

**NARROW GATE,  
NARROW WAY**



# **NARROW GATE, NARROW WAY**

Paul Washer



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*Narrow Gate, Narrow Way*

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## **The Author's Prayer**

*Father, I am so small and so pitiful in so many ways. I tremble lest false fire should be brought before Your altar. Yet what if fire came down from heaven, amid all the noise, clamor, and activities of the world? If fire would come down from heaven, then these dead bones would live. You know, O Lord.*

*I pray and I beg before the throne of God that in Your sovereignty You would be gracious to us, that You would open hearts and minds. Lord, we cannot wait for men and women to open theirs. They never will. Open up their hearts and minds and cause them to see biblical truth. Breathe on them. Grant them repentance. Grant them faith. Bring*

*them into Your kingdom, Lord, for Your own glory, for the sake of Your own great name; do this thing, Lord. Let it come to pass, Lord, so that no man will take credit for it, so that no man will lay his hand to the ark of God and be struck down dead. Oh, God, move among us, please, because we have no other hope. These young people have no other hope except that You move. Amen.*



## **Matthew 7:13–27**

*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.*

*Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. You will know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes from thornbushes or figs from thistles? Even so, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a bad tree bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown*

*into the fire. Therefore by their fruits you will know them.*

*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. Many will say to Me in that day, "Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?" And then I will declare to them, "I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!"*

*Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded on the rock.*

*But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them, will be like a foolish man who built his house on the sand: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it fell. And great was its fall.*

## Test Yourself

It is a tremendous privilege for me to address you in this way.<sup>1</sup> In doing so, I will preach as a dying man to dying men and women and youth. I will preach as though I will never preach again, and I will tell you things that you may misunderstand. I will tell you

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1. The material in this booklet was originally preached as a single sermon on a specific occasion. This volume is not simply a transcript of that sermon. Most of the changes involve an attempt to turn spoken, more sermonic language into written, more literary language. The aim has been to maintain the sermonic force while recognizing the constraints and embracing the capacities of the written form. All revisions have been carried out with the desire to honor the meaning of the preacher, the spiritual intent in the sermon, and, above all, the God whose Word is being proclaimed.

things that may make you angry with me, and I will tell you things that you may deny. I will tell you things that you may say I have no right to tell you. But before you come to any conclusion about what is being said here, you must ask yourself one question.

You must ask this question because preaching is a very dangerous thing. It is dangerous for me because the Bible says that false teachers will undergo greater condemnation. If what I tell you is not true, then I am in a great deal of trouble and have every right to do this with fear and trembling, because I will stand condemned before God. But if what I tell you today is true, then you have good cause for fear and trembling. If I correctly interpret this passage of Scripture that I am going to give you, it will be as though God were speaking through a man. Your problem will not be with me; it will be with God and His Word. So, here is the key question that has to be decided: Is this man before us a false prophet, or is he telling us the truth? If he is

telling us the truth, then nothing else matters except conforming our lives to that truth.

We will be considering Christ's words from the seventh chapter of the Gospel of Matthew. In looking at this, I am not troubled in my heart about your self-esteem. I am not troubled in my heart about whether you feel good about yourself, whether life is turning out the way you want it to turn out, or whether your checkbook is balanced. There is only one thing for me that provokes sleepless nights. There is only one thing that troubles my soul, and it is this: within a hundred years, a great majority of people reading this little book will possibly be in hell. And many who even profess Jesus Christ as Lord will spend eternity in hell.

You ask, "How can you say such a thing?" I can say such a thing because I have done much of my Christian work outside of America. I have spent much time preaching in South America, in Africa, and in Eastern Europe. I want you to know that when

you take a look at American Christianity, it is based more on a godless culture than it is on the Word of God. So many young people and adults are deceived into believing that because they prayed a prayer one time in their life, they are going to heaven. Then, when they look around at others who profess to know Christ and see those people living just as the world does, and when they compare themselves by themselves, nothing troubles their heart. They think, “Well, I am the same as most of the others in my youth group. I watch things I should not watch on television and laugh about the very things that God hates. I wear clothing that is sensual. I talk like the world. I walk like the world. I love the music of the world. I love so much that is in the world, but bless God, I am a Christian. Why am I a Christian? Well, I don’t look any different from most of the other people in my church. Why am I a Christian? Because there was a time in my life when I prayed and asked Jesus Christ to come into my heart.”

I want you to know that the greatest heresy in the American evangelical and Protestant church is the false idea that if you pray and ask Jesus Christ to come into your heart, He will definitely come in. You will not find that in any place in Scripture. You will not find it frequently in church history until the last century or two. What you need to know is that salvation is by faith alone in Jesus Christ. And faith alone in Jesus Christ is inseparable from repentance. Repentance is a turning away from sin; a hatred for the things that God hates and a love for the things that God loves; and a growing in holiness and in the desire not to be like the latest popular idol, like the world, like the great majority of American Christians. It is a desire to be like Jesus Christ!

You may not realize that I am addressing you. I do not say this for your approval, or to be applauded. I am speaking to you and about you.

So often people might come up to a preacher like me and say, "Oh, I'd love to

follow you into Romania” or “I’d love to follow you into the Ukraine” or again “I’d love to preach where you preached and planted churches in Peru in the jungle.”

And I tell them, “No, you wouldn’t.”

They say, “Yes, I would.”

I say, “No, you wouldn’t.”

“Why?”

“Because you would be excommunicated from the church down there.”

I am not trying to be hard for the sake of being hard. Do you realize how much love it takes to address so many people and tell them that American Christianity is almost totally wrong? Do you know what it costs a man to be cast out? To be unpopular? Do you know why faithful preachers do it? Not because we get paid well. Not because we are loved by people. We do it because we love people and because, more than that, we want to honor God.

I want to tell you something. We are going to look into Scripture, and I want you to consider it as it really is. This is not about