

Series: Great Gospel Invitations
"Only One Way" # 2
Matt. 7:13-14
3-18-18 Sun AM

1. To believe in one way to one God is fast becoming outdated and archaic.

Many today believe in many gods and many ways to heaven. "All roads lead to heaven."
Everyone sees a great light!

Many believe in an all loving God who will eventually receive all into his presence no matter how you come. Our nation is has become "many nations under many Gods."

2. Jesus after teaching the Sermon on the Mount, extends an invitation where he calls for a decision and a response.

In these closing verses [13-29], Jesus draws several contrasts- two gates, two ways, two destinies [vs. 13-14], two preachers and two professions [vs. 15-23] and two builders on two foundations [vs. 24-29].

The decision people make about these contrasts, will determine eternal life or eternal death.

TT: Today we look at two gates and two ways. There is only one gate to true righteousness that will get one to heaven. Why can Jesus take us to Heaven?

1. Two gates [vs. 13a, 14a]. Gates speak of access.

1. All men will try to enter by one of these two gates.

Religion says that all roads lead to heaven, while Christianity says Jesus is the only way to heaven. Religion rests on mans work to reach God, while Christianity rests on Christ's finished work on the cross to reach man.

2. It is assumed both gates lead to heaven.

When in reality, one leads to heaven and the other to hell [v.13], one leads to life and the other destruction. Destruction is total and eternal ruin, not extinction or annihilation.

3. One gate is narrow and exclusive, while the other gate is broad and inclusive.

(1). *The narrow gate* is narrow because it is limited to only one way to gain access.

John 10:9, “I am the door; by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved...”

John 14:6

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.”

That’s why it is the road least traveled because it is restricted; it is by faith and the blood of Christ “few.”

(2). *The wide gate* is wide because it is unlimited with many ways to enter and easier.

This is the most popular gate because it gives room for religion, works, sin, self-righteousness, and human achievement. It is the gate of pluralism, ecumenicalism, and political correctness that leads to eternal death.

2. Two ways [vs. 13b; 14b]. These speak of the ease or difficulty of the life once we enter either of the two gates.

1. The Narrow Way.

This life is confined, demanding, and a life of dying to self. It literally means to groan under pressure.

Acts 14:22, “We must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God.”

The way of repentance, submission, and obedience. The way of not looking back and keeping your hands to the plow.

2. The Broad Way.

This life is easy, attractive, permissive, no demands, no sacrifices, and few requirements. Sin is tolerated, truth is watered down, and no change is needed.

Con:

The modern evangelical church as widened the narrow gate and smoothed out the narrow way. How? The gospel preached in many churches does not match the Gospel Jesus and the apostles preached, and is another Jesus!

“Come to Jesus” you will be happy, blessed, and healthy.” I would like to see them try to sell that to the Christian martyrs in the Sudan and China.

It would be a hard sell to the early church martyrs, and tell that to the young girl at Columbine school that would not renounce Christ looking down a gun barrel.

God help us, we have reduced following Christ to a mystical life of fairy tales, raising the hand, signing a card, or walking an aisle. A “honk if you love Jesus” theology or “hip hip hooray” theology. “A fast food gospel” Have it your way!

Con: Two questions we need to ask our church-

Q- Did your profession of faith in Christ cost you anything?

Q- Did your profession of faith change your life?