

Wide and Easy

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“For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.” Matthew 7:14

English (NASB)	Greek	Definition
“For-	tis	who, which, what
the gate-	pylē	a gate, of the larger sort, in the wall of either a city, a palace, a town, the temple, a prison, the gates of hell (likened to a vast prison), metaph. the access or entrance into any state
is small-	stenos	narrow, strait
and-	kai	and, also, even, indeed, but
the way-	hodos	properly, a way, a travelled way, road, a travellers way, journey, travelling, metaph. a course of conduct, a way (i.e. manner) of thinking, feeling, deciding
is narrow-	thlibō	to press (as grapes), press hard upon, a compressed way, narrow straitened, contracted, metaph. to trouble, afflict, distress
that leads-	apagō	to lead away, esp. of those who are led off to trial, prison, or punishment
to-	eis	into, unto, to, towards, for, among
life,-	zōē	life, the state of one who is possessed of vitality or is animate, every living soul, life, of the absolute fulness of life, both essential and ethical, which belongs to God, and through him both, to the hypostatic "logos" and to Christ in whom the "logos" put on human nature, life real and genuine, a life active and vigorous, devoted to God, blessed, in the portion even in this world of those who put their trust in Christ, but after the resurrection to be consummated by new accessions (among them a more perfect body), and to last for ever.
and-	kai	See previous
there are-	eimi	to be, to exist, to happen, to be present
few-	oligos	little, small, few, of number: multitude, quantity, or size, of time: short, of degree or intensity: light, slight

who find-	heuriskō	to come upon, hit upon, to meet with, after searching, to find a thing sought, without previous, search, to find (by chance), to fall in with, those who come or return to a place, to find by enquiry, thought, examination, scrutiny, observation, to find out by practice and experience, to, see, learn, discover, understand, to be found i.e. to be seen, be present, to be discovered, recognized, detected, to show one's self out, of one's character or state as found out by others (men, God, or both), to get knowledge of, come to know, God, to find out for one's self, to acquire, get, obtain, procure
it.-	heautou	himself, herself, itself, themselves

Beginning, Abiding, Finishing

Beginning

Jesus starts with a command to enter through the *narrow gate*. Then begins to explain why.

- We need to be told because few find the narrow gate
- We need to be told because its narrow & possibly hard to find
- “Find” give the implication of a search
- We do not just stumble upon this gate accidentally
- The is either an intentional search/introduction to this gate

What is it that makes the narrow gate hard to find?

- All of the *world* is pointing/leading to another gate (wide gate)
- It goes against everything in *ourselves* to enter by the narrow gate

Romans 8:7 “The sinful mind is hostile towards God... Those controlled by the sinful nature cannot please God.”

Matthew 7:21 “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.”

John 6:40 “For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who looks on the Son and believes in him should have eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.”

*2 Corinthians 4:3 “And even if our **gospel is veiled**, it is **veiled to those who are perishing**. In their case the god of this world has blinded the minds of the unbelievers, to keep them from seeing the light of the gospel of the glory of Christ, who is the image of God.”*

The Way- Hodos

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

The exact same word "hodos" is used here by Christ to say that he is "the way".

To fulfill what is called of us in vs. 12 (To love the lord your God with all of your heart, mind, soul, strength, & to love your neighbor as yourself) one must first love Christ.

John 8:42 "Jesus said to them, "If God were your Father, you would love me, for I came from God and I am here. I came not of my own accord, but he sent me."

What is the narrow Gate?

John 10:9 "I am the door/gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

Shepherd as the door for the sheep. He literally laid his body in the gap of the pen to keep them safe. The only way in or out was through him.

- So too it is with Christ
- He laid his body down for our sake, and not one goes to the Father but through Him

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

Why is the Gate narrow?

Picture of God's holiness

The way is exact and without turning from left or right because that's how our God is

Proverbs 4:27 "Do not swerve to the right or to the left; turn your foot away from evil."

There aren't many ways of getting right with God. There is only **one** way.

There aren't many images of God. Just **one**.

There are many revelations of God's word. Just **one**.

The Gate is narrow because God/Christ is narrow, and Christ is the Gate.

John 10:9 "I am the door/gate. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture."

Read from book page 248, next to last paragraph

“This narrow road is not only difficult— it imposes boundaries on what we think and believe. But this down not mean the narrow road is repressive. Far from it!” Kent Hughes

“On the narrow road our thoughts about God and truth are both enlarged and confined.” Kent Hughes

Abiding

Why is the way hard?

The way is narrow and remains narrow the whole way.

Christ doesn't budge after we come into a right relationship with Him.

Narrow (Thilbo): to press (as grapes), press hard upon, a compressed way, narrow straitened, contracted, metaph. to trouble, afflict, distress

God's word works as a sieve in our life. Pressing hard up against our lives and pushing out that which does not line up with His will. It serves to refine us until there nothing left, but that which is pleasing and glorifying to Him.

**God takes us as we are, but He is not willing to leave us as we are.

Undertow Illustration

- Have to constantly be pushing against the current
- To stay still is to be moved

The way is hard but our decisions don't have to be

“Most of my decisions are already made for me.” David Burns

- Because he is allowing God's word to dictate the decisions of his life
- Doesn't make them easy decisions
- Just makes them easy to make

Finishing

What makes the hard way worth it? (Share) (Life)

What makes it worth it for me to enter by this narrow gate and to stay on this hard road?

- The promise of life (zoe) ==> "leads to life"

What makes it worth it to tell others about this narrow gate and hard way?

- The promise of death (apoleia)

2 Corinthians 5:20 "Therefore, we are ambassadors for Christ, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

"Some want to live within the sound of church or chapel bell; I want to run a rescue shop within a yard of hell." ~ CT Studd

"How could I spend the best years of my life in living for the honours of this world, when thousands of souls are perishing every day?" ~ CT Studd

Ezekiel 33:1-9

*"The word of the Lord came to me: 2 "Son of man, speak to your people and say to them, If I bring the sword upon a land, and the people of the land take a man from among them, and make him their watchman, 3 and if he sees the sword coming upon the land and blows the trumpet and warns the people, 4 then if anyone who hears the sound of the trumpet does not take warning, and the sword comes and takes him away, his blood shall be upon his own head. 5 He heard the sound of the trumpet and did not take warning; his blood shall be upon himself. But if he had taken warning, he would have saved his life. 6 **But if the watchman sees the sword coming and does not blow the trumpet, so that the people are not warned, and the sword comes and takes any one of them, that person is taken away in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at the watchman's hand.***

*7 "So you, son of man, I have made a watchman for the house of Israel. Whenever you hear a word from my mouth, you shall give them warning from me. 8 If I say to the wicked, O wicked one, you shall surely die, and you do not speak to warn the wicked to turn from his way, **that wicked person shall die in his iniquity, but his blood I will require at your hand.** 9 But if you warn the wicked to turn from his way, and he does not turn from his way, that person shall die in his iniquity, but you will have delivered your soul."*

2 Corinthians 5:20 "Therefore, we are **ambassadors for Christ**, God making his appeal through us. We implore you on behalf of Christ, be reconciled to God."

Acts 1:8 "But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and **you will be my witnesses** in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth."

Witness (martyr): The root of that word is where we get our modern day word "martyr".

There was a death that was required to be a witness for Christ.

It cost Christ His life. It cost the Apostles all of theirs. The early church went through brutal years of persecution and martyrdom. And today there are more killings of Christians than in any other time in the history of the church.

But much of this seems so far away and irrelevant to us here in a country that has so many freedoms and is without for the most part religious persecution.

So how do we relate? What does this mean for us?

Romans 12:1 "living sacrifice"

John 12:24 "Unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies"

There is a **daily death** and sacrifice that we can lay down for the sake of Christ. Many of us won't be called to make an ultimate sacrifice (physical death), but ultimately all of us are called to sacrifice on behalf of the evangelization of the world.

Someone has to die

Because God is just, holy, and immutable He has to punish sin like He said He would.

So either I have to die to myself in some way so that others may come to know Christ, to be reconciled to God, or they will have to die for their sins.

Either I die for my sins or Christ dies for my sins.

Either I die to my comfort, reputation, finances, future,

What thing or part of your life is currently being leveraged for the sharing of the gospel, reaching the world for Christ?

- Finances (giving sacrificially to missionaries and ministries)

- Free time (building relationships w/ lost)
- Bible Study (share the gospel w/ lost)

What part of your life could you see being leveraged for reaching others for Christ?

- Finances
- Intentional w/ to build relationships
- Invite existing friends/family to church/Bible study

“There are only three kinds of Christians when it comes to world missions: zealous goers, zealous senders, and disobedient.” ~ John Piper ~

“It is the whole business of the whole church to preach the whole gospel to the whole world.” — Charles H. Spurgeon

Ending

Life or death

Deuteronomy 30:19-20 “19 I call heaven and earth to witness against you today, that I **have set before you life and death, blessing and curse. Therefore choose life**, that you and your offspring may live, 20 loving the Lord your God, obeying his voice and holding fast to him, for he is your life and length of days”

Beginning - Remaining - Ending

Beginning	====> Gate	====> Christ (John 10:9)
Abiding	====> Way	====> Christ (John 14:6)
Ending	====> Destination (Destruction/Life)	====> Christ (John 17:3)

Is Christ your all in all?

- Begin day with Him?
- Walk through day with Him?
- End your day with Him?

Beginning

John 10:7-10 "So Jesus again said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, **I am the door** of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 **I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved** and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly."

Abiding

John 14:6 "Jesus said to him, "**I am the way**, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever **abides** in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing."

Ending

John 17:3 "And this is **eternal life**, that they **know** you the only true God, and **Jesus Christ** whom you have sent.

Jesus is our motive, our means & the prize!

<i>Constraining from sin</i>	<i>===></i>	<i>Liberating from sin</i>
<i>Limiting from worldly pleasures</i>	<i>===></i>	<i>Unlimited pleasure in Christ</i>
<i>Death 2 Self</i>	<i>===></i>	<i>Life in Christ</i>