

San Juan Church of Christ

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What Does God's Word Say About... Choosing the Right Gate

This week we will study what Jesus meant when He said, "For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life, and there are few who find it...not every one who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who DOES THE WILL of My Father who is in heaven will enter," (Matt. 7:14, 21). Many religious people will say on judgment day what they have done for the Lord and will be told, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness." Jesus said, "everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man," (Matt. 7:23-24). Some will say that we just need to hear the words of Jesus, but we also need to hear and obey the commandments of the apostles, (1 Cor. 14:37; 1 John 4:6).

On the Day of Pentecost, when the Jews realized they had crucified the Messiah, asked Peter, "What shall we do?" (Acts 2:37). Peter, understanding the commandment that Jesus had given the apostles in Matt. 28:19-20, told them, "Repent, and each of you be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit," (Acts 2:38). "So then, those who had received his word [Peter's] were baptized...And the Lord was adding to the church day by day those who were being saved," (Acts 2:41, 47). Jesus taught there was only one church [kingdom] to which He would add the obedient (Matt. 16:18-19; John 17:20-21). The apostle Paul also spoke of one body [church] to which those who were obedient through baptism would be added by God (Eph. 4:4-6).

In Montrose County you can choose from approximately 40 different churches to attend. Many church leaders will say you can choose which church best suits you and there are many different paths one can take to arrive at the same place [heaven]. The Bible speaks of only two roads... "the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction...the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to life," (Matt. 7:13-14). Yes, there are different roads, but only one goes to Heaven, and it is narrow.

When Jesus met the Samaritan woman at the well, she pointed out that her people worshipped differently from His (John 4:19-20). Jesus did not reply that both roads led to the same place; He said, "You worship what you do not know; we worship what we know" (John 4:22) and that if she wished to please God, her worship must be in truth (John 4:24).

Many false teachers will say that doctrine really does not matter if your attitude is right. To refute this idea, the Bible says that there are doctrines that God does hate (Rev. 2:15), and that some doctrines are of demons (1 Tim. 4:1). Taking heed to true doctrine is necessary for salvation (1 Tim. 4:16; 2 John 9), because obedience to God's form of "doctrine" is what makes one free from sin (Rom. 6:17-18).

The idea that multiple roads [doctrines] will lead to heaven and that men can choose what they feel is right for them will receive the judgment of Jesus when He said, "Why do you call Me, 'Lord, Lord' and do not do what I say?" (Luke 6:46).

Please send any comments, questions, or requests for a Bible study to:
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