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Narrow Minded

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

Not long ago, I went for a walk on a road out behind my house. It’s a paved road but a very narrow road. In fact, it’s only wide enough for one vehicle. As I was walking on it, I couldn’t help but wonder just how narrow is the narrow path that leads to life? How narrow is the gate that we are to enter through? How do we know if we’re on the, “narrow road that leads to life?” Let’s face it - everyone who calls themselves a "believer" thinks they're on that "narrow road." But is that it? Does just being a "believer in Christ" put you on the narrow road? Does that even make any sense? It seems that just a few verses farther down that theory is proven wrong. Compare this.

Matthew 7:21

Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.

The people mentioned here in verses 21-23 obviously thought they were believers as they cried out to our savior, "Lord, Lord," and then they even mentioned all the things they did IN HIS NAME. So then, just being a "believer" doesn't put you on the narrow road nor even does performing miracles in His name. Then, what does put one on the “narrow road?” What does it MEAN to enter through the narrow gate? Let’s not forget that Christ said that He is the gate.

Consider

John 10:7

Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, *I am the gate* for the sheep.

And 2 verses later...

John 10:9

I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture.

So, Yeshua says that He is the gate - the gate that leads to *life*

Matthew 7:14

But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

This only makes sense, given that He also said that He is way, truth and the *life* in John 14:6. So, He is the gate. We also know that He is the Word of God according to John 1:14.

John 1:14

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the One and Only, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.

So then, *the Word, who is Yeshua, is the gate*

John 10:7,9

⁷ Therefore Jesus said again, “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. ⁹ I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture

that leads to life

Matthew 7:13-14

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. ¹⁴ But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

So then, the question then becomes, “What is the ‘Word of God?’” Not by what it may be defined as from you or me, but how it was defined as from John when he penned Chapter 1, verse 14. For that is what truly give us the definition of Yeshua, thus giving us the definition of the gate. The word here used in John 1 is “logos.” It’s the same word that Yeshua used in the parable of the sower. It’s where the seed is referred to as the seed that was planted.

Consider

Luke 8:5-8

⁵ A farmer went out to sow his seed. As he was scattering the seed, some fell along the path; it was trampled on, and the birds of the air ate it up. ⁶ Some fell on rock, and when it came up, the plants withered because they had no moisture. ⁷ Other seed fell among thorns, which grew up with it and choked the plants. ⁸ Still other seed fell on good soil. It came up and yielded a crop, a hundred times more than was sown.” When he said this, he called out, “He who has ears to hear, let him hear.”

Then to verse 11...

Luke 8:11-15

¹¹ “This is the meaning of the parable: The seed is the word of God. ¹² Those along the path are the

ones who hear, and then the devil comes and takes away the word from their hearts, so that they may not believe and be saved. ¹³ Those on the rock are the ones who receive the word with joy when they hear it, but they have no root. They believe for a while, but in the time of testing they fall away. ¹⁴ The seed that fell among thorns stands for those who hear, but as they go on their way they are choked by life's worries, riches and pleasures, and they do not mature. ¹⁵ But the seed on good soil stands for those with a noble and good heart, who hear the word, retain it, and by persevering produce a crop.

This parallels with what James taught.

James 1:21

Therefore, get rid of all moral filth and the evil that is so prevalent and humbly accept the *word (logos) planted in you*, which can save you.

This parable from the Lord is all about the word taking root into our lives and producing fruit. This is why James says one verse later...

James 1:22

Do not merely listen to the word(logos/lo/gou), and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.

Interestingly enough, just AFTER Yeshua explains the parable of the sower regarding the word of God, He says what we are to do with the Word of God. Compare this five verses later in verse 20.

Luke 8:20-21

²⁰ Someone told him, "Your mother and brothers are standing outside, wanting to see you." ²¹ He replied, "My mother and brothers are those who hear God's word and put it into practice."

Again, just three chapters later He says virtually the same thing.

Consider

Luke 11:27-28

²⁷ As Jesus was saying these things, a woman in the crowd called out, "Blessed is the mother who gave you birth and nursed you." ²⁸ He replied, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word (logos/lo/gou) of God and obey it."

The word for "obey" here actually means to guard, to keep. -phulassontes

If we plant an apple, will an orange tree sprout? Or even a pear tree sprout? Of course not. Plant an apple, get an apple. When the Word of God is planted in you, the Word of God should come out of you. Many wish to debate the Greek word "logos" as to its meaning. They argue that it can't mean or even consist of the law of God. However, how can the word (logos/lo/gou) that Yeshua tells us to practice and obey be referring to anything other than that of the law as given us in the Old Testament? Consider to what Yeshua equates the Word (logos) of God.

Mark 7:8-13

⁸ You have let go of the commands of God and are holding on to the traditions of men." ⁹ And he

said to them: “You have a fine way of setting aside the commands of God in order to observe your own traditions! ¹⁰ For Moses said, ‘Honor your father and your mother,’ and, ‘Anyone who curses his father or mother must be put to death.’ ¹¹ But you say that if a man says to his father or mother: ‘Whatever help you might otherwise have received from me is Corban’ (that is, a gift devoted to God), ¹² then you no longer let him do anything for his father or mother. ¹³ Thus you nullify the word (logos/lo/gou) of God by your tradition that you have handed down. And you do many things like that.”

Here we see Yeshua Himself equating the Word (logos) of God with the commands of God. Can it be anymore plain than this? Let’s examine Peter’s use of “logos.”

1 Peter 1:23

For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word (logos/lo/gou) of God.

First we see the same reference as given by Yeshua Himself and that of James of it being planted as a seed, then calls it living and enduring. So then, what is the living and enduring word of God?

For even the author of Hebrews says:

Hebrews 4:12

For the word (logos/lo/gou) of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart.

The next verse in 1 Peter is CRITICAL. Why - because Peter then defines what that living and enduring word of God is.

Compare

1 Peter 1:24

²⁴ For, “All men are like grass, and all their glory is like the flowers of the field; the grass withers and the flowers fall, ²⁵ but the **word** (rhema/rJhvma) of the Lord stands forever.” And this is the word (rhema/rJhvma) that was preached to you.

Here we see Peter discussing the “logos of God: in verse 23. He defines it by referencing the Hebrew scriptures of Isaiah. What was the word of the Lord to Isaiah? There is no doubt. It was the Law. Look again at 1 Peter 1:25.

1 Peter 1:25

but the **word** (rhema/rJhvma) of the Lord stands forever. And this is the word (rhema/rJhvma) that was preached to you.

Again, so we see Peter equating the Logos of God in verse 23 as the rhema of the Lord in verse 25. Where else do we see the rhema of the Lord?

Consider

Romans 10:8

But what does it say? “The word (rhema/rJhvma) is near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart,” that is, the word (rhema/rJhvma) of faith we are proclaiming:

This is Paul quoting from Deuteronomy chapter 30.

Compare

Deuteronomy 30:14

No, the word is very near you; it is in your mouth and in your heart so you may obey it.

So, what is this word that is to be obeyed? Let’s continue reading.

Deuteronomy 30:15-16

¹⁵ See, I set before you today life and prosperity, death and destruction. ¹⁶ For I command you today to love the LORD your God, to walk in his ways, and to keep his commands, decrees and laws; then you will live and increase, and the LORD your God will bless you in the land you are entering to possess.

The word that Paul was quoting AND proclaiming here in Romans 10 is the LAW. This happens to be the same word that Peter was proclaiming in 1 Peter 1:25, which was equated as the “logos of God” in verse 23. Therefore, making the “logos of God,” the Law of God. For a further study on these verses in Romans, please see our teaching titled “The Prayer of Salvation.”

In quick review, it’s THROUGH the narrow gate that we are to enter - the gate being Yeshua; Yeshua being the word or “Logos of God,” and the “Logos of God” being the law of God. Let us not forget that it is the law of God that Yeshua lived out and exemplified for us. Consider Paul’s words in 1 Corinthians.

1 Corinthians 11:1

Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ.

And why John said...

1 John 2:6

Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

One who chooses to follow Yeshua will thereby exemplify that choice by following His example in pursuing obedience to the Law of God. This is how we show our love for God.

Compare

1 John 5:3

This is love for God: to obey his commands. And his commands are not burdensome,

The sad part about the narrow road is that only a few find it. This means that they are actually looking, but many are looking in the wrong place. Since they are looking, they consider themselves “believers.” But that which they find and follow is that which is based on man’s teachings and traditions and NOT

the eternal word / Logos / rhema that was shared by Peter, Paul, and even Yeshua Himself. And so, if they persist on this path, one day they will hear these words as declared by Yeshua.

Matthew 7:21-23

²¹ “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven.” ²² Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?’ ²³ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’

Keep in mind that the Greek for the word “evildoers” is actually a phrase that says:

Workers of Lawlessness.

So, in verse 13 He says we are to enter through the narrow gate.

Matthew 7:13

¹³ “Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

The gate being Himself; Himself being the Word/Logos of God, and The Word of God being the Law of God. Then, just 10 verses later in verse 23 we see that those who are workers of Lawlessness (not pursuing the law) are NOT allowed in through the gate. “... **Narrow is the road.**” The law provides us with guidelines to which we are given to govern our lives. Guidelines which the Father has given us out of His divine and eternal wisdom. When we purposefully step outside of these guidelines, we are in essence telling God that we know better and thus take ourselves off of the narrow road that He has provided. Walking the narrow road does not come without persecution. In fact, the very word used for “narrow” in Matthew 7:14 actually means, to crush, compress, oppress and even trouble.

Giving understanding to Paul’s words in 2 Timothy chapter 3.

2 Timothy 3:12

In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted,

It’s no wonder that the masses follow the preachers that tickle the ears. And, I truly believe that most preachers do so unknowingly. A song I know says it best, “Everybody wants to get to heaven, but nobody wants to walk the narrow road.” The narrow gate - the narrow road.

Jeremiah 31:33

“This is the covenant I will make with the house of Israel after that time,” declares the LORD. “I will put my law in their minds and write it on their hearts. I will be their God, and they will be my people.”

“I will put my law in their minds.” Thus, to be on the narrow road, we must be ... narrow minded.

We hope you’ve enjoyed this study. Remember, continue to test everything.

Shalom

For more on this and other teachings, please visit us at www.testeverything.net

Shalom, and may Yahweh bless you in walking in the whole Word of God.

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