

# THE INSTRUCTOR



*"All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." 2 Timothy 3:16*

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## ARE THEY FEW THAT ARE SAVED?

"And he went on his way through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying on unto Jerusalem. And one said unto him, Lord, are they few that are saved? And He said unto them, Strive to enter in by the narrow door: for many, I say unto you, shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able." (Luke 13:22-24). "Enter ye in by the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many are they that enter in thereby. For narrow is the gate, and straitened the way, that leadeth unto life, and few are they that find it." (Matthew 7:13-14).

This is an unpleasant truth, isn't it? We naturally recoil from the thought that the majority of people shall fail of finding and pursuing the way which leads to eternal life. But if the Bible is true, and there is no sense in quoting it unless it is, only a few are going to make it to Heaven.

### WHY ONLY A FEW?

There are millions of religious people - yet only a few will be saved. Jesus tells us why in these verses. There are two characteristics of the way which leads to Heaven that make it sure that only a few will enter. The gate is **narrow** and the way is **difficult**.

### THE NARROW GATE

In this age when to be broadminded is a virtue extolled on every hand, for Jesus to proclaim that the gate is narrow seems out of place. But if you stop to think, you will

realize that all truth is narrow. The religion of God is no different from any other realm of truth. Two plus two always makes four in the realm of mathematics. The rule of truth is too narrow to allow an answer of five or three. Just so in the revealed religion of Christ there is only one entrance into the one way which leads to Heaven. This is logical if "truth" is to characterize the religion of God. When men say, "You believe your way, I'll believe mine — and we'll both get to Heaven," they are removing religion from the realm of truth.

But the fact is, "truth" was the word Jesus used to describe that which will make men free. He said in John 8:32, "Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." It is the **truth**, not the error, which saves. And truth is narrow.

Just as surely as we all don't believe alike, some of us are believing that which is not the truth. We can't all be believing in the truth when we believe the opposite. The Lord knew this would be so, and He inspired the apostle Paul to write in 2 Thessalonians 2:10-12, "with all deceit of unrighteousness for them that perish; because they received not the love of the **truth**, that they might be **saved**. And for this cause God sendeth them a working of error, that they should believe a lie: that they all might be judged who

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## Editorial . . .

### THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT

It seems that many people have no true concept of the standard by which we all shall be judged when we "appear before the judgment seat of Christ".

Just as certain as death is, there will be a resurrection and a judgment. The Hebrew writer tells us that "it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27). During His personal ministry on earth, Jesus said: "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29). The apostle Paul said: "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in the body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (2 Cor. 5:10). Again, we read in Romans 14:10: "... for we all shall stand before the judgment seat of Christ." In preaching Jesus to Cornelius and others in Acts 10 the apostle Peter said: "And he commanded us to preach unto the people, and to testify, that it is he which was ordained of God to be the Judge of quick and dead." (Verse 42).

No one who believes the New Testament will question the fact that death is appointed unto all men. Neither will any

New Testament believer deny the fact that all the dead will be raised and stand before Christ in judgment.

In view of the coming judgment, let us consider what the New Testament teaches will be the standard by which we shall be judged.

We will not be judged by Mohammed, Krishna, the Pope, Joseph Smith, Martin Luther, John Calvin, B.C. Goodpasture, Carl Ketcherside nor Reuel Lemmons.

The Koran, Krishna's writings, the declarations of the Pope, the Book of Mormon, the teachings of Luther, Calvinism, the Gospel Advocate, the Mission Messenger or the Firm Foundation will NOT BE THE STANDARD by which we shall be judged.

Jesus Christ who is both God and man will be the Judge before whom we all must stand and be judged! Read carefully the following passages and you will see that this is so.

1. JOHN 5:22 says: "For the Father judgeth no man, but hath committeth all judgment unto the Son." NOTE: The Father will judge us through (or by) His Son.

2. ACTS 17:30-31 says: "And the times of this ignorance God winked at; but now comandeth all men every where to repent: Because He hath appointed a day, in the which He will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom He hath ordained; whereof He hath given assurance unto all men, in that He hath raised him from the dead."

3. 2 TIMOTHY 4:1 says: "I charge thee therefore before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ, who shall judge the quick and the dead at His appearing and His kingdom."

4. 2 TIMOTHY 4:8 says: "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

Without question, the New Testament reveals the fact that Jesus Christ who is the Son of God will be our Judge in the last day.

The Word of God as revealed in the Scriptures will be the standard by which we shall be judged when we stand before God in judgment. A candid reading of the following Scriptures should convince all of the fact.

1. JOHN 12:48 says: "He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that

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believed not the truth, but had pleasure in unrighteousness." Not only did the Lord know there would be many who would believe a lie in religion, He said those who do will be damned.

The gate to the way which leads to Heaven is as narrow as truth itself. There is no room for human opinion or for tampering in any way with the will of God. When Jesus says, as He does in Mark 16:16, "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved," the gate to salvation is exactly that narrow. One who tries to broaden that gate to admit all of those who believe but are **not** baptized is trying to do the impossible. He is, instead, leading men to go the broad way which leads to destruction. When the apostle Peter said in Acts 2:38, "Repent ye and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of your sins and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," he was preaching the narrow truth one must obey to enter the way which leads to eternal life. One who refuses to repent, or is not baptized for the remission of his sins, has failed to obey the truth; and if he thinks he can be saved without obeying those commands, he is believing a lie which will ultimately damn his soul.

## THE DIFFICULT WAY

Jesus also said, however, that we must **strive** to enter in by the narrow door. It is not enough to have a degree of love for the truth. There must be an active searching of the Scriptures and an active effort to bring our lives into conformity to God's Word before we will be able to enter the door. One who has some love of the truth, but doesn't have enough to search the Scriptures and work to conform his life to the Word, will not enter. No man will get to Heaven by accident. You must take upon yourself the task of searching the Scriptures, proving the spirit, and following the truth.

Then, after one has found and entered the way, he will find it a **difficult** way. We are not used to the old fashioned word "straitened." This means "difficult, hard." The Christian life is not an easy way. It involves sacrifice and work and devotion - a daily self-denial and willing shouldering of the cross. There

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## JESUS REMAINS THE SAME

Men are constantly changing. Their opinions and ideas vary from day to day. Their thinking is shaped by what they read and hear, and the circumstances in which they live. They are **for** a thing today and **against** it tomorrow. A faithful man may become unfaithful; a strong opponent of a proposition may later be its ardent advocate.

Some have made the mistake of placing their faith in a man — perhaps a good man at the time. But when he changes his course they either had to change with him or lose faith. The Bible says, "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines." (Hebrews 13:8-9). Since Jesus does not change, the man who puts faith in him will never be disappointed.

Some men expect the whole church to follow suit every time they change their views. But we should remember that the truth does not change. The church which looks to Jesus as its head should change

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## ARE THEY FEW THAT ARE SAVED?

is a very real possibility that even after we become Christians we may fall from the way and perish eternally. Paul wrote in 1 Corinthians 10:12, "Wherefore, let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall."

It is easy to see, therefore, why Jesus said there will be few saved. People do not look for the difficult, narrow way. Most want an easy religion and shop for a church as they shop for a car - looking for the one which pleases them most. Stopping to examine the Bible carefully and then looking for the church which pleases God is too difficult and time-consuming. So the majority today, like the majority in every age, are missing the narrow gate and the difficult way. They are taking the broad way which leads to destruction.

Friend, let Jesus' words be a warning to you. Do not follow the majority to Hell. Study the Bible. Work to understand God's will. Then obey the Lord no matter what the cost. Enter the narrow way which leads to eternal life with Jesus.

—Paul K. Williams  
in APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE

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## JESUS REMAINS THE SAME

only when it realizes that it has drifted from the truth. Error demands correction.

It ever there was a day when we need our eyes on Jesus and the Bible, avoiding being carried about with divers human notions, this is that day. Only in divine truth can we find stability, harmony, and security. "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Corinthians 15:58).

--Irvin Himmel  
in APOSTOLIC DOCTRINE,  
May, 1967

### RESPONSIBILITY FOR DIVISION

**Who is responsible for division** in the body of Christ? With the introduction of untaught things into the work and worship, the answer is not difficult. Since it is not the things in the Bible that divide the people, but the things that are not in it, the responsibility for such divisions rests upon him who ventures beyond the things that are written. Where the Bible speaks, we must speak; but where the Bible is silent we must hold our peace. This followed, and division will end. There are two sides to every question — the right side and the wrong side. The side opposed to untaught things is the right side.

--C.M. Pullias

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**THE STANDARD OF JUDGMENT**  
judgeth him; the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day."

2. ROMANS 2:16 says: "In the day when God shall judge the secrets of men by Jesus Christ according to my gospel."

3. REVELATION 20:12 says: "And I say the dead, small and great, stand before God; and the books were opened and another book was opened, which is the book of life: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

4. JAMES 2:12 says: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty."

We should understand from reading the above Scriptures that the Word of God will be the standard by which each one of us will be judged. It is to your advantage and for your benefit that you learn, believe and obey God's will in this life. Otherwise, you will stand before God without excuse — condemned!

(CRS)

1 PETER 1:13-14 says: "Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ; As obedient children, not fashioning yourself according to the former lusts in your ignorance."

## Sentence Sermons

There is no such thing as "idle gossip." Gossip is always a "busy body."

Education does not mean teaching people to know what they do not know. It means teaching them to behave as they do not behave. --Ruskin

Man's Sunday self and his week-day self are like two halves of a round-trip ticket: not good if detached.

In a heated argument, the best instrument to hold is the tongue.

One advantage of travelling the strait and narrow is that no one is trying to pass you.

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