

Date: August 13, 2023

Subject: Sermon Notes

Scripture: Matthew 7:13-14

Title: Two Gates, Two Roads, & Two Destinies

Speaker: Bill Pong

Introduction

NIV: ¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.	NLT: You can enter God's Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose the easy way. But the gateway to life is small, and the road is narrow, and only a few ever find it.	The Message: “Don’t look for shortcuts to God. The market is flooded with surefire, easygoing formulas for a successful life that can be practiced in your spare time. Don’t fall for that stuff, even though crowds of people do. The way to life—to God!—is vigorous and requires total attention.
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Important & related interpretations

1. What comes first – the road or the gate?
2. Does entering one of the gates occur in this life or at the end of life?
 - The road leads to the gate, which is a futuristic view of salvation.
 - The gate and the road are one in the same.
 - The gate refers to salvation; the road is the journey, which deals with pursuing Christ (sanctification).

Characteristics of the wide gate – Matthew 7:13b

- The gate is easy to get through.
- The gate has a spacious entrance.
- The destination leads to dire consequences.

The Wide Gate & Broad Road accommodates all beliefs, even pseudo followers of Jesus – 1 Corinthians 1:18; Matthew 7:21-23

Characteristics of the narrow gate – Matthew 7:13a, 14, see John 10:7-10

- The gate is restrictive.
- Entrance of the gate is decisively based on a changed heart toward the principles of God.
- The destination leads to Christlikeness.

One path leads to life – John 10:7-10; 14:6

“There is always a certain dramatic quality about life, for, as it has been said, “all life concentrates on man at the cross-roads.” In every action of life man is confronted with a choice; and he can never evade the choice, because he can never stand still. He must always take one way or the other. Because of that, it has always been one of the supreme functions of the great men of history that they should confront men with that inevitable choice.” William Barclay

So What? Discussion Questions

- 1) Share a time where something caused you to follow a crowd, maybe a sale of shoes, appliance, clothes, etc. What made you jump on board? What made it appealing to follow the crowd?
- 2) Read Matthew 7:13-14. What stands out to you from this passage? Why?
- 3) Why do you think it’s hard for people to enter the narrow gate?