

S.O.H.L.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEDITATIONS

Pronounced "Soul"

June 13, 2016

Restoration thru "Obedience"

MATTHEW 7:13-14 NKJV – (13) "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. **(14)** Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it".

Walls with gates surrounded most cities of Palestine. Jesus pictured a city with a narrow gate difficult to find and a broad gate with wide space so that many could enter. People could find the wide gate easily—it required no limits making the city accessible—illustrating the idea that it made **no difference** what you believed. The broad way is relativism and has no absolutes. Yet, there is an absolute in relativism if one holds it absolutely! In other words, all beliefs hold to an absolute. The issue in our culture is whether we accept the mutually exclusive way of Christ or the mutually exclusive broad way of relativism and pluralism.

Both the narrow gate and the wide gate provide **access**. The narrow gate is entrance into Jesus' kingdom. We enter the narrow gate through Christ by faith in His finished work on the cross. He is "the way" (**John 14:6**). The wide gate allows access any way people choose other than through Christ. Those who follow the broad way, access through the wide gate, end in **destruction** (*ruin*). They prefer the popular view, a relative approach to salvation. They resist narrow doctrine that excludes others.

Jesus pictured a more difficult route to access, the narrow gate and a narrow road. This gate and road puts **limits** on what we believe. Jesus does not allow truth to be defined by popularism, consensus, or a democratic approach. If truth is truth, it cannot yield to prevailing opinion. The Pharisees followed the broad way. They were religious but without Christ. The only way people can connect with the absolute, unchanging God is to accept His exclusive way. The narrow way is difficult in this sense.

There is no bland neutrality in truth; we must make the choice between God's way and man's way. Christianity requires decisiveness. Since the narrow gate is exclusive and the only way, few enter. The wide gate is human systems of salvation, not the single way of the Word of God. Everyone is on the move. This is not a question of movement but the choice of where we move. We must make the choice between Jesus' way or the way of prevailing opinion. Every person in the human race must make this decision.

SCRIPTURE READING

2 JOHN 1:6

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

Heavenly forecast: God will reign forever!