

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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What To Do With Matthew 7:13-14

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A few Testament scripture is the heart and soul of our faith. It is the dynamic of our belief system. The written word is our link and bond to our Lord. We see in 2 Timothy 3:16-17 that the Bible is the inspired word of God and has been given to us to teach and to learn.

Jesus says, “*Enter through the narrow gate for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it*” (Matthew 7:13-14). I find this particular passage both reassuring, and also, a little frightening.

It is reassuring to know if we follow the precepts of the Bible, we will be forgiven of our sins, and as a Christian, will take our place in heaven when our Lord comes again. Yes, the gate is small or restrictive, but daily submission to the Lord’s Word will help us avoid the pitfalls of this life and guide our footsteps into eternal life with the Lord.

On the other hand, it is

frightening because this passage indicates that we must maintain a healthy spiritual mindset in order to achieve the goals set by our Lord. Merely having the road set before us is not enough because there are decisions in life that may change the direction of our course. With others who have wandered from the narrow way, we will find out the way to destruction is the easy way - wide and unobstructed.

I have always felt this scripture has a special meaning for Christians. The Christian may find himself or herself on the wide path to destruction. The path may have been influenced by others who interject their own or other religious association’s views ahead of sound Biblical principles. Feeling they are still on the right path, and not understanding that in today’s religious world, as it drifts further and further away from true Bible beliefs through the social gospel, entertainment and political correctness, they find themselves moving down the wide path to eternal destruction.

The blatant sinner, who may never read the Bible, may not realize the ultimate destination ahead or that they are already on a

destructive path. Of course, we don’t give up on people. In Mathew 28:19-20, we have been commanded to spread the Gospel and make disciples of all nations. This keeps us trying to reach and teach whoever, whenever and wherever we find fallow ground.

The thoughts held in Matthew are reiterated in Luke 13:24: “*Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to.*”. These are passages that should cause all who read them to pause, and think, and to re-evaluate the paths they have chosen.

As free-willed people, we can please the Lord by following his restrictive path, or we can please ourselves by adding our own lane to the wide path to destruction. This passage suggests that the pathway to heaven is definitely achievable and obtainable. Each of us can make it. However, we need to remember that *the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it.*