

"THE ROAD LESS TRAVELED"

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it."

Matthew 7-13-14 (New International Version)

THE GATE IS NARROW BECAUSE . . .

1. WE ENTER IT _____.

"That if you confess with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you confess and are saved... ¹³for, "Everyone who calls on the name of the Lord will be saved."

Romans 10:9-10, 13 (NIV)

2. IT IS ONLY _____.

"I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved....."

John 10:9a (NIV)

"Jesus answered, "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."

John 14:6 (NIV)

[Peter]: *"Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved."*

Acts 4:12 (NIV)

[Paul]: *"[God] wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*

1 Timothy 2:4-5 (NIV)

3. YOU PRIORITIZE _____ OVER _____.

"Then he said to them all: "If anyone would come after me, he must deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me."

Luke 9:23 (NIV)

THE ROAD (WAY) IS NARROW BECAUSE....

1.IT REQUIRES _____ AND _____
TO LIVE COUNTER-CULTURALLY.

"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." **Matthew 7:21 (ESV)**

".....discipline yourself for the purpose of godliness; ⁸ for bodily discipline is only of little profit, but godliness is profitable for all things, since it holds promise for the present life and also for the life to come." **1 Timothy 4:7b-8 (NASB)**

2.THE CHRISTIAN LIFE IS _____ TO BE EASY.

"A thief is only there to steal and kill and destroy. I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of."
John 10:10 (The Message)

3.IT ALWAYS INVOLVES _____; AND, WHEN TRULY
LIVED OUT, INVOLVES _____.

"So don't be embarrassed to speak up for our Master or for me, his prisoner. Take your share of suffering for the Message along with the rest of us. We can only keep on going, after all, by the power of God, ⁹ who first saved us and then called us to this holy work....." **2 Timothy 1:8-9a (The Message)**

"If you are insulted for the name of Christ, you are blessed, because the Spirit of glory and of God rests upon you." **1 Peter 4:14 (ESV)**

"Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven." **Matthew 5:10 (NIV)**

"In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted"
2 Timothy 3:12 (NIV)