

The Narrow Way

What direction is your _____ traveling? The Lord speaks of a narrow and a broad way with _____ destinies. The world is _____ of ideas, teaching, beliefs, and opinions. We hear every view imaginable today, and much of it has been spinned to make it sound _____. But the Lord Jesus and the Scriptures give us a _____ to distinguish truth from error and right from wrong. The Lord Jesus promised, “If you continue in My _____, then you are truly my disciples; and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free” (John 8:31-32). Yes, the words of Jesus are always the Lord’s way to _____ what is true and what is false.

The apostle Peter wrote, “And count the patience of our Lord as salvation, just as our beloved brother Paul also wrote to you according to the wisdom given him, as he does in all his letters when he speaks in them of these matters. There are some things in them that are hard to understand, which the ignorant and unstable _____ to their own destruction, as they do the other Scriptures” (2 Peter 3:15-16). Sadly, some twist what God says to suit themselves and they leave the _____ for a falsehood that cannot take them to eternal life.

The inspired apostle Paul wrote, “Do you not know that when you present yourselves to someone as slaves for obedience, that you are slaves of the one whom you _____, either of sin resulting in death, or of obedience resulting in righteousness? (Romans 6:16). Who is your master? Are you following _____ or are you following the Lord? The road you _____ will take you somewhere, and I pray that it will be where you want to go. The Lord leads to _____, so follow the Lord!

Our reading today comes from the Sermon on the Mount in Matthew chapter 7:13-14. This passage is one of the most surprising passages of the Bible. This passage _____ us up, recognizing the direction that we’re going, to choose the narrow path.

The Lord Jesus speaks of two _____: one is narrow, and the other is wide. He speaks of two distinct _____: the broad easy way and the narrow, or straight way. He speaks of two different _____: one is made up of a few people and the other contains many. He also speaks of two _____: one leads to life and the other leads to destruction. The narrow way _____ the Lord Jesus and leads to righteousness and life; few find that way. The pathway to _____ contains many difficulties and troubles. It must be walked with _____, watching out for the evil that can lead us astray. The way of life is a plain and simple way. Its simplicity often challenges man’s desire to go his own way.

The road that leads _____ from God and downward to ruin is broad and easy, and many are led to choose it. One narrow gate with a _____ way leads to life; and all other ways, all other paths, all other directions lead to death and ruin; the narrow way is difficult; the others are _____ to follow.

Some people think that all _____ are the same, but are they? Paul wrote, “For even if there are so-called gods whether in heaven or on earth, as indeed there are many gods and many lords, yet for us there is but _____ God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; and one Lord, Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him” (1 Corinthians 8:5-6). Whether we believe in that one true God or not _____ to our souls. The confused, ancient world believed in

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many gods; but Jesus _____ to the one and only God. The Bible prophecies, the resurrection of Jesus Christ, and the truths of Scripture point to the Lord God as the one and only _____ God. Hebrews 11:6 says, “And without faith it’s impossible to _____ Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.”

Some people think of Jesus as just another religious _____, but Jesus is unique. Jesus fulfilled prophecy, He worked miracles in the presence of multitudes, He arose from the dead, and He lived an exemplary life. He expects people to _____ in Him. The Lord Jesus said, “He who believes in Him is not judged; but he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God” (John 3:18). He made it more clear in John 8:24, “I told you that you would _____ in your sins, for unless you believe that I am he (that is, the Christ, the Son of God) you will die in your sins.” Jesus was clear about those who will _____ believe in Him. Jesus has set a _____ on who is free from sin and makes His way narrow. Faith in Christ distinguishes those on the narrow road from those on the road to destruction.

Some people think they can please God and yet live in _____, but repentance from sin and changing one’s life is necessary. Luke 13:1-3 says: “Now on the same occasion there were some present who reported to Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices. And Jesus said to them, ‘Do you suppose that these Galileans were _____ sinners than all other Galileans because they suffered this fate? I tell you, no, but unless you _____, you will all likewise perish.’” Repentance is not merely a suggestion that’s good for us; it’s necessary to be _____ with God. Acts 17:30-31 says, “The times of ignorance God overlooked, but now he _____ all people everywhere to repent, because he has fixed a day on which he will judge the world in righteousness by a man whom he has appointed; and of this he has given assurance to all by raising him from the dead.”

Those who refuse to repent have no _____ from God. Romans 2:6-11 says, “He will render to each one according to his _____: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, he will give _____ life; but for those who are self-seeking and do not _____ the truth, but obey unrighteousness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every human being who does _____, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honor and peace for everyone who does _____, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.” We must take God’s moral law seriously.

Some say faith and repentance are all that’s necessary for salvation, but the Lord Jesus made it clear that being _____ of water and the Spirit are also necessary to enter the kingdom of God. The Lord Jesus told a ruler of the Jews named Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born of water and the Spirit he cannot enter into the _____ of God” (John 3:5). This is a clear reference to being _____ into Christ, and all the ancient writers knew this. Sadly, some have pointed to other things never suggested by this Scripture. If we want to walk the narrow road, we won’t _____ this requirement.

The Lord wants people to be obedient to the _____, and our baptism into Christ unites us with Him in his burial and resurrection, according to Romans 6:3-7. This obedience is necessary to _____ the narrow way. Someone says, is it really necessary? Yes! Second Thessalonians 1:7-9 says, “and to give relief to you who are afflicted and to us as well when the Lord Jesus will be revealed from heaven with His mighty angels in flaming fire, dealing out retribution to those who do not _____ God and to those who do not _____ the gospel of our Lord Jesus. These will pay the _____ of eternal

destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of His power.” Those who fail to obey the gospel will not have eternal life.

The way of Jesus is truly narrow; in fact, He doesn't present alternatives. Christianity is not a smorgasbord where we can _____ what we like and _____ the rest. Often there is but one _____. Ephesians 4:4-6 says, “There is one body and one Spirit, just as also you were called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father who is over all and through all and in all.” There is but one body, and that body, according to Ephesians 1:22-23, is the _____. Does it surprise you that the Lord has but _____ church? The way is narrow; there was only one _____ in Noah's day and only one _____ in Judaism. The Lord _____ for His church and no other. There is but one Holy Spirit, and He doesn't say one thing in Scripture and then say another thing to modern day _____ prophets. There is but one hope of your calling, and that hope is in the gospel.

There is only one Lord, and we cannot serve _____ masters. The Lord Jesus said, “I am the Way, and the Truth, and the Life; and no one _____ to the Father, but through Me” (John 14:6). You can't go to the Father in heaven through some later prophet or some other religious person. We have no Lord but Jesus. There is one faith, and that faith was given by the Lord Jesus _____ His apostles and prophets in the first century. He promised the apostles that He would _____ them into “all the truth” (John 16:13). We're to “contend for the _____ that was once for all (that is, all time) delivered to the saints” (Jude 3). Once that faith was delivered in the first century, we must not _____ from it into other faiths or the teaching of men.

There is one baptism, and that baptism into Christ frees us from _____. The book of Acts declares how people were _____ to be baptized (that is, immersed) in water to wash away their sins (according to Acts 2:38 and 22:16). If baptism is a _____ with Christ, it's not a sprinkling with Christ. If baptism is when God washes away your sins, we're not saved _____ baptism. If God requires faith and repentance before baptism, then the one baptism is not a baptism of _____ or small children. The Scriptures are clear on these matters: that there is but one baptism.

There is “one God and Father of all who is over all and through all and in all.” He describes Himself in the Bible as our _____ and the true and living God. He is the giver of every _____ thing and has sacrificed His Son Jesus for our sins. He hears our prayers and forgives our sins. We have a Father who is near us and _____ for us.

This is why we must take His _____ seriously. Just as there is one God, there's also one _____ that can save your soul. The apostle Paul addressed some Jewish Christians who were corrupting the _____ in Galatians 1:6-9, “I'm amazed that you are so quickly deserting Him who called you by the grace of Christ, for a _____ gospel; which is really not another; only there are some who are disturbing you and want to _____ the gospel of Christ. But even if we, or an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you, he is to be accursed! As we have said before, so I say again now, if any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received, he is to be accursed!” We must stay with the true gospel found in _____. A distorted gospel will not _____ anyone and will curse those who teach it.

People who walk the broad or easy way try to make God's Word say what _____ them rather than what the Lord actually says. God has never allowed men to edit or to _____ what He teaches. God said, “You shall not _____ to the word which I am commanding you, nor _____ away from it, that you may _____ the commandments of the LORD your God which I command you”

(Deuteronomy 4:2). Again, He said, “So you shall _____ to do just as the LORD your God has commanded you; you shall not turn aside to the right or to the left” (Deuteronomy 5:32). God’s way indeed is narrow!

The Lord Jesus understood this. He had to _____ His Father; by doing so, He set an example for us. The Lord Jesus said, “For I have not spoken on my _____ authority, but the Father who sent me has himself given me a commandment—what to say and what to speak. And I know that his commandment is eternal life. What I say, therefore, I say as the Father has _____ me” (John 12:49-50). Jesus never _____ from God’s message. In fact, He said, “But so that the world may know that I love the Father, I do _____ as the Father commanded Me” (John 14:31).

Let’s follow the Lord’s _____. We must not add to His word or take away from it but do exactly as He commands us. Let’s follow Paul’s advice to Timothy and be diligent to be a “workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of _____” (2 Timothy 2:15). True disciples stay within the _____ words of Jesus given in the first century. The Lord Jesus said, “If you abide in my word, you are truly disciples of mine, and you will know the truth, and the truth will set you _____” (John 8:31-32). Let’s abide in the words of Jesus so that we may be free!

The Lord Jesus tells what the _____ important commandments are, “The most important is, ‘Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. And you shall _____ the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul, with all your mind and with all your strength.’ The second is this: ‘You shall _____ your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these” (Mark 12:29-31). God demands that you be _____ devoted to Him: heart, soul, mind, and strength! We show our love for God by _____ His commandments (John 14:15). We must also love others as we love ourselves. These commandments are profound and require giving everything we are to God and to others.

The Lord Jesus said, “If anyone would come after me, let him _____ himself and take up his cross daily and follow me. For whoever would _____ his life will lose it, but whoever _____ his life for my sake will save it. For what does it _____ a man if he gains the whole world and loses or forfeits himself?” (Luke 9:23-25). You can have your broad way in this life and lose your soul in the life to come; or you can lose your life here and gain eternal life. Which way are you going?

Place your faith and trust in the Lord Jesus and turn from evil to the Lord. Confess Him before others and be baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of your sins. With the blood of Jesus and the grace of God cleansing you from sin, you can have salvation in this life and an inheritance in the life to come. Choose the narrow way; it’s worth it! What will it profit, if you ignore the grace of God?