

Why Few Find The Way

Psa. 36:1-4; Prov. 14:12; Isa. 65:2

Theme Woven Into Divine History

Matt. 7:13-14

- **Exod. 34:14 - God is a jealous God.**
- **Deut. 11:26 - Pronounces a blessing or a curse upon man's chosen path**
- **Isa. 35:8 - There is "a way" upon which the righteous will walk.**

Jesus Reveals The Paths Available to Mankind Matt. 7:13-14

- The way to destruction that is occupied by the masses
- The way to life that is occupied by the few
- Most everyone believes they are among the latter, and none among the former.

“Gate” and “Way”

- That which is:
 - “Entered in”
 - “Walked upon”
- Requires:
 - 1 Thess. 2:12 - Due attention
 - Eph. 4:1-3 - Due response

**Why are there few that
find it?**

Few Fail To Seek The Right Way

- Isa. 55:6-7 - “Seek ye Jehovah while he may be found.”
- Rom. 4:2-11 - Only those who seek eternal life will receive it.
- Col. 3:1-4 - “Seek the things that are above...”
- Heb. 11:6 - “...them that seek after him.”

**Do you have questions regarding your
spiritual condition?**

Have you sought the answer, diligently?

The Way Is Strict

- Lk. 13:22-30 - “for many...shall seek to enter in, and shall not be able”
- Vs. 24 - Strive to enter in: “labouring fervently”

Because of Prejudice

- Prejudice:
 - “Preconceived judgment or opinion”
 - “An adverse opinion or leaning formed without just grounds or before sufficient knowledge”

Consequences of Prejudice

- Isa. 6:9-10 - Condemned
- Matt. 13:14-15 - Applied to the days of Jesus

Consequences of Prejudice

- Jn. 6:14-15 - The people had formed an erroneous concept concerning the kingdom.
- Jer. 22:24, 30 - No earthly king would sit on David's throne in Jerusalem.
- Lk. 17:20-12 - Jesus attempted to teach the spiritual nature of the kingdom.
- Mk. 15:2 - Jesus confessed that he was a King.
- Jn. 18:36 - Yet, denied that His kingdom was of this world

Consequences of Prejudice

- Mk. 6:1-3 - The people were caused to stumble as a result of prejudice.
- Isa. 8:14-15 - So said the prophets
- Because Jesus did not conform to the opinions formed in the minds of the scribes and Pharisees, concerning the Messiah...they stumbled.

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

The Scriptures Say...

- Matt. 7:14 - “narrow is the gate”
- Matt. 7:14 - “straitened the way”
- Matt. 16:24 - “let him deny himself”
- Eph. 4:5 - “one faith”
- Eph. 1:22-23; 4:4 - “one body”

Man Says...

- All religious people will be saved.
- We are all going to the same place, but by different paths.
- Saved by faith only, apart from works
- Many faiths...chose one
- The church of your choice

Prov. 16:25

Let us recognize our dependence on
God and put away our prejudice and
seek His counsel in matters of
godliness.

Because of Deception

- Many warnings concerning false prophets:
 - 2 Cor. 11:13-15 - “Satan fashioneth himself into an angel of light.”
 - 2 Pet. 2:1-2 - “as among you also there shall be false teachers...”
 - Matt. 7:15-23 - Jesus warns of the danger.

Because of Deception

- False prophets/teachers
 - 2 Tim. 3:13 - Deceive
 - 2 Pet. 2:19 - Promise liberty while they themselves are bondservants of corruption

Because of Deception

- Many are deceived:
 - Rom. 16:17-18 - “by...smooth and fair speech”
 - Eph. 4:14 - “by the sleight of men, in craftiness, after the wiles of error”
 - Col. 2:8 - “through...philosophy and vain deceit”

Because of Deception

- Many are deceived.
- 1 Cor. 6:9 - believing they can live as they wish and still enter the kingdom of heaven.
- 1 Cor. 15:33 - not believing that their companionships can corrupt them.
- Gal. 6:7 - in thinking they can mock God and not reap what they sow.
- 2 Tim. 3:13, 14-17 - God's provisions to battle deception

Because of Peer Pressure

- Jn. 9:13-22 - succumbing to the pressures of religious leaders.
- Jn. 12:42-43 - succumbing to the pressures of companions
- Matt. 10:34-37 - succumbing to the pressures of family
- 1 Pet. 4:1-6 - succumbing to the pressures of friends

Because of Worldliness and Materialism

- Lk. 8:14 - to be choked by the riches and pleasures of life
- Lk. 12:15-21 - thinking that life is defined by possessions
- 1 Tim. 6:17-19 - by putting one's confidence in the uncertainty of riches
- Matt. 6:24-34 - by being anxious over day to day provisions
- 1 Tim. 6:10 - by reaching after money

Because Disciples Fail The Work

- Rom. 1:14-15 - Paul considered himself in debt to preach the gospel.
- 1 Tim. 1:12-16 - Once a blasphemer, he obtained mercy.
- 2 Tim. 2:1-2 - What he received he passed to others with the same admonition.
- 1 Thess. 1:6-8 - To imitate the Lord and the apostles in the proclaiming of the word

Conclusion

- Matt. 16:26 - What is a man profited?
- Matt. 7:13-14 - The way is strict, rigorous and difficult...yet
- 1 Pet. 4:18 - So were the provisions of salvation.
- 1 Pet. 3:17-18 - Christ also suffered in the flesh.
- 1 Pet. 2:21 - Leaving us an example to follow his steps
- Phil. 2:12-16 - Work out your own salvation.