

Only A Few Find Christ
By pastor Rommel Insigne

13“Enter through the narrow gate; for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction, and there are many who enter through it. 14“For the gate is narrow and the way is constricted that leads to life, and there are few who find it.

Matthew 7:13-14

This article is about the difficulty of finding Christ the Eternal Life. I entitled this article only a few find Christ. If we look at our society and our culture today, it is becoming impossible to find the Biblical Jesus. Jesus said, "There are few who find it." Why is it difficult to find Christ? Our text in Matthew 7:13-14 will answer that question. The sad reality today many people choose not to believe in Christ. They choose not to ask, not to knock, not to humble themselves nor seek the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. They choose to reject and deny Christ as Saviour and Lord of heaven the giver of life. They choose to be unclean dogs and unclean pigs trampling and destroying the preciousness of the Word of God (Matthew 7:6). Many so-called Christians are not buying into a commitment to follow Christ, to deny self and to take up their own cross. Many are in dilemma whether to follow Christ with all their heart or just be mediocre. But here is the reality: First, God wills for us to find Jesus and to follow Him. Second, finding Jesus takes hard serious seeking, humility, and lifelong commitment. It is not as easy as signing a contract or writing a response card to receive Christ or kneeling at the church altar and crying to give your life to Christ. To be a Christian is challenging and not easy believism. To say I believe Christ is one thing but to follow in obedience to Christ is another thing.

Jesus gave a very convicting application in Matthew 7:13-14 to His listeners then and to us today. There are two gates (narrow and wide), two ways of life the constricted (hard) and broad (easy). There are two destinations (life and destruction), and two people groups (the saved and the unsaved). Each individual needs to choose a gate, a way, and a place of destination. Which one is more attractive? Which one is more satisfying? But Jesus in His compassion and mercy, answered the best gate, the best way, and the best place to be in. For Christ the obvious choice is already laid down to His hearers it is a matter of choosing it and getting it. This is what Jesus wants in **verse 13 “Enter through the narrow gate;”** Jesus answered His own question. His desire and plan is for us to choose the narrow gate. The narrow gate is the answer to finding Christ and life.

The word **“enter”** is an imperative command, active, aorist, and in plural. All of you who have heard this command in any season of life are commanded to choose the right way, to enter the narrow gate for your salvation. While there is still time, while you have the opportunity, the grace of God is being offered to you. The invitation of Christ to enter the narrow gate is open. Now, the question is what is the meaning of the narrow gate? The gate is a door and it is open for everyone to go inside that gate. There are several gates in

Jerusalem. The gates were literally and physically narrow. The Greek word for **narrow** is stenos where we get the word stenography. It is short, quick, fast, and narrow writing. Stenography is not easy writing but hard writing. But another way to define stenos is to agonise, to be in distress, to struggle. Jesus Christ is the narrow gate. He is the Exclusive gate that leads to life and His eternal Kingdom. It is the will of God for us to enter the narrow gate through Christ alone. The command is personal and an individual challenge to enter the narrow and small agonising gate. The only way to heaven and eternal life is to enter the narrow gate. But many reject the narrow gate.

Why did Jesus command His followers and hearers to make a decision to enter through the narrow gate? It looks like it is not easy, it is small and unattractive gate. The reason why is because there is another gate. It is the wide gate. Jesus said, **“for the gate is wide.”** Now Jesus will give the people an option that there is another gate. Wide means broad, a highway, a gateway, a free-for-all, or freedom to do your thing. It is a high ceiling gate and it is easy to enter. No restrictions, it is appealing, and it is a freedom gate.

This is not the preferred option of Christ. Why? This gate that is wide leads to destruction. Jesus said, **“and the way is broad that leads to destruction,”** Jesus gave two descriptions of a wide gate: First, the way to the wide gate is broad. Second, the wide gate leads to destruction. To study the word **“the way”** in Greek means the road or the path or the street. The street or path or road is not narrow nor small distressing road but it is broad. It is very very wide gateway. It is a highway. Coming to Australia and observing the broad expanded roads, most highways are wide and beautiful. I was scared at first to drive in long broad roads because I needed to be extra careful and drive faster to keep up with the pace of all the vehicles beside me. In the Philippines, I drove on narrow roads and not too broad roads and it is slow traffic. The broad wide road Jesus was talking about here has no restrictions, free fall, free drive, no morality constraints, no absolute truth, all truths are accepted from sexual immorality to perversion for the sake of love and unity. No King to rule their hearts. No biblical laws, no sinners, no more hell, and no more unrighteousness. They do what is right in their own eyes. Many people are attracted to the way that is broad.

At first, this broad way seems peaceful, joyful atmosphere and looks like true freedom and happiness. But this broad way leads to destruction. The invitation this world system gives is false freedom and deceptive happiness. It leads to death and separation from the wonderful Creator God. It is a way that carries you to a path of darkness, satan, and hell. It leads us to our own spiritual death and separation from God. It leads us away from His Holy presence forever. We are truly lost and in a place of no return. This is a place where the wrath of God is present forever. A place where your souls will be destroyed by fire and live a life of regret in hell. People who choose the way that is wide and broad is a description of their spiritual separation from God and an enemy of Christ.

But if you will choose the wide gate and the way that is broad go ahead. You know the answer. Jesus knew and acknowledged the hearts of men are evil continually. People want their freedom and will choose the way that is broad. According to Jesus, “and **there are many who enter through it.**” Many people coming through the wide gate. It just makes sense the road is wide. A great size of people by the thousands are choosing the wide road. It is broad and free. Open to all. Rich and poor, educated or not, or any people group are rushing through the wide gate. Sad to say, this is the reality we are now living in. Fewer and fewer people are choosing the narrow gate.

Jesus will now explain why many are more attracted to the wide gate. First, in **verse 14 “For the gate is narrow.”** The door that leads to life eternal is narrow. The way to true lasting peace and joy is narrow. It is small and tiny gate. It is not attractive and appetising to the eyes. It looks lonely and depressing. Only a few go inside the narrow gate. But this is the will of God people must enter the narrow gate that leads to Jesus Christ.

Second, why many people are choosing the wide gate, it is constricted. The way or the road is constricted. Jesus said, “**and the way is constricted.**” What is constricted? The word constricted is synonymous with the word narrow. But in Greek it is thlibo. To afflict, to squeeze, or to press, to pinch. The feeling of a narrow way is not good and pleasurable. There is distress, hardship, and trials. It also means you are shrinking, you are being compressed as you pass through the narrow way. You need to strive hard, you need to agonise to go in, and you need to seek, ask, and knock. You need humility and you need to have a gentle spirit. You need to persevere and endure. You need to hang on to your life and your faith. You need the help of the Holy Spirit. You need to fight and compete like an athlete as Paul said in 1 Corinthians 9:25. To seek the narrow gate is being hungry and thirsty for His Kingdom and His righteousness. This is the constriction. In short it is not easy. It is an exercise of real faith and trust in God with humility, sincerity, and seriousness in heart. Not playing around with your Christian life. No compromise. Not defending your ideas and lifestyle but living a selfless life for Christ as your Lord, Saviour, and King.

The narrow gate and the constricted way is a better way. It does not lead to destruction and separation from God but eternal life. If we choose the narrow gate the result is, “**that leads to life.**” What kind of life? According to Jesus, the life here is to be with the life giver, to be with God who lives forever. You will live with God for eternity and forever. This is what Jesus is talking about. Jesus said, I am the way (but the narrow way), I am the Truth (there is no truth besides Him). He is the absolute truth. And I am the Life (He is the giver of eternal life, peace, and joy). The narrow way leads to life. But remember what leads to eternal life with Christ is a narrow gate and it is a constricted way. To choose this way and this gate that leads to life you need to abandon your sinful habits and lifestyle. Abandoning the pleasures of this world. Instead, you pursue purity, holiness, godliness, and righteousness. Continual confession of sin and

repentance. Choosing hardship and persecution. To be a servant of all like Jesus. Denying self and following Christ.

Aside from a narrow gate and a constricted way, the third way why many people are choosing the way that is broad, “and **there are few who find it.**” Only a few will make a decision to enter the way to life. Only a few find Jesus Christ and believe Him and embrace Him as their Lord and Saviour. Only a few can see the narrow gate. Only a few will decide to follow Christ, only a few are willing to suffer and abandon their sinful life in the world. Only a few will truly follow Christ and only a few will persevere and remain faithful till the end. Only a few who will humbly pray and say to God, “I repent and I believe You, Jesus. I want to be faithful and true to You Lord Jesus. I want to live under the righteousness of God. I choose to fear God and love God and His Word.” Only a few can fully understand the Gospel of Christ. Only a few can find the treasure. Only a few discover the true meaning of the cross of Christ, His death, resurrection and His coming back again.

Do you want to find the narrow gate? Remember only a few find it. But if you are reading this and are serious about finding the way and being counted, you need to choose Christ. You need to believe in the power of the Holy Spirit and all the works and righteousness of Christ on the cross who paid the penalty for your sins. Be determined to know the crucified Christ and His suffering. To walk with God as a selfless servant of Christ. To persevere till the end. To obey and trust Christ and His words in the Bible. To make disciples in season and out of season. Be willing to deny yourself, take up your own cross, and follow Christ all the days of your life here on earth. Like Paul, he considered everything he achieved in life as rubbish because of Christ. I urge you to enter now the narrow gate and live with Christ in the hope of eternal life.