]

[Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us, by the washing of regeneration, and renewing of the Holy Ghost;]

[There are many good moral people entering in at this broad gate and following this wide way right into eternal condemnation.]

- c. **The Gate of the Misinformed (Judges 21.24-25; Prov 12.15; 16.2; 3.7)**

*[Judges 21:24-25 And the children of Israel departed thence at that time, every man to his tribe and to his family, and they went out from thence every man to his inheritance. ²⁵ In those days there was no king in Israel: **every man did that which was right in his own eyes.**]*

Prov 12.15

[Those that would **"have it their way"** are upon its threshold.]

*[Proverbs 12:15 **The way of a fool is right in his own eyes**: but he that hearkeneth unto counsel is wise.]*

Prov 16.2

*[Proverbs 16:2 **All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes**; but the LORD weigheth the spirits.]*

Prov 3.7

*[Proverbs 3:7 **Be not wise in thine own eyes**: fear the LORD, and depart from evil.]*

d. **The Gate of the Mimic (Luke 18.10-14)[- **The devoutly religious.**]**

*[Luke 18:10-14 Two men went up into the temple to pray; the one a **Pharisee**, and the other a **publican**. ¹¹The Pharisee stood and prayed thus with himself, God, I thank thee, **that I am not as other men are**, extortioners, unjust, adulterers, or even as this publican. ¹²**I** fast twice in the week, **I** give tithes of all that **I** possess. ¹³And the publican, standing afar off, would not lift up so much as his eyes unto heaven, but smote upon his breast, saying, God be merciful to me a sinner. ¹⁴I tell you, this man went down to his house justified rather than the other: for every one that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted.]*

[Why does this man fast and give his tithes? Because his religion taught him that these are what good faithful people do. It is right to give tithes and fast if you are doing those things for God's reasons; but when you do them for purely religious reasons then you are seeking God righteousness the wrong way.]

[Man made religion merely mimics the philosophies and teachings of men rather than reaches out to touch the heart of God.]

Acts 4.12

[Those that would work diligently for the praise of their fellow church members are upon its threshold.]

e. **The gate of the Merging (John 14.6; Acts 4.12)[- **Many ways converge upon this threshold.**]**

[All of mans imagined routes into eternity converge on its threshold.]

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A. The Wide Gate

1. This Gate is,
 - a. The Gate of the Majority
 - b. The Gate of Moral Goodness
 - c. The Gate of the Misinformed

[John 14:6 Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.]

[Acts 4:12 Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.]

2. **The Result of Entrance (vs 13)** [- Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, **that leadeth to destruction**, and many there be which go in thereat:]

- a. It is the way of **Separation** (Isa 64.6-7).

*[Isaiah 64:6-7 But we are all as an unclean thing, and all our righteousnesses are as filthy rags; and we all do fade as a leaf; **and our iniquities, like the wind, have taken us away.** 7 And there is none that calleth upon thy name, that stirreth up himself to take hold of thee: for thou hast hid thy face from us, **and hast consumed us, because of our iniquities.**]*

- b. It is the way of **Destruction** (vs 13; Psalm 9.17)[- "that leadeth to destruction."]

[Psalm 9:17 The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the nations that forget God.]

- B. The Narrow Gate (vs 13-14)** [- **Enter ye in at the strait gate: . . . ¹⁴ Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**]

1. **The Roll Call For Entrance - This gate is:**

- a. **The Gate of Repentance** (vs 14, John 10.7; Matt 4.17) [- **Because strait is the gate**, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.]

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Matt 7.13-14

A. The Wide Gate

1. The Gate of the Majority
2. The Gate of Moral Goodness
3. The Gate of the Misinformed
4. The Gate of the Mimic – Religious practices

John 10.7

[Those who come to this narrow gate find the Lord Jesus Christ himself is this gate,]

[John 10:7-9 Then said Jesus unto them again, Verily, verily, I say unto you, **I am the door of the sheep.** ⁸ All that ever came before me are thieves and robbers: but the sheep did not hear them. ⁹ **I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.]**

[How does one find entrance through this door or gate?]

[Matthew 4:17 From that time Jesus began to preach, and to say, **Repent: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand.]**

[Our Lord Jesus Christ calls us to repentance. That is to turn away from ourselves and our sinful ways and to turn to the one and only way to salvation, the Lord Jesus Christ.]

b. **The Gate of the Righteous (vs 14, Psalm 119.105; Prov 8.20)** [– *Because strait is the gate, **and narrow is the way,** which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. – **Notice that this way is narrow, not broad.** How do we find this narrow way or narrow path?]*

Psm 119.105

[Psalm 119:105 **Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.]**

Prov 8.20

[The Word of God reveals this narrow pathway to us. This narrow way is revealed by God through His Written Word. There is no other revelation that will help us discover this narrow way. Our heart will lead us astray, our emotions or feelings will lead us astray, the masses of this world are on the broad way to destruction. **You need the Word of God!** Deny and reject the Word of God and you destroy your ability to discover this narrow way.]

[Many today want to reject and refuse the Word of God and counsel of God. This narrow way that leads to life is the way directed by Almighty-God. God says,]

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- A. The Wide Gate
 - 1. This Gate is the Gate of,
 - a. The Majority
 - b. Moral Goodness
 - c. Misinformed
 - d. The Mimic – Religious practices
 - e. The Merging
 - 2. The Result of Entrance,
 - a. Separation
 - b. Destruction
- B. The Narrow Gate
 - 1. This Gate is the Gate of,

[Proverbs 8:20 I lead in the way of righteousness, in the midst of the paths of judgment:]

[God's way, this narrow way, is the way of righteousness. Not man's idea of righteousness, by the path of God's righteousness which is the only true righteousness.]

- a. **[The Gate of the Remnant (vs 14) /- Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it. – It is the way of the remnant]**

Titus 2.14

[Many people want to be like the world and its masses so they can be accepted by the multitudes. Why? **Because they want to fit in to this world and its ways.**]

[But our Lord says, through the Word of God that God's people will be Peculiar People,]

[Titus 2:14 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works.]

1 Pet 2.9

[The Word of God says God's people will be peculiar from this world and its people. Do you know what those good works are? **They are works of righteousness.** Our struggle to live lives right with God will make us peculiar from this world.]

[1 Peter 2:9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light:]

[Notice this distinct and unique list that will mark those who belong to our Lord Jesus Christ. These peculiar qualities will make us a remnant in this world. The people of God always have been and always will be a remnant. **We are the FEW!**]

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A. The Wide Gate

1. This Gate is the Gate of,

- a. The Majority
- b. Moral Goodness
- c. Misinformed
- d. The Mimic – Religious practices
- e. The Merging

2. The Result of Entrance,

- a. Separation
- b. Destruction

B. The Narrow Gate

1. This Gate is the Gate of,

- a. Repentance
- b. The Righteous
- c. The Remnant

2. The Result of Entrance

The way of the Redeemed (vs 14; John 3.16) [- *Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, **which leadeth unto life**, and few there be that find it.* – Those who find this strait gate and narrow way will find everlasting life.]

[This gate is the Lord Jesus Christ and he is the one and only way to everlasting life.]

[John 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.]

Grace Baptist Church, Sunday Evening, March 31, 2024
CrossRoads Baptist, Sunday Dec 30, 2018
CrossRoads Baptist, Sunday March 16, 2014
Sugar Creek Baptist, Sunday Morning, May 22, 2005
Sugar Creek, Wednesday, July 21, 2004

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A. The Wide Gate

- 1. This Gate is the Gate of,**
 - a. **The Majority**
 - b. **Moral Goodness**
 - c. **Misinformed**
 - d. **The Mimic – Religious practices**
 - e. **The Merging**
- 2. The Result of Entrance,**
 - a. **Separation**
 - b. **Destruction**

B. The Narrow Gate

- 1. This Gate is the Gate of,**
 - a. **Repentance**
 - b. **The Righteous**
 - c. **The Remnant**
- 2. The Result of Entrance**
 - a. **Redemption**