**FEW BE THAT FIND IT**

**INTRODUCTION**

**SCRIPTURE READING....MATTHEW 7:13-14.... 13Enter 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:14Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.**

**A. Jesus shows that there is a way that leads to life and a way**

**that leads to destruction.**

**1. He shows that the way to destruction is broad, and many will**

**go into destruction by it.**

**2. He shows that there is a narrow way that leads to life, and**

**few find it.**

**B. Actually, He gives two illustrations: a gate and a road.**

**1. One gate and road is: narrow, difficult, is entered by few,**

**and leads to life.**

**2. The other gate and way is: wide, broad, is entered by many,**

**and leads to destruction.**

**C. In this lesson we will concentrate on the expression, "and**

**there are few who find it."**

**1. Why do only a few find the narrow way?**

**I. BECAUSE THE WAY IS STRICT, RIGOROUS AND DIFFICULT.**

**A. The word "strait" as used in the KJV, is not the word**

**"straight" which means without curves, crooks or bends.**

**1. It is spelled "s-t-r-a-i-t," which means nearly the same as**

**the word "narrow" (the second word used here) and means**

**"being narrow, restricted, hemmed in, hard pressed." As**

**Paul said, "I am in a strait betwixt the two..." Phil. 1:23**

**2. The KJV and ASV uses the two words interchangeably. KJV**

**says, "strait is the gate, and narrow is the way," whereas**

**the ASV says, "narrow is the gate, and straitened the way."**

**a. The NJKV says, "Narrow is the gate and difficult is the**

**way."**

**B. Our Lord's use of words shows that the way to life is hard,**

**rigorous and difficult.**

**1. Many people do not enter the narrow way because of the**

**difficulty involved.**

**a. Being a Christian is the most challenging task ever laid**

**upon anyone. It takes all that one has, and is, to be a**

**faithful Christ.**

**b. It takes one's whole being.**

**Matt. 22:37**

**2. Most people shun a difficult task.**

**a. Moses (Ex. 4). First, he said the people will not believe**

**or hear me. God worked two miracles and said, "If they**

**will not harken to the first sign, they will believe when**

**they see the second."**

**(1) Moses then made the excuse that he could not**

**speak. Vs. 10 Notice God's answer. Vs. 11-12**

**b. As we know, Moses accepted God's challenge and went**

**on to be a great leader.**

**3. There are many examples in the Scriptures of those who**

**courageously accepted difficult challenges.**

**a. Abraham left the Ur of Chaldees, not knowing where**

**God was leading him for he looked for a city which has**

**foundations.**

**Heb. 11:8-10**

**b. Noah was not one who shunned a difficult task. Heb.**

**11:7**

**c. Rahab hid the Israelite spies from the King of Jericho**

**because she had faith in the one true God. Joshua 2:11**

**4. We need to determine that though living the Christian life**

**may be often difficult, we will be up to the task.**

**Luke 9:23**

**a. Let us continually remind ourselves of the reward.**

**Rom.8:18; 2 Cor. 4:17**

**II. Another reason many do not find the narrow way is BECAUSE OF**

**PREJUDICE.**

**A. "Prejudice" is forming an opinion, or holding to something as**

**true, without examining the facts.**

**1. Isaiah the prophet condemned this frame of mind.**

**Isa. 6:9-10**

**a. This was quoted by Jesus and applied to the people of**

**His time.**

**Matt. 13:14-15**

**b. They were blinded to the truth because of their**

**preconceived ideas.**

**(1) They were looking for a Messiah who would sit upon**

**the literal throne of David, destroy all their**

**enemies, and restore the kingdom to its former**

**power and glory.**

**(2) Jesus tried to teach them that the kingdom would**

**be a spiritual one.**

**Luke 17:20-21**

**(3) When Jesus did not fit into their preconceived**

**ideas, and when He began to expose their**

**wickedness, they hated him and set about to**

**destroy Him.**

**B. Prejudice did not die with the scribes and Pharisees.**

**1. Many today have their preconceived ideas of how the**

**religion of Christ should be.**

**a. For example, Jesus said, "Because strait..." (vs. 14)**

**b. However, many proclaim, "Broad is the way that leads**

**to life, and many there be which go in thereat."**

**(1) "We are all going to the same place, but by**

**different ways," they say.**

**(2) They say, "If your teaching (of the church of Christ)**

**is right, look at how many you are saying are wrong."**

**(3) They have pre-conceived ideas that most all religious**

**people will be saved, for they are good moral people.**

**2. Let us put away prejudice and simply go to the Bible with**

**open minds in order to learn what God wants of us.**

**2 Cor.13:5; 2 Pet. 1:10**

**III. Many do not find the way that leads to life -- BECAUSE OF**

**DECEPTION.**

**A. There are many false prophets in the world, disguised as**

**preachers of the gospel.**

**2 Cor. 11:13-15;**

**2 Pet. 2:1-2**

**1. It is significant that**

**Matt. 7:15-20 follows 7:13-14.**

**2. Many well-known denominational preachers claim there are**

**many ways to heaven.**

**a. Billy Graham once said, "There are many right ways to**

**heaven, but only one wrong way." Again, the opposite is**

**true--there are many wrong ways, but only one right**

**way.**

**B. No one will be excused because he has been deceived.**

**1. The scriptures repeatedly warn against false teachers. Eph.4:14; Col. 2:18**

**a. We are to know them by their fruits--by what they teach**

**and do.**

**2. The Bereans showed the right way to determine if one is**

**teaching truth.**

**Acts 17:11**

**a. John's exhortation --**

**1 John 4:1**

**IV. Another reason many do not find the narrow way is because they**

**SUCCUMB TO PEER PRESSURE.**

**A. Many succumb to the pressures of family, friends, associates,**

**religious leaders, etc.**

**1. The parents of the man who was born blind failed to confess**

**Jesus because they feared their religious leaders.**

**John 9:18-22**

**a. It was not because they did not know (they had the**

**strong, open testimony of their own son), but because of**

**the pressures of men they did not take advantage of an**

**opportunity to confess our Lord.**

**2. Many of the rulers believed on Jesus, but did not confess**

**Him because they wanted the admiration of their fellow men.**

**John 12:42-43**

**3. For this same reason, many did not believe at all.**

**John 5:44**

**B. For one to be of the narrow way, he cannot allow anyone to**

**discourage, pressure, or in any way hinder him from finding and**

**entering it.**

**1. He cannot submit to wishes of anyone but God.**

**Matt. 10:37;**

**Luke 14:26**

**V. Another reason many do not find the narrow way is because WE FAIL**

**TO TELL OTHERS ABOUT IT.**

**A. Let us considers ourselves debtors as did Paul.**

**Rom. 1:14-15**

**B. Let us be like the early Christians.**

**Acts 8:4; 1**

**Thess. 1:8**

**1. We need to proclaim the word at every opportunity we have.**

**a. We should not consider it a hard task or heavy burden,**

**but a joy and privilege.**

**2. If more of us were diligent in proclaiming the word at every**

**opportunity, more would find the narrow way.**

**a. Let us, as servants of the Lord, go out into the highways**

**and hedges and compel them to come in.**

**Luke 14:23**

**b. Lets us always be ready to give an answer to everyone.**

**1 Pet. 3:15**

**c. Let us maintain the attitude of the prophet Isaiah**

**(Isa.6:8)**

**and Paul**

**(1 Cor. 1:16).**

**VI. Many do not find the narrow way because they are PREOCCUPIED**

**WITH WORLDLINESS OR MATERIALISM.**

**A. They are like the seed which fell among the thorns.**

**Luke 8:14**

**B. Their problem is that they lack true interest in saving their**

**own souls.**

**1. They don't understand the value of the soul, not even of**

**their own.**

**Matt. 16:26**

**2. They do not fear God. As Paul said --**

**Rom. 3:18.**

**a. They think that God is so merciful that somehow they**

**will get by and God will save them after all.**

**b. They need to come to understand the true nature and**

**character of God.**

**Rom. 11:22**

**c. God will render vengeance on all those who do not**

**know Him and who do not do His will.**

**2 Thess. 1:6-9**

**C. For one to find the narrow way, he must come to have a genuine**

**interest in saving his own soul and escaping the wrath of God.**

**1. Any who hunger and thirst after righteousness will be**

**filled.**

**Matt. 5:6**

**a. One must come to love the truth.**

**2 Thess. 2:10**

**b. Those who truly want to do the will of God shall know**

**the truth.**

**John 7:17; 8:31-32**

**Concl.**

**A. Why do only a few find the way that leads to life?**

**1. Because the way is strict, rigorous and difficult.**

**2. Because many are prejudiced--blinded to the truth.**

**3. Because many have been deceived by false teachers.**

**4. Because they succumb to the pressures of family, friends, or**

**religious leaders.**

**5. Because we, as Christians, fail to tell them about the**

**narrow way.**

**6. Because many are so preoccupied with the affairs of this**

**life, they have no genuine interest in saving their own**

**souls or escaping the wrath of God.**

**B. Remember, Jesus gave only two choices. There is no third**

**alternative.**

**1. You can travel the easy road where nearly everyone is**

**traveling.**

**a. It is unrestricted. There is room for every opinion,**

**doctrine and practice.**

**b. You can do whatever comes naturally--be a lover of**

**self, enjoy the pleasures of sin.**

**c. There is no need of learning of the true religion or**

**practicing it.**

**d. But rest assured and remember: this way leads to**

**destruction, eternal damnation.**

**2. Or, you can travel the other road where there are only a**

**few.**

**a. This way is strict and difficult--setting before us a**

**great challenge.**

**b. Its boundaries are ordained by divine revelation--the**

**way of truth.**

**c. It requires sacrifice, self-denial, and obedience.**

**d. But rest assured, this way leads to eternal life.**

**(1) Jesus is encouraging us to travel it. "Enter ye**

**in..."**

**Matt. 7:13**

**(2) May God help us to travel in the narrow way which**

**leads to life.**

**Chart:**

**Why Do Few Find The Narrow Way?**

**Because it is strict, rigorous and difficult.**

**Because many are prejudiced.**

**Because they have been deceived.**

**Because they succumb to peer pressure.**

**Because we fail to teach them about it.**

**Because they have no genuine interest in their souls.**