

TEXTUAL SERMON

"The Two Ways"

Matt. 7:13-14

I The Way of Life

1. It is an open way
2. It is a narrow way
3. It is the way of the few

II The Way of Destruction

1. It is a broad way
2. It is a crowded way
3. It is a fatal way

Star Birkeland #11  
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" THE TWO WAYS "

✓ Matthew 7:13-14

" Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

Many of us have lived for years with the idea in mind that there are many religions in the world, but I have discovered that there are really only two religions. One which <sup>A</sup>eminate<sup>s</sup> from the heart of man and the other which comes from the heart of God.

✓ The so-called religion which comes from the heart of man is nothing but mere imagination but that which comes from the heart of God is a revelation.

In our scripture we notice that there are two gates, two ways, two companies, and two ends.

Let us consider for a few moments the two ways.

The first way is the way of LIFE. You might say,

✓ ("Well), just do you mean by this life?"

✓ First of all, this life, according to the scripture, is u.e. a protected life, a life surrounded by a fence, for the words says,

✓ "Enter ye in at the straight gate", thus we are given the idea of a place of safety or a place fellowship and plenty.

✓ I remember so <sup>E</sup>will when my little nephew was born. Every precaution was taken to keep any harm from coming to him.

✓ His crib had a very high fence-like affair around it, all the stairways were blocked off with gates, a fence was put up around

✓ the yard, and just every thing was done to protect the child from any harm.

We are given this same protection only to a much greater measure as we enter into the life of Christ. Truly in H<sub>im</sub>

Paragraphs too brief



we have safety from sin and wrath, fellowship with God and true satisfaction in the fullness of God. This, my friend, is passing from death into life, life eternal.

If you will refer back to the scripture with me, you will find that this is a straight gate yet it is not closed. Praise God, it is an open way, a way for "whosoever will" and not one shall be turned away, no not one.

In ~~Revelation~~ 3:8 we read, "Behold, I have set before thee an open door". Praise God, it is opened but you know at one time this way was closed. (Yes,) it was closed by sin and fenced up by the law but Jesus came and opened the way. (Yea,) Jesus <sup>was</sup> obedient even unto death for us that we might gain entrance into the Holy of Holies and have personal communion with God. Thank God we don't have to wait outside the Holy of Holies while the priest goes in to be with God because the veil is no longer in the way. We read in Matthew 27: 50-51, "And Jesus, when he had cried again with a loud voice, yielded up the ghost. And, behold, the veil of the temple was rent in twain from the top to the bottom; and the earth did quake, and the rocks rent;" And because of this we have the privilege of having personal communion with God.

My friend, this is the new life, <sup>AND</sup> the new living way." Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life, no man cometh to the Father but by me" / so there are no back doors to this salvation, but we must come through the precious blood of Jesus. Have you found that way? I'm so glad that "I've found a way through the blood past the veil, to the Holy of Holies with God. There by His power over sin I prevail, I can walk in the path that He trod. There in the presence of Jesus I stand, Glorified Son at the Father's right hand. There I can plead, I can claim, I can have, All that He purchased for me."

*v.c. v. writes as a poem*



(Yes) it is an open way, but it is a narrow way, too.

✓ The scripture says "straight is the gate and narrow is the way."

I remember seeing a picture of some small boys who were going on a hike. They were loaded down with sleeping bags, lunches and many other things which were needed. All seemed to be going well until they came to a fence and a narrow passage. They had to either climb over the fence or squeeze through the narrow passage way. Since the fence was too high they decided to go through the narrow way, but one little boy just couldn't get through. He pushed and squeezed and held his breath and still he couldn't get through. He had <sup>o</sup>to much stuff he was trying to take through with him, to <sup>o</sup>much excess baggage.

How many men and women today are trying to get through this narrow way loaded down with excess baggage? I think we have all fallen in this respect. What we need is to <sup>R</sup>strip ourselves of these things such as self-righteousness, pride, jealousy, riches, and (the) such like, for these things can never get through the narrow way.

u.e. "Few there be that find it", why? because few there  
u.e. be that seek this way. The word of God says, "Seek and ye shall find".  
When the Bible says to seek I believe that is exactly what it means,  
u.e. ✓ and if you refer to Webster's <sup>A</sup>dictionary you will find that he defines  
✓ the word "seek", as "going in search of, to look for, to resort to, or  
✓ to inquire for."

I wonder how many are really seeking, are really and earnestly looking for and going in search for this life. I'm afraid that many are shunning it rather than seeking it. They are preferring darkness to light.



✓ You might say, "Well, just who are you to be condemn-  
✓ ing and accusing people like that!" My dear friends, if this were  
✓ not so why are mens' deeds so evil? Why is it that we read in the  
papers daily of some one being murdered or attempting murder or sui-  
✓ side? How could any one seeking light take a child and not only  
✓ murder it but <sup>ISS</sup> desec its little body, throwing part of it in the  
✓ SEWER and scattering it about?

✓ (Yes.) these may be the extreme cases that I am mention-  
✓ ing but it doesn't matter what it is, sin is sin in the sight of God.

✓ Now there are others who just put it off, put it off,  
✓ thinking that they'll have a little fling and then they'll settle  
down and be religious after they have wasted the best years of their  
✓ lives. The Bible says, "today is the day of salvation", and in Gen.6:3  
u.c. ✓ God says, "My spirit will not always strive with man" and how true  
that is.

✓ I heard a story just the other day of a young girl  
✓ with whom God had been dealing. It seemed a day didn't go by but  
what she could feel the convicting power of God in her heart. One  
✓ day she went to her mother and asked her what she thought it was,  
and the mother told the young girl that it was God speaking to her  
and asking her to give her heart to Him. Much disturbed the girl  
✓ went to her room and tried to study her scholl lessons and try<sup>ed</sup> to  
✓ get rid of, or ignore, this feeling within her, but it became stronger  
and stronger until the girl lifted her young, beautiful face upward  
as if she were staring God directly in the face and she said, "God,  
if this is you bothering me like this and keeping me from enjoying  
✓ my life, will you please stop? Leave me alone and I'll leave you  
✓ alone because I don't want any of you, I hate God."

u.c. Within a week the girl took sick. The Doctors said



✓ they could do nothing as they didn't understand the symptoms of her sickness. She was prayed for but still she got worse until every one knew that there was no hope. There she lay on her dying bed with her mother and father by her bedside pleading with her to accept Christ but all she would do was curse God and then as she breathed her last breath she screamed, "Oh, for some water, Mother  
 ✓ get me some water, I'm so thirsty and it's so hot down here, I'm burning up." With that she cursed God again and died.

v.c. ✓

No, God's spirit will not always strive with man. One of these days God will ask you for your heart for the last time what will you say?

✓ We find others now who think they will just stumble  
 ✓ into this way of life, but, dear friends, this is no chance work.

"We must strive to enter" and in Matt. 6:33 Jesus said, "Ye shall find me when ye shall seek for me with all your heart."

look it up.

wrong. Jer. 29:13

In the remaining few minutes let us consider the other way. The way of destruction.

✓ The word "destruction" here means "loss" and this is very significant because it is the loss of that which alone can satisfy. A man who is lost is like a watch that has lost its  
 ✓ main spring, or like a plant loosing the dirt from its roots, or like one who has lost all his privileges and hopes.

✓ This way is a broad way. It's nice and roomy with a lot of swivel chairs for the lazy, room for all those wishing to  
 ✓ dance. OH, there's room for the whole world and the flesh and the  
 ✓ devil for they have full scope here. It's broad enough for the staggering drunkard, the dishonest and unclean, for the scoffer and  
 ✓ the proud, for the haughty religious formalist. (Yes,) it, too, is an open way, open for all the wicked but different from the other open way this is a crowded way. Why? because it is so much easier to



coast downhill that to pump uphill.

✓ Mens hearts are evil and deceitful and naturally prefers the pleasures of sin to the fellowship of God. These people don't know that at "His right hand there are pleasures for evermore" and while these sinful pleasures last for only a season the pleasures that God has are eternal. Praise His Name. These folk that go this broad way are without God and not only are they with out God but they are with out any hope.

Truly we can see that this is a fatal way and that there is only possible end to this way, (yes) destruction. As sure as a stone sinks to the bottom of the sea will the man perish who loves and follows sin.

"The wages of sin is death", that is all the devil has to offer you at the end of a life that is sold out to him, nothing but death, destruction and eternal damnation.

"Oh, turn ye , turn ye, for why will ye die?"

Christ has offered you life, life eternal, life with Him in glory. In Jer. 21:8 He says, "Behold, I set before you the way of life and the way of death."

✓ Which way are you going to choose, friend?

"CHOOSE LIFE"