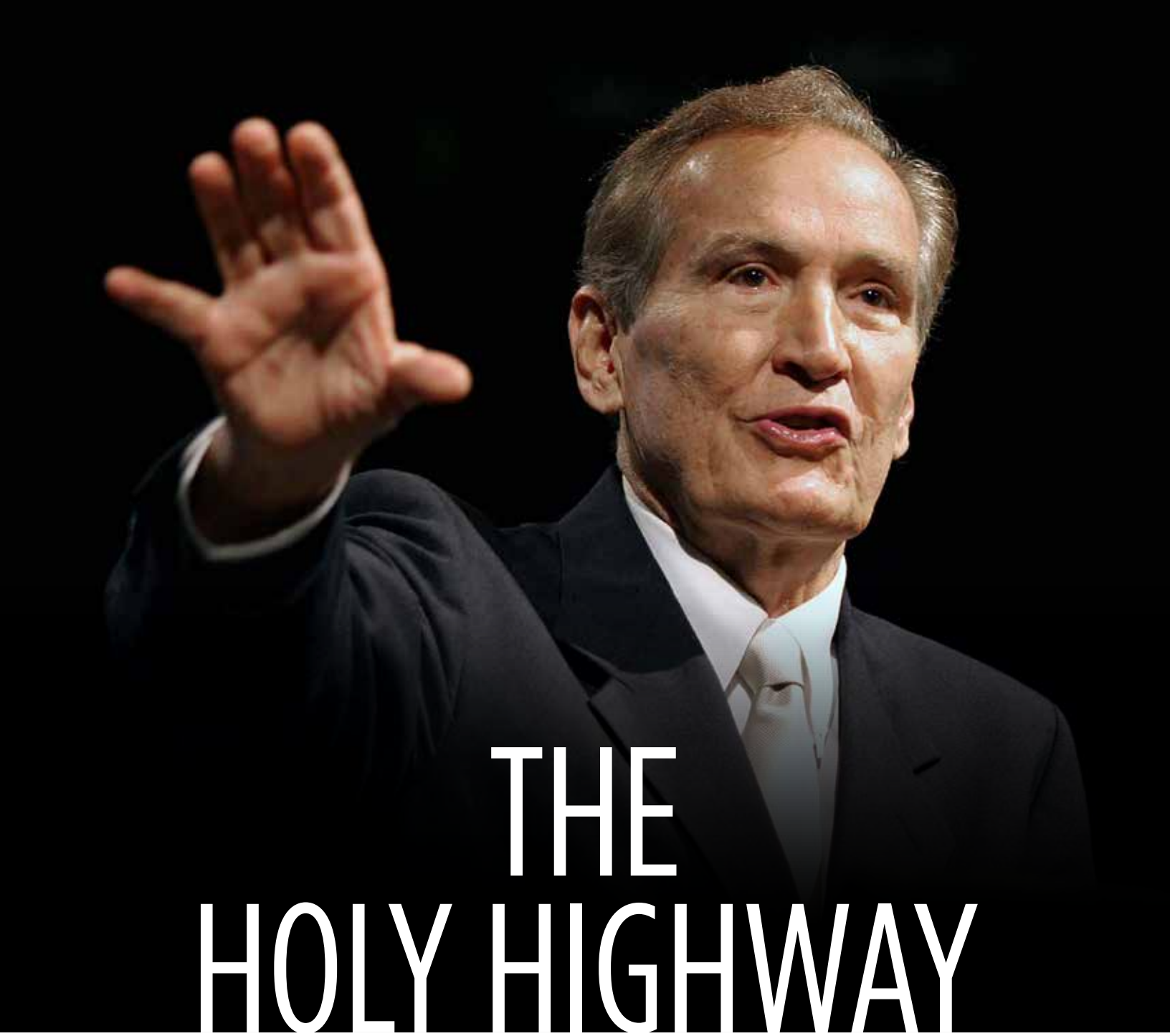

THE HOLY HIGHWAY

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS

The Holy Highway

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The Holy Highway

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 7:13-14
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1709

The Holy Highway is the straight and narrow path we are called to journey on.

Matthew 7:13-14 says, "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."

First, these verses show us there is a decision to face.

Out of all the paths we could choose in life, there are really only two ways we can go: the broad way or the narrow way.

God does not categorize us according to our status or economic class—He divides us up by the path we've chosen. He sees whether or not we are following Jesus on the narrow pathway.

Because of God's great love, we have the freedom to choose. But there's no such thing as not making a decision—even the decision not to decide is a decision (and not a good one). We cannot choose the consequences of our choice. We will all face the good or bad outcomes of our decisions, so we must choose carefully.

Once we've decided to walk on the straight and narrow, there is a direction to follow.

The narrow way is a disciplined way. There is no easy, cheap, or lazy way to serve Jesus.

While salvation is free, discipleship is costly; but without discipline, there is no power. It is a different way; don't expect crowds to be on the straight and narrow.

Adrian Rogers says, "It starts at a different source, it follows a different course, and it ends at a different conclusion."

Though it goes against the tide most times, it is a delightful way. Only those who are living clean and certain lives can experience the joy of walking with Jesus Christ; on the journey, we become even more cheerful and confident in our faith.

Finally, there is a destiny to find at the end of the way.

No matter fearful or fabulous—life or death—it is final. It all depends on which path we chose today.

Life Application

Have you made your decision to walk the straight and narrow path that leads to life? Remember: you are free to choose, you are not free not to choose, nor can you choose the consequences of your actions.

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1) INTRODUCTION
   a) There are all kinds of roads in the world.
      i) There are some good roads.
      ii) There are some very bad roads.
      iii) There are some dangerous roads.
   b) Matthew 7:13-14
      i) This passage of Scripture is about the holy highway, the King's highway.
         (1) It is the strait and narrow way.
   c) If you have not yet done so, then today, put your feet on the strait and narrow path that leads to life.
   d) In today's message, we will look at the following:
      i) There is a decision to face.
      ii) There is a direction to follow.
      iii) There is a destiny to find.

2) THERE IS A DECISION TO FACE (MATTHEW 7:13)
   a) The Lord says, "Enter in."
      i) Matthew 7:13
      ii) It is up to you.
         (1) There is a decision that you must make.
   b) There are only two ways:
      i) The broad way
         (1) The way that leads to destruction.
      ii) The narrow way
         (1) The way that leads to life.
   c) Modern man doesn't like that there are only two ways.
      i) People get all uptight when you tell them that there is only one way to Heaven.
      ii) We like to put people in all kinds of categories and gradations.
         (1) We like to talk of people as being upper class, middle class, and lower class.
   d) God never divides people horizontally; God always divides people vertically.
      i) Right and left
      ii) Sheep and goats
      iii) Saved and lost
   e) The Lord Jesus never preached to please the crowds.
      i) Matthew 7:13-14
         (1) There are only two kinds of travelers.
         (2) There are two kinds of roads.
      ii) Matthew 7:17
         (1) There are only two kinds of trees bearing two kinds of fruit.

iii) Matthew 7:24, 26
(1) You are a builder building one of two houses.
iv) God doesn't look on the outward appearance; God looks on the heart.

f) There are only two categories of people:
i) The saved and the lost.
(1) Those who are with Jesus; those who are against Jesus.
(2) Those who are loving Jesus; those who are hating Him.
(3) Those who are receiving Jesus; those who are rejecting Him.
(4) Those who are crowning Jesus; those who are crucifying Him.
(5) Those who are on the road to Heaven; those who are on the road to Hell.
ii) Everyone is in one of these two categories.
(1) Either you are on the holy highway, or you are on the broad way.

g) People today tell Christians not to be narrow-minded, because they say that we are all headed toward the same place, just on different roads.
i) But Jesus said, "I am the way. No man comes unto the Father but by Me."
(1) John 14:6
(2) Jeremiah 21:8
(a) That is narrow.

h) Some people say that it is not nice to be narrow; they want to broaden the strait and narrow.
i) But Jesus didn't preach that way.
(1) Matthew 7:14
ii) Galatians 1:8-9
(1) The word for "accursed" here literally means, "Let him be damned."
(a) Paul was saying that the road to Hell is any other gospel other than the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

i) The Bible is a narrow book; there can be no compromise with the Gospel.
i) It would be far better for someone to say that two and two equals five than to compromise the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
ii) People don't like ministers to say that this is the way it is.
(1) They want their airplane pilots to be very narrow-minded.
(2) They want their pharmacists and bankers to be very narrow-minded.
(3) But in the thing that matters the most – eternal life – they say that it really doesn't make any difference.

j) The Lord Jesus said that there are two ways, and there is a decision to face.
i) Matthew 7:13-14

k) There are certain things we must know about this decision:
i) There is the freedom of decision.
(1) You have the freedom to decide.
(a) Don't let anyone tell you that you have been predestined to go to Hell.
(i) Otherwise, Jesus never would have said, "Enter."
(2) Jesus said that you can choose, and you must choose.
(a) We are not machines; we are human beings.
(i) You are free to do as you wish.
(3) Apart from the grace of God, we are not free to do as we ought.
(a) We are free to do as we wish, but it takes the grace of God for us to do as we ought.

(b) The problem is with our "wanter".
(i) We want what is wrong until we have the grace of God in our hearts.
(c) The only reason we can choose to do right is because He first chose us.
(d) He has chosen us, and He has invited us.
(i) Revelation 22:17
(ii) He will give us the power and the ability to come if we want to come.
(4) The only reason that we have this freedom to decide is because He has loved us and set His grace upon us.
ii) There is the forcing of decision.
(1) While we are free to decide, we are not free not to decide.
(a) We are forced into a decision this very moment.
(2) We cannot do what Pilate thought he was doing, which is to wash our hands of Jesus Christ.
(a) Matthew 27:24
(b) Pilate said that he wouldn't decide; he would let the people decide.
(i) History and eternity have proven that Pilate's indecision was his worst decision.
(ii) The decision not to decide was a decision.
(3) When we refuse the Lord Jesus Christ, we are not merely neutral.
(a) Matthew 12:30
(i) Jesus said, "He that is not with Me is against Me."
iii) There are the fruits of decision.
(1) We are free to choose, we are not free not to choose, and we are not free to choose the consequences of our choice.
(a) A person may decide to jump from a ten-story building, but they are not free to negate the law of gravity.
(i) They are free to choose, but they are not free to choose the consequences of their choice.
(b) People talk about free love.
(i) But when the flames of lust turn into the flames of Hell, that is a part of the consequence of their choice.
(ii) 1 Corinthians 6:18
(iii) Exodus 20:14
(c) People talk about the freedom of choice.
(i) They want to say that they are pro-choice.
(ii) They say that they have decided not to have this baby, but they already have a baby.
1. What they are deciding is whether it will live or not.

l) Choice is before all of us.
i) Our Lord says, "Here is a way. Enter in."
(1) Matthew 7:13
ii) Everyone is free to choose.
(1) You are not free not to choose.
(2) You are not free to choose the consequences of your choice.
iii) You don't have to choose to go to Hell.
(1) To go to Hell, all you have to do is refuse to receive Jesus.

(a) You are already on the broad way.
(i) The Lord doesn't say not to enter the broad way.
(ii) He says to enter the narrow way because you are already on the broad way.
1. Matthew 7:13
(2) What must you do to be saved?
(a) "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved."
(i) Acts 16:31
(3) What must you do to be lost?
(a) Nothing.
(b) You are already lost without the Lord Jesus Christ.
(i) We are sinners by birth, sinners by nature, sinners by choice, sinners on the broad way, and sinners on the way to Hell.

m) There is a decision to face.

3) THERE IS A DIRECTION TO FOLLOW (MATTHEW 7:13-14)

a) Matthew 7:13-14
b) The narrow way is the way that every blood-bought child (everyone who is saved) is walking today.
i) This is the holy highway.
c) The narrow way is a disciplined way.
i) Matthew 7:13
(1) When the Bible says "strait" here, it is not talking about "straight" like a straight line, it means discipline.
(a) Rigorous is the way.
ii) There is not a cheap way, easy way, or lazy way to serve the Lord Jesus.
(1) 2 Timothy 2:3
(a) We're to endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ.
iii) It pays to serve Jesus, but it also costs to serve Jesus.
(1) The problem with many people is that they have sort of a cheap grace, easy believe-ism.
(2) While salvation is free, there is a discipline to the Christian life.
iv) Without discipline, there is no power.
(1) Loose wires disconnected don't make a beautiful sound.
(a) But if we connect the wires and put them in a piano and stretch them until there is tension (discipline), then we get the music.
(2) There is steam and vapor in the air, but there is no power.
(a) If we compress it and put it in an engine, then it will turn the turbine and pistons because there is power.
(3) Matthew 7:13
v) Today, we are looking for an easy and lazy way to serve the Lord Jesus.
(1) But Jesus said that strait is the way.
(a) It is a disciplined way.
d) The narrow way is a different way.
i) Matthew 7:14
(1) "Few there be that find it."
ii) Don't expect the crowds to be on this way.

(1) Don't follow the crowds.
(a) The crowds are almost always wrong.
iii) Most people take comfort in saying that they are just like everyone else.
(1) But our way is a different way.
(a) It starts at a different source.
(b) It follows a different course.
(c) It ends at a different conclusion.
iv) If you are on this way, then you will be going against the tide most of the time.
v) We are twice-born people in a world of once-born people.
(1) They are different from us, and we are different from them.
e) The narrow way is a delightful way.
i) There is joy in serving the Lord Jesus Christ.
ii) Isaiah 35:8-10
iii) It is a clean way.
(1) Isaiah 35:8
(2) If your heart is full of sin and you have never repented, then you will not be on the holy highway.
iv) It is a certain way.
(1) Isaiah 35:8
(a) "The wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein."
(i) This means that a stranger without good sense can find his way on the holy highway.
(ii) We don't have to have a PhD. to travel this highway.
(2) Matthew 11:25
(3) Just come to Jesus and believe on Him.
(a) It is gloriously simple.
v) It is a confident way.
(1) We don't have to worry about losing our salvation.
(2) Isaiah 35:9
(3) We can get on this road and let the Lord Jesus be our companion.
(4) The Lord Jesus will keep us.
vi) It is a cheerful way.
(1) Isaiah 35:10

4) THERE IS A DESTINY TO FIND (MATTHEW 7:13-14)

a) Every road is going somewhere.
i) The road you are on right now is going somewhere.
(1) When you get to where you are headed, where will you be?
b) Matthew 7:13-14
i) The Lord said that there are only two destinations:
(1) Destruction
(2) Life
c) Decision determines direction, and direction determines destiny.
i) Maybe you are on the broad way.
(1) If Hell is not in your plan, then why don't you do something about it?

d) It may be a fearful destiny.
   i) It may be destruction.
   ii) Jesus had more to say about Hell than any other person in the Word of God.
      (1) It was Jesus who talked about destruction.
         (a) Matthew 7:13
   iii) If you go past Calvary, then you will come to the gates of Hell.
      (1) God has lifted up Calvary with the blood-stained Prince of Glory hanging in agony, and He says, "Stop, or you will end up at the gates of Hell."
e) It may be a fabulous destiny.
   i) It may be life.
      (1) That life begins not when we die, it begins when we step onto the strait and narrow.
   ii) John 10:10
   iii) We are on our journey home.
      (1) Each step we take is one step closer to home.
      (2) It will be worth it all when we see Jesus.
f) It will be a final destiny.
   i) There is no chance after death.
      (1) Ecclesiastes 11:3
         (a) When you die, your destiny is fixed.
   ii) In the Bible, there is not one place where God offers one shred of hope to those who die outside the Lord Jesus Christ.
   iii) Revelation 22:11
   iv) Hebrews 9:27

5) CONCLUSION
a) If you are on the broad way today, then you are on the turnpike to torment and the highway to Hell.
   i) You can exit that highway now.
b) When you say you are not going to decide, that is a decision that keeps you on the broad way that leads to destruction.
   i) You say, "Well, I have plenty of time to decide."
      (1) But the Bible says, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow..."
         (a) Proverbs 27:1
c) There is a decision to face, a direction to follow, and a destiny to find.
d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
   i) Romans 3:23
   ii) Romans 10:9-10
   iii) Romans 10:13
   iv) Acts 16:31
   v) John 3

The Holy Highway

SERMON REFERENCE: Matthew 7:13-14
LWF SERMON NUMBER: #1709

Take God's Word, be finding Matthew chapter 7. We're making our way through the Sermon on the Mount under the general heading, "Building on the Rock". And I'm going to be looking with you in a few moments at verses 13 and 14, Matthew chapter 7 verses 13 and 14. These are verses that talk about the Holy Highway. Now, when you came to church this morning, you came on some kind of a road. And that's what we're going to be thinking about today; there are all kinds of roads in the world. As a matter of fact, there are over four million miles of roadway in the United States alone. Some good road and some very, very bad roads. Some dangerous road, because we have people on our highways that have more horsepower than horse sense. And I know that you will agree with that.

I was thinking of some roads that I've traveled. I have had the experience of being in Rome, and traveling on the Appian Way. The Apostle Paul traveled on that road built by the Romans; it's still in better condition than some roadways in the world today. And one of those reasons is that the Romans laid a deep foundation. And that ought to be a lesson for us. I was thinking of some roads in this area; the Natchez Trace begins down in Natchez, Mississippi, ends up in central Tennessee. Going back up to the eighteenth century was an old Indian trail. I was thinking of the Overland Trail; beginning in Saint Louis, and going out to the far west where the stage coaches would travel. Many, many roads in the world today. After our Passion Play, I was thinking of a brief road, a short road, but an important road: The Via Dolorosa, the way of sorrows, that our Lord took as He went from the judgment hall to Cavalry.

But really, the road I want to talk to you today about is the Holy Highway. The strait and narrow; the old S&N. Look at it here, Matthew chapter 7 verses 13 and 14, "Enter 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." This is the king's highway, the holy highway, the strait and narrow way. And the desire of my heart and the prayer of my heart, is that if you've not done so, today, before this service ends, you will put your feet on the strait and narrow path that leads to life. I'll just tell you up front what I'm all about. I'm trying to get you on this holy highway.

And I want you to see three things that are in this passage, these two verses that I look at, first of all. I want you to see, as I look at it, there is a decision to face. And there is a direction to follow. And there is a destiny to find. That's what these verses tell me. First of all, they tell me there is **a decision to face**. For our Lord says, "enter in". That is, it's up to you. There is a decision that you must make. Now, there're only two ways: there's the broad way and the narrow way. There is the way the way that leads to life. There is a way that leads to destruction. Only two ways. Modern man doesn't like this. People get all uptight when you tell them that there's only one way to Heaven. We like to put people in all kinds of categories and gradations. And we like to talk of men as being upper class and middle class and lower class. But you see, God never divides men horizontally; God always divides men vertically. Right and left. Sheep and goats. Saved and lost. That's all.

Now you know the Lord Jesus never preached to please the crowds. You talk about a person who cut it right down the middle, it was the Lord Jesus. Look in these verses, just look for a moment and see what our Lord is talking about. In verses 13 and 14, He says there are only two kinds of travelers, and two kinds of

roads. Look in verses 17 and 18, He says there are only two kinds of trees, "And so, every good tree bringeth forth good fruit, and a corrupt tree bringeth forth evil fruit. A good tree cannot bring forth evil fruit, neither can a corrupt tree bring forth evil fruit." You're a traveler on two kinds of roads, you're a tree bearing two kinds of fruit, you're a builder building one of two kinds of houses. Look in verse 24, "Therefore whosoever heareth these things of Mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock." Verse 26, "And every one that heareth these things of Mine, and doeth them not, shall be likened unto a foolish man, that built his house upon the sand." Two kinds of travelers, two kinds of trees, two kinds of builders, that's the way our Lord is.

And in the congregation today, just look around, everybody kind of looks the same. We're all here this morning in our Sunday morning glad rags. But God doesn't look on the outward appearance. God looks on the heart. And in the congregation today, we say that they're young and old, rich and poor, weak and strong, and so forth. But friend, there are only two categories of people here today. The saints and the ain't's; that's all. The saved and the lost. Those who are with Jesus, and those who are against Jesus. Those who are loving Him, and those who are hating Him. Those who are receiving Him, and those who are rejecting Him. Those who are crowning Him, and those who are crucifying Him. Those who are on the road to Heaven, and those who are on the road to Hell. And you, every one, is in one of those two ways and that's all. Either you're on the holy highway, or you're on the broad way.

Now, I know what the going merchandise is in the minds of men today. They say, "Well, Pastor Rogers, don't be narrow minded." Well that's just what we are talking about today, a narrow way. "Don't be narrow minded. We're all headed toward the same place, just on different roads." Have you ever heard that? We're all headed to the same place, just on different roads." May I tell you what Jesus Christ said? The Lord Jesus Christ said in John chapter 14 verse 6, "I am the way. No man comes unto the Father, but by Me." He said, "I am the way." Jeremiah chapter 21 and verse 8 says, "Behold, I have set before you the way of life, and the way of death." That's all; that's narrow.

Now, I know there're a lot of people that say it's not nice to be narrow. I know there are a lot of people who want to broaden the old S&N; the old strait and narrow. But Jesus did not preach that way. And so look, if what I have to say today bothers you or irritates you, don't come up and argue with me about it, just read the Bible and tell God about it. Just say, "God, You made a mistake when You put this in the Bible." But don't take the issue with me. You ought to take the issue with me if I don't preach the Word of God. Jesus said, "Strait is the way, narrow is the gate that leads unto life."

Now, I know that poem by Markham, he called me a, "rebel, a thing to flout." But he said he, "drew a circle and shut me out." But, "We drew a bigger circle and took him in." That sounds all wonderful. But let me tell you what the Apostle Paul had to say. Here's what the Apostle Paul had to say, and put this verse in your margin, Galatians 1 verse 8. The Apostle Paul said, "Though we, or an angel from Heaven, preach any other Gospel unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed." Anathema. Do you know what that word literally means? Let him be damned. Now, Paul wasn't cursing. But what Paul said is, "The road to Hell is any other Gospel other than the Gospel of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ." And then Paul reiterates it in verse 9, "As we said before, so say I now again, if any man preach any other Gospel unto you than that ye have received, let him be accursed." Now the Bible is a narrow book. There can be no compromise with the Gospel. Far better it would be for you to say two and two is five, than to compromise with the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I don't know why it is, but people don't like ministers to say, "This is the way it is." Now, they want their airplane pilots to be very narrow minded. If you're flying on an airplane, say, "Now you be narrow minded. You let the flaps down and let the landing gear down, and so forth." They want their pharmacists to be very narrow minded. They want their banker to be very narrow minded when he's handling their money. They want everybody in all of these disciplines to be narrow minded, but somehow in the thing that matters the most, eternal life, they say, "Well, it really doesn't make any difference."

Now, I'm saying that the Lord Jesus said there're two ways and there is a decision to face. Jesus said, "Enter the strait gate, the narrow gate. Let me tell you something about that decision, now listen, first of all there is **the freedom to decide**. You have the freedom to decide. Don't ever let anybody tell you have been predestined to go to Hell. You have the freedom to decide. Otherwise Jesus never would have said, "Enter." Jesus said, "You can choose, and you must choose." We're not machines. We're human beings. And this morning, you are free to do as you wish. But now pay attention, apart from the grace of God, you're not free to do as you ought. Now, understand the distinction; you're free. You are free to do as you wish. But it takes the grace of God for you to do as you ought. You say, "Well, I can do whatever I want." That's true. But you see, the problem is with your wanter. You always want what is wrong, until you have the grace of God in your heart. The only reason that you can choose to do right is because He first chose you.

But you my friend, are free to choose. And He has chosen you, and He has invited you, and He has said, "Whosoever will may come", and He will give you the power and the ability to come. And today, if you want to come, there're not enough demons in Hell or out of Hell to keep you from coming. But if you choose not to come, there're not enough angels in Heaven to drag you down this aisle. There is the freedom to decide. But the only reason that you have that freedom to decide is because He has loved you and set His grace upon you.

There is the freedom of decision, but now wait a minute, there is also **the forcing of decision**. Did you know that while you're free to decide, you're not free not to decide? While you are free to decide, you're not free not to decide! You are forced into a decision this very moment. There's no way that you can do what Pilate thought he was doing, that is, wash your hands of Jesus Christ. You cannot do that. Pilate said, "Well, I won't decide, I'll let the people decide." And that lily-livered, pussy-footing politician said, "I wash my hands of Jesus." But history and eternity has proven that Pilate's indecision was his worst decision. And the decision not to decide is a decision. And when you refuse the Lord Jesus Christ, you're not merely neutral, because Jesus Christ said in Matthew chapter 12 and verse 30, "He that is not with Me is against Me." There's no way that you can be neutral. The decision not to decide is a decision. And so today, listen carefully. You will leave this building on the strait and narrow, or you'll leave it on the broad way. You'll leave this building on the road to Hell, or you'll leave this building on the road to Heaven. And you say, "I will not decide for Jesus Christ", by that very act, you have decided against Jesus Christ. Put it down in your margin, Matthew 12 and verse 30, "He that is not with me is against me."

You see, listen, there is the freedom of decision. There is the forcing of decision and there are **the fruits of decision**. Now, let me say something else. You are free to choose. You're not free not to choose. And you're not free to choose the consequences of your choice. You're free to choose. You're not free not to choose, and you're not free to choose the consequences of your choice. Now for example, you can get in a ten story building, open the window and say, "I'm free to jump out." And you are. But about that time, your choices

get diminished. What I mean, you are free to jump out, but you're not free to negate the law of gravity. You are free to choose, but you're not free to choose the consequences of your choice. These people talk about free love. "I will sleep with anybody I want to." Well, alright. You're free to choose that, but you're not free to choose the consequences. And when the warm flames of lust turn to the fiery flames of Hell, that's a part of the consequences of your choice. But the Bible that says, "Flee fornication," And the Bible that says, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

You talk about the freedom of choice. People want to say, "I am pro-choice." Choice to do what? Choice to kill a baby. You say, "We have decided not to have this baby." No my dear friend, you already have a baby. What you're deciding is will it be a live baby or a dead baby, that's what you're deciding. You're already have a baby. There is a baby that is living with in you. And you say, "I am pro-choice." You are free to choose. But you're not free to choose the consequences of that choice. There are some awful consequences. Choice is before all of us. Our Lord says, "Here's a way. Here's a narrow way. Here's a broad way." He says, "Enter in." Everybody is free to choose. You're not free not to choose, and you're not free to choose the consequences of your choice. So you have to choose very carefully.

Now, you don't have to choose to go to Hell. To go to Hell, all you have to do is refuse to receive Jesus. Because why? We're already on the broad way. Our Lord doesn't say, "Don't enter the broad way." He says, "Enter the narrow way." Why? Because you are already on the broad way.

There's a Gospel tract. On one side of the Gospel tract it says, "What must I do to be saved?" And the answer is given in Acts 16:31, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." On the other side of the tract it says, "What must I do to be lost?" And there's just a box there with nothing in it. Nothing in it. "What must I do to be lost?" Nothing, nothing. You're already lost! You're already lost without the Lord Jesus Christ. You must choose Christ. By nature, we are sinners by birth, sinners by nature, sinners by choice, sinners on the broad way, sinners on the way to Hell. And so the very first thing I see in this passage of Scripture as I think about the holy highway, friend is, there is a decision to face.

Secondly, there is **a direction to follow**. Look at it again if you will, in Matthew 7 verses 13 and 14. He says here, "Enter in at the strait gate:" that's the decision, "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." After the decision there comes the direction. Now, let me talk to you about the narrow way today. The narrow way is the way that every blood bought child is walking today. It is the holy highway. And the first thing I want to say about the narrow way, **it is a disciplined way.** When the Bible says strait here, it is not talking about straight like a straight line; it means disciplined. Rigorous is the way. If you're looking for a cheap way, an easy way, a lazy way to serve the Lord Jesus Christ, forget it. In Second Timothy 2 verse 3, the Bible says were to, "Endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ." We say well, "It pays to serve Jesus." Yes it does. But it also costs to serve Jesus. It costs every day. It costs every step of the way and there is no fine print in the contract that Jesus Christ gives.

The problem with many people today is, they have sort of a cheap grace. An easy believism. But the way of Jesus Christ, while salvation is free on the one hand, yet there is a discipline to the Christian life. Any dead fish can float down the stream. You see, without discipline, there's no power. Loose wires just disconnected don't make a beautiful sound, but if we connect them and put them in one of those marvelous piano's and stretch them until there's tension there, discipline there. Then we get the music. Steam and vapor in the air, and there's no power there but when we compress it and put it in an engine, and it will turn the turbine and

the pistons because there is power there. Take a river and just let it meander and there's no power there. But dam it up and it makes a power dam that can light up a city. Broad is the way, easy is the way that leads to destruction.

A few years ago, there was a young African, he was martyred for the cause of Christ. But before he died, he wrote these words. They were found in his room. He said this, "I am a part of the fellowship of the unashamed. The dye has been cast. I have stepped over the line. The decision has been made. I am a disciple of Jesus Christ. I won't look back, let up, slow down, back away, or be still. My past is redeemed, my present makes sense, my future is secure. I am finished and done with low living, sight walking, smooth knees, colorless dreams, tamed visions, worldly talking, cheap living, and warped goals. My face is set, my gate is fast, my goal is Heaven, my road is narrow, my way is rough, my companions are few, my guide is reliable, my mission is clear. I won't give up, shut up, let up, until I have stayed up, stored up, prayed up, for the cause of Jesus Christ. I must go till He comes, give till I drop, preach till everyone knows, work till He stops me. And when He comes for His own, He will have no trouble recognizing me, because my banner will have been clear." Compare that with the Christianity we see today. We are looking for a cheap way, an easy way, a lazy way to serve the Lord Jesus. But Jesus said, "Strait is the way." It is a disciplined way.

But not only friend is it a disciplined way, **it is a different way**. Our Lord says in Matthew 7:14, "Few there be that find it." Few there be, not many. Don't expect the crowds to be on this way. And don't follow the crowds. The crowds are almost always wrong. What is happening in America today is because the crowds are wrong. We have morality by majority. Do you know what most folks are taking comfort in? There saying, "Well, I'm just like everybody else." Isn't that what they are saying? "I am just as good as those other people." Friend, our way is a different way. It starts at a different source, it follows a different course. It ends at a different conclusion, and if you're on this way, you're going to be going against the tide most of the time. Because we are twice born people in a world of once born people and they are different from us, and we are different from them.

It is a disciplined way, it is a different way, and **it is a delightful way**. Do you think what I am saying is negative? Friend, you don't know the joy of serving the Lord Jesus Christ. Let me give you a verse. Oh, I love this, it's one of my favorite passages in the Old Testament. Put it in your margin, you may turn to it, Isaiah chapter 35. It talks about the holy highway. By the way, the song that our choir sings and we sing, "The Holy Highway" is one of my favorite songs. Isaiah 35 verses 8 through 10. Here our Lord is talking about the way that Jesus is, in the Old Testament, He's prophesying this holy highway. And listen to it. God says, "And a highway shall be there, and a way, and it shall be called The way of holiness; the unclean shall not pass over it; but it shall be for those: the wayfaring men, though fools, shall not err therein. No lions shall be there, nor any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there: and the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads: they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away."

It is a delightful way, why? Because **it's a clean way**. Verse 8, "The unclean shall not pass over it." That's what he says, it's the way of holiness. There's no mud holes on the holy highway. And no Tennessee trash going to be following that holy highway. And if your heart is full of sin, and filth, and dirt, and you've never repented, don't tell me you're on the holy highway. The Bible says here, "It is the way of holiness. The unclean shall not pass over it." It's a clean way.

And I'll tell you **it is a certain way**. It's delightfully clean, it's delightfully certain. He says, "A wayfaring man, though a fool, shall not err therein." Do you know what that means? "A wayfaring man, the fool shall not err therein." It means a stranger without good sense can find his way on the holy highway. You don't have to have a PhD to travel this holy highway. The Bible says in Matthew 11:25, "God hath hidden these things from the wise and the prudent, and hath revealed them unto babes." And you may be here today, and you say, "You know, Pastor Rogers, I don't know much about religion, I don't know much about the Bible, I don't understand all that you are saying." Well, my friend, let me tell you that Jesus Christ loves you, and it is so clean and so pure and so simple; Come to Jesus! Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. That is gloriously simple, and it is simply glorious. This way is delightful because it's clean. This way is delightful because it is clear.

I'll tell you it's delightful because **it is confiden**t. Oh listen, you don't have to worry about losing your salvation. You don't have to worry about Satan pouncing you while you're on the holy highway. Isaiah 35 verse 9, "No lion shall be there, or any ravenous beast shall go up thereon, it shall not be found there; but the redeemed shall walk there." Oh what a wonderful road. You get on this road, and you let the Lord Jesus be your companion. And this road which is a clean way, and a clear way, is a certain and a confident way. Oh He keeps us.

And then **it is a cheerful way**. The Bible says in Isaiah 35:10, "And the ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs and everlasting joy upon their heads; they shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away." I love Jesus. If I had a thousand lives, I'd give Him every one! Don't feel sorry for me because I am on the Holy Highway. Oh friend, this is what it's all about. "The ransomed of the Lord shall return, and come to Zion with songs, and everlasting joy upon their heads." What a wonderful, wonderful road this is.

We love to sing that song, "Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me." It was written by John Newton. John Newton was one of the most wicked, vile sinners that ever lived. He'd committed almost ever sin known to man. He was a drunken rum-runner. He was a south sea slave trader. He got so low in debauchery and sin that he finally ended up selling himself as a slave of slaves. And Jesus Christ miraculously saved John Newton. He's the one who wrote the song "Amazing Grace". His own epitaph he wrote. Do you want to hear what he wrote about himself? To be put on his grave marker? Listen, he said, "John Newton, clerk. Once an infidel and libertine. A servant of slaves in Africa. Was by the rich mercy of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, preserved and restored, pardoned, and appointed to preach the faith he had long labored to destroy." No wonder he could sing on the holy highway. "Amazing Grace how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me."

What is our Lord telling us in these verses? Number one, there is a decision to face. Number two, there is a direction to follow. It is a disciplined way. Oh friend, this way is a delightful way. But now here's a third thing, here's a third thing. Not only is there a decision to face. Not only is there a direction to follow, but there is **a destiny to find**. Every road is going somewhere. And the one you're on right now is going somewhere. Now, I want you to ask this question: "When I get to where I'm headed, where will I be?" Ask it: "When I get to where I am headed, where will I be?" Now our Lord, again, in a very narrow way, said, "There are only two destinations." One He calls destruction, and the other He calls life. You see, decision determines direction, and direction determines destiny. You don't have to be a rocket scientist to figure that out do you? Decision determines direction, and direction determines destiny. That's what our Lord is saying. And today, many of you are saying, "Well, to tell you the truth Pastor Rogers, I'm on the broad way."

I was on an airplane going I think to Saint Louis. The steward got on the microphone and said, "This is flight thus and such headed to Saint Louis. If Saint Louis is not in your plans for this afternoon, I would suggest that you deplane right now." Now friend, maybe you're on the highway to Hell, and if Hell is not in your plans I'd suggest you get off. I mean, if you do not want to die and go to Hell, then why don't you do something about it? There is a destiny to find. Now it may be a fearful destiny; destruction. I don't want to sugar coat what Jesus said. Jesus, the loving Jesus had more to say about Hell, H-E-double-L, yes I said Hell. Jesus had more to say about Hell, than any other person in the Word of God. Jesus did. It was Jesus who talked about destruction. Don't you point your finger at me and say, "That man is a Hell-fire preacher." Just take it up with Jesus Christ. Jesus said, "The broad way leads to destruction."

In Chicago, there's a night club; would you believe it? They named the nightclub The Gates of Hell. Can you imagine naming a night club that? The Gates of Hell. One man, out on a lark, asks a policeman, "How can I get to The Gates of Hell?" On the same street where this night club was a church. And do you know the name of the church? It was Cavalry Church. Do you know what that policeman told that man? "You want to get to The Gates of Hell, go right past Cavalry and you'll come to The Gates of Hell." Go right past Cavalry and you'll come to The Gates of Hell, and God has lifted up Cavalry with the blood stained Prince of Glory hanging in agony and blood! And He says, "Stop! Stop! Stop, or you'll end up at the gates of Hell."

There is a destiny to find, it may be a fearful destiny, or it may be a fabulous destiny. It may be life. You see, that life begins, not when you die, it begins when you step on the old S&N. In John 10:10, Jesus said, "I have come that you might have life and have it abundantly." And not only does He add years to life, He adds life to the years. And if there were no Heaven and if there were no Hell, it's worth the trip just to be on this highway. Just to be on this highway. I mean there is a destiny. But thank God thank God we're on our journey home. Each step I take is one step closer home. How wonderful that is. "It will be worth it all when we see Jesus." I may be just a heartbeat away from the end of my journey. How wonderful that is. Friend, there is a destiny, there is a destiny to find. It may be a fearful destiny, it may be a fabulous destiny, but listen to me. It will be a final destiny.

There's no chance after death. Ecclesiastes chapter 11 and verse 3 says, "And if the tree fall toward the south, or toward the north, in the place where the tree falleth, there it shall be." That's just a poetic way of saying, "When you die, your destiny is fixed." Revelation chapter 22 verse 11, "He that is unjust, let him be unjust still: He that is filthy, let him be filthy still." I've studied this book for many years. I've read it, loved it, and preached out of it. I cannot find one place where God offers one shred of hope to those who die outside the Lord Jesus Christ. Not one. To the contrary, in Hebrews 9:27, the Bible says, "It's appointed unto man once to die, and after this the judgment."

Now, if you're on the broad way today, you're on that turn pike to torment, you're on that highway to Hell. And there are a lot of people, and you're having a big time, and God brought you to this service this morning. And God put this preacher in front of you. And this preacher is holding up a sign, and do you know what it says? "Heaven, exit now. Heaven, exit now." It never says the next exit, always now. Because the next exit may be Hell. There may not be another exit. You say, "Well, I'm not going to decide today pastor." See, you've missed what I said to you. When you say you're not going to decide, that is a decision, that is a decision that keeps you on the broad way that leads to destruction. You say, "Well I've got plenty of time." I hope you do. But the Bible says in Proverbs 27 verse 1, "Boast not thyself of tomorrow, for thou knowest not what a day may bring forth." There is a decision to face, a direction to follow, and a destiny to find. That's what Jesus says.

Let's pray. Lord, I pray in the name of Jesus, that many today will just exit to the strait and narrow, the holy highway. That they will come to Jesus who indeed is the highway who said, "I am the way, no man comes to the Father, but by Me." Father I pray that they'll not be afraid because Lord to know You, oh is so wonderful. Holy Spirit of God, draw them I pray.

And while heads are bowed and eyes are closed. If you're not certain that you're saved, would you like to be saved, would you? Would you like to know that you really do have life? Jesus said, "I've come that you might have life." Could I lead you in a prayer? We'll call this prayer the sinner's prayer. And you can pray and accept Christ as your personal Lord and Savior. You can do it right now. Would you pray this prayer? "Dear God, I know that You love me. Thank You for loving me. And I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me and You promised to save me if I would trust You. Jesus, I do trust You. I believe You're the Son of God. I believe you paid for my sin with Your blood on the cross. I believe that God raised You from the dead. And now I receive You as my Lord and Savior. Forgive my sin. Cleanse me. Come into my life. Take control of my life and begin today to make me the person You want me to be. And Jesus, give me the courage to make it public. Help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."

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