Choosing the Narrow Way

Agape Life Church November 6, 2022

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. ***Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*** *Matthew 7:13–14 NKJV*

The Narrow Way That Leads To Life

We are living in a time when the pressure to accept the broad way is unrelenting. The words of Jesus once again give us the path to take. *("Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path."* Psalm 119:105). Jesus makes it clear that the broad way is a way that leads to destruction, and many go that way.

What is the Narrow Way?

Jesus says it is the either the broad way or the narrow way; notice that there is not some middle way, or a half way, or some other way. **Jesus leaves no room for _____.**

In contrast Jesus defines our course as passing through a narrow gate **and the difficulty it may present on our spiritual journey,** but in it is the way that leads to life and few who find it.

Be Confident Walking the Narrow Way

We as Christians have found the narrow way in Christ and should take great satisfaction that **we daily are faced with _____ the narrow path we are walking**.

It isn't easy to stand up for Christ in a world that despises Him, to stand firm in the faith, in a world in rebellion to God with no sense of shame for what they do.

Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, *giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron.* 1 Timothy 4:1-2

"This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, ***but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil."*** John 3:19

You are all the children of light, and the children of the day*: we are not of the night, nor of darkness.* 1 Thess. 5:5

Core Point: Our focus in this day we live, is to reinforce the life we have in following Christ - which is the narrow way. We are to be the confident children of God rejoicing in the path we have walking in the light!

Confident Choices That Define The Narrow Way

1. Choose _____ in the the narrow way!

The history of the people of God has always been one of choosing joy in the midst of any circumstance they have faced in their journey.

"Hallelujah! I am one who is blessed and who fears God, ***I cherish and relish your commandments****, my children are robust on the earth, and my home-how blessed! My house brims with wealth and a generosity ...that never runs dry.* ***Sunrise breaks through the darkness for me- Your grace and mercy and justice!*** *I am generous and lend lavishly; No shuffling or stumbling around for me, but a sterling and solid and lasting reputation.* ***I am unfazed by rumor and gossip, my heart ready, trusting in You oh God, Spirit firm, unperturbed, ever blessed, relaxed among my enemies****, I lavish gifts on the poor-a generosity that goes on, and on, and on.* ***An honored life! A beautiful life! A blessed life!"*** (Paraphrase of Psalm 112:1-9)

2. Choose believing prayer to see breakthrough!

Prayer is how things get done in the Kingdom of God. Prayer requires total dependence on God. **When we pray we should be confident that it really accomplishes everything God says it does.**

The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man ***makes tremendous power available*** *[dynamic in its working].* James 5:16 (AMP)

3. Choose optimistic faith to overcome and enjoy victory!

Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, ***fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith.*** *For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, s****o that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*** Hebrews 12:1–3 NIV

4. Choose to live the _____ way!

For the mountains shall depart and the hills be removed, ***but My kindness shall not depart from you, nor shall My covenant of peace be removed,"*** *Says the Lord, who has mercy on you.* Isaiah 54:10

Know that you have an unbreakable covenant with the Almighty!

Core Statement: I rejoice in the wonderful narrow way of life Christ has prepared for me! I delight in the difference God makes in my life and I walk my journey with confidence and joy!