

WHY FEW ENTER THE NARROW GATE

Matthew 7:13-14

We readily affirm that few will choose to enter the narrow gate and walk the difficult path that leads to life. Our inquiry now is why that is so. What makes it difficult?

I. NOT BECAUSE GOD HAS LIMITED WHO CAN BE SAVED

A. **Acts 10:34-35; Romans 2:11**

God is impartial.

B. **1st Timothy 2:3-4; Titus 2:11; 2nd Peter 3:9**

It is God's desire to save all people.

C. **Revelation 22:17; Romans 1:16**

The Lord offers a universal invitation to be saved. It is not limited in its scope!

II. NOT BECAUSE GOD'S WILL IS BEYOND OUR COMPREHENSION

A. **Ephesians 5:17**

God commands that we understand His will. Therefore, it must be possible.

God is not unjust to issue a command we cannot fulfill.

B. **Ephesians 3:1-5**

Paul explains that his knowledge of the revelation of the mystery of Christ can be understood by reading what he wrote.

C. **John 8:32**

The truth that makes free can be known.

III. BECAUSE WE FAILED TO SHARE THE GOSPEL

A. **Romans 10:14, 17**

The gospel is a taught religion. There must be preaching and hearing.

B. **Matthew 28:19-20; Mark 16:15-16**

When Jesus left the earth, He did so with instructions to go preach.

C. Hebrews 5:12

With time, all Christians should develop the ability to teach others what they know.

IV. BECAUSE SOME TRUST FALSE TEACHERS

A. 2nd Peter 2:1; 1st John 4:1

There is no shortage of false teachers.

B. Galatians 1:6-9

You can be misled.

C. Acts 17:11; 1st Thessalonians 5:21; 2nd Timothy 2:15

You must study for yourself.

D. Acts 5:29

Though religious leaders attempt to dissuade you, you must obey the truth independently.

V. BECAUSE SOME PREFER WORLDLINESS

A. John 3:19-20

The truth of the light of the gospel is often resisted because those who live in darkness do not want to surrender their chosen way of life.

B. James 4:4

We cannot hold hands with God and this sinful world simultaneously. We must choose our allegiance, but many do not want to choose.

C. 1st Corinthians 6:9-11

Some people don't want to know, some people are deceived, and they won't accept that certain behaviors must change.

D. Hebrews 12:1-2

We must lay aside things that hinder us, but many won't.

E. Colossians 3:2

We should think on heavenly things, not earthly things, but many won't.

VI. SOME ARE AFRAID OF RIDICULE

A. 1st John 3:1, 13; John 15:18

Christ was hated by the world. We can't serve Him faithfully and expect to be treated better.

B. 2nd Timothy 1:8; 1st Peter 4:16; Luke 9:26

We should not be ashamed of Christ or His word.

VII. SOME ARE WAITING FOR A PERSONAL CALL

A. Acts 10:34-35

An impartial God accepts all who come to Him.

B. 2nd Thessalonians 2:13-14; Romans 1:16

The only call there is, is the call of the gospel, which is available to all who will believe.

VIII. SOME DON'T THINK THEY NEED TO BE SAVED

A. Romans 3:23

All have sinned.

B. Isaiah 59:1-2

Sin separates people from God.

C. Romans 6:23

The wages of sin is death.

D. 2nd Thessalonians 1:6-10

God will punish with fire those who disobey the gospel.

IX. SOME DON'T THINK THEY CAN BE FORGIVEN

A. Romans 5:8; Luke 5:32; 19:10

Christ died for sinners.

B. 1st Timothy 1:15; Acts 26:9-18

He saved the chief of sinners.

C. **Acts 2:23, 36-41**

He saved those who killed Him.

X. **SOME DON'T THINK THEY CAN REMAIN FAITHFUL**

A. **2nd Peter 2:9; Hebrews 2:18; 1st Corinthians 10:13**

God will provide for your deliverance from temptation.

B. **Psalms 119:11; Matthew 4:1-11**

Committing God's word to your heart will help you fight off temptation.

C. **Matthew 6:13; 26:41; John 17:15**

You can pray for strength to overcome every temptation.

D. **Acts 8:22; 1st John 1:9**

Forgiveness is available to those who repent.

E. **James 5:16; 1st Thessalonians 5:14**

Help is available from other Christians.

XI. **SOME WOULD RATHER WAIT**

A. **Acts 24:24-25**

Some would rather obey the gospel when it is convenient for them to do so.

B. **James 4:13-17**

We have no guarantee of tomorrow.

C. **2nd Corinthians 6:2**

There is no time like the present to be saved.

D. **Amos 4:11-12**

Are you prepared to meet your God?