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STRAIT is the GATE...**NARROW** is the WAY...**to LIFE!**

nter 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" (Matthew 7:13-14).

Since this verse **ENDS** with the words "**FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT**," then we should pay close attention to the **FULL** meaning of this verse, and, <u>whether or not</u> we **FULLY** comply.

The **ONLY WAY** to **ENTER INTO ETERNAL LIFE** is **THROUGH** the <u>Strait Gate</u>! **NO**! Not the word "<u>straight</u>," but "**STRAIT**!"



"STRAIT" means RESTRICTED or CONSTRICTED; TIGHT; CONFINED, as ships traveling through the <u>Strait of Hormuz</u> between <u>Iran</u> and <u>Oman</u>.

The entrance to **ETERNAL LIFE** is so <u>restricted</u> that "...there shall in no wise **ENTER INTO IT ANY THING** that **DEFILETH**, neither whatsoever **WORKETH ABOMINATION**, or **MAKETH A LIE**" (Rev. 21:27).

This includes <u>Atheists</u>, who out rightly show their disrespect and contempt for God <u>to His face</u>; or practicing <u>homosexuals</u> who are an open <u>abomination</u> to God; or members of <u>any religious organization</u> such as <u>Islam</u> who **MAKETH A LIE**, declaring that <u>Jesus Christ</u> is **NOT** the <u>Son of God</u>.



Satan introduced the idea [THE LIE] that the <u>Word of God</u> is fallible, meaning capable of error, and that it was written by men, instead of EVERY

WORD PROCEEDING "...out of the **MOUTH** of God" (Matthew 4:4).



This **LIE** has allowed an onslaught of <u>blasphemous</u> bibles to be printed and <u>memorized</u> by millions as the **NEW** and **IMPROVED** Word of God, such as the **NIV** and the **NLT** bibles.

Because **FAITH** <u>comes</u> by **HEARING**, Satan is doing <u>all he can</u> to **DIVERT** man from **HEARING** the <u>TRUE</u> Word of God through counterfeit paraphrased bibles.

The prophet Amos wrote about these times: "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord God, that I will send a FAMINE in the land, not a famine of bread, nor a thirst for water, but of HEARING THE WORDS of the Lord" (Amos 8:11).

"There is a WAY [A BROAD WAY WITH A WIDE GATE] which SEEMETH RIGHT [STRAIGHT] unto a man, but the END THEREOF are the WAYS of death" (Proverbs 14:12), "...and MANY THERE BE which GO IN there at" (Matt. 7:13).

The <u>reason</u> so many "<u>GO IN</u>" the <u>broad way</u> of **DESTRUCTION**, is because of traditions, experiences, logic, reason, emotions, and pleasures. **THERE IS NO ROOM** for <u>religious baggage!</u>

To make **SURE** we are able to **ENTER** the <u>strait</u> <u>gate</u>, and the <u>narrow way</u>, God **WARNS** <u>Christians</u> to "**EXAMINE YOURSELVES**, <u>whether YE</u> **BE IN THE FAITH; PROVE** <u>your **OWN** <u>selves</u> [NOT</u>

OTHERS]. KNOW YE NOT your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is IN YOU, except ye be REP-ROBATES [UNAPPROVED; REJECTED]" (2 Cor. 13:5)?

Do you KNOW FOR SURE that Jesus Christ is IN YOU? God wants you and I to PROVE OUR-SELVES, and to "...GIVE DILIGENCE [DONE WITH CAREFUL, STEADY EFFORT] to MAKE YOUR CALL-ING AND ELECTION SURE" (2 Peter 1:10).

How do you MAKE SURE OF YOUR CALLING?

Before you became a <u>Christian</u>, were **YOU** seeking God, or was God seeking **YOU**? If <u>you</u> were seeking God, you would be the **FIRST**, for "...there is <u>NONE</u> that seeketh after God" (Romans 3:11).

Remember, **FAITH** comes by **HEARING**, not by a <u>soothing religious melody</u> or a "<u>touching sobstory</u>" sermon that brings <u>tears</u>, but the <u>death</u>, <u>burial and resurrection</u> in the <u>Word of God</u>.

Did HEARING words like this: "They are ALL gone aside, they are ALL together become FILTHY: there is NONE that doeth good, NO, NOT ONE" (Psalm 14:3; 53:3; Romans 3:10, 12) bring a sense of GUILT and "godly sorrow" to you (2 Cor. 7:10), causing you to CALL UPON THE NAME OF THE LORD with words like, "God be MERCIFUL to me a sinner" (Luke 18:13)?

God <u>DOES NOT WANT</u> you to ask Him to "<u>come into my life</u>, and have a **PERSONAL RE-LATIONSHIP** with me?" God wants you to <u>RE-PENT</u> to be <u>saved</u>!

Jesus said "I am the WAY, the TRUTH, and the LIFE: NO MAN COMETH unto the Father, but BY ME" (John 14:6). The Holy Spirit will "GUIDE YOU into ALL TRUTH" (John 16:13) and you "...NEED NOT that ANY MAN TEACH YOU..." (1 John 2:27), but He, the Spirit, TEACHES YOU!

Our Lord said to "STRIVE [THIS MEANS TO STRUG-GLE FOR] TO ENTER IN at the STRAIT GATE: for MANY, I say unto you, will SEEK TO ENTER IN, and SHALL NOT BE ABLE" (Luke 13:24-27).

Don't let the <u>god of this world</u> BLIND YOUR MIND into being CONTENT <u>where you are spiritually</u>. <u>OBEY</u> the Lord's command: <u>EXAMINE YOURSELVES</u>, <u>PROVE</u>, <u>MAKE SURE</u>!