



The Good News

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True Faithfulness

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(A side note: the mathematician in me is screaming about the fundamental concept of uniqueness that applies almost perfectly to this article, but for the cause of brevity—and mercy for the readers—I will resist.)

In verses 13 and 14 of Matt 7, we are told about the narrow and wide gates, as well as the less-traveled difficult passage and the broad highway, one leading to everlasting life and the other leading to condemnation. It's an explicit description of the duality of our spiritual existence: there are only two results after we have spent our time on this earth. One might think of a parallel with Thomas Edison's efforts at creating a light bulb, in that there are untold ways in which we can NOT follow the will of Father, and only one way in which we can follow the will of the Father: we must enter through His Son.

One of the difficult aspects of this passage is that it is not, by any means, limited to different "religions." For instance, your local protestant church may tell you that you can't achieve everlasting life through Buddha; they'd be right, of course, but Buddha isn't the only wrong way to go about it. The problem many "Christians" have is that they do not follow the will of God *completely*. As far as God is concerned, then, those people *do not follow His will*. There are an untold number of laudable, honorable things that we can do in our time on this earth; spending our time doing such things and not adhering to the will of God will result in the same judgment reserved for those who work evil in the eyes of humanity: condemnation. Why? Why will there be people who do good things in the name of God that will be told they have no place among the saved? Because it is not our place to determine what is necessary for salvation...it's God's.

Matt 7: 13, 14 is an explicit expression of what Christ and His apostles teach throughout the New Testament: obedience of God's will is the path

to salvation for us. This fact is at the heart of everything a Christian does in their life! It **MUST** be the underlying foundation to every single action we take, every single thought or motive we have. Why? Because following God's will is a continual command; it's not broken up into segments throughout our day, it's not just applicable to our time sitting in a pew, or when we have free time that we choose to give to the service of God's will. It's always, it's every single second we draw breath. It's when we wake up in the morning and choose how we look at the day we have in front of us; it's when the inconsiderate driver cuts us off after we've had a bad day and are starting to get a really bad headache; it's when we're standing in line behind someone with \$250 worth of groceries and just as many coupons when we're in a hurry; it's when we're being faced with unreasonable behavior from those whom we love; it's now. It's five seconds from now. It's all the time. It's continuous. It's a never-ending practice of God's will. Simply being a "Weekend Christian" will not allow us to be successful at following the path God has set for those who would be saved.

We cannot, by any means nor under any circumstances, decide for ourselves which path leads to salvation. God has made that determination for us; it is ours to follow that narrow, strait, *clearly-defined* road. Following our own path and explaining that we've done good works is nothing more than the arrogance of believing that we're capable of defining what God will accept as faithfulness. How dare we?

Matt. 7:21, "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven."