

# The Strait Gate

[Lk.13:24](#)

- Restricted ENTRANCE
- Restricted MEANS of Entrance
- Restricted MEMBERSHIP
- Restricted QUALITY of This Membership
- Restricted TIME To Enter

You know, there's A Popular Idea, that "Most people will be saved." -- **But will they?**

That idea is the very opposite of what the Bible teaches, which says,

- "**STRIVE** to enter **IN**, at the **STRAIT** Gate:  
for **MANY**, I say unto you, will **SEEK** to enter **IN**, and shall **NOT** be able." ([Lk.13:24](#))

"**STRIVE** to enter **IN**..." -- That ought to be everyone's **FIRST** priority.  
**NOT** our **HOBBIES**, or our **FAMILIES**.

**STRAIT:** S-T-R-A-I-T It's Not direct (as an arrow), but **NARROW** and **DIFFICULT**.

- Jesus said, "**IF** any man will **COME AFTER** Me,  
let him **DENY** himself, and **TAKE UP** his cross **DAILY**, and **FOLLOW** Me." ([Lk.9:23](#))

Paul said,

- "I die **DAILY**" ([1Cor.15:31](#))
- "I am crucified **WITH** Christ: nevertheless I **LIVE**; yet **NOT** I, but Christ liveth **IN** me:  
and the life which I now live in the flesh, I live by the **FAITH** of the Son of God,  
Who **LOVE** me, and **GAVE** Himself **FOR** me." ([Gal.2:20](#))

This morning, if the Lord wills,

We'll notice some ways the **GATE** is shown to be **STRAIT** (that is, restricted and narrow):

Which should serve as a Biblical reminder of how serious our **TIME** on Earth is,

and our **PREPARATIONS** for our eternal **DESTINY**, is a serious **RESPONSIBILITY**, that should **NOT** be **NEGLECTED**.

We need to **STIVE** to enter in, at the Strait Gate, **BUT**

## I. The Entrance is Restricted

- Jesus said, "**I AM** the **WAY**, the **TRUTH**, and the **LIFE**:  
**NO** man **COMETH** unto the Father, **but BY** me." ([Jn.14:6](#))

For some, it may not be easy to hear,

But this would exclude Mary (the mother of Jesus), the Catholic Pope, Muhammed,  
or any other source, from any other religion.

The Restricted Entrance is,

**A. Too narrow to admit sin**, as [Rev.21:27](#) says,

- "there shall in **NO** wise enter into it, any thing that defileth,  
**NEITHER** *whatsoever* worketh abomination, **OR** *maketh* a lie:  
**BUT** they which are **WRITTEN** in the Lamb's book of life." ([Rev.21:27](#))

The Entrance is Too Narrow or Restricted to,

**B. Admit or Allow Religious Error**

As the Bible says,

- "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth **NOT** in the doctrine of Christ, hath **NOT** God.  
He that abideth **IN** the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son." ([2Jn.vs.9](#))
- "And whatsoever ye **DO** in **WORD** (that is, **TEACHING**) or **DEED** (that is **PRACTICE**),  
**DO ALL** in the **NAME** of the Lord Jesus (that is, do all by the **AUTHORITY** of the Lord Jesus),  
giving **THANKS** to God and the Father **BY** Him." ([Col.3:17](#))

The Entrance is Restricted, or is Too Narrow for,

### C. Important earthly relationships, or high titles

The Bible says of the fleshly Jews, in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century,

- “All their works, they **DO** for to be **SEEN OF MEN**:
  - they make **BROAD** their phylacteries,
  - and **ENLARGE** the borders of their garments,
  - <sup>6</sup> and **LOVE** the uppermost rooms at feasts,
  - and the **CHIEF** seats in the synagogues,
  - <sup>7</sup> and **GREETINGS** in the markets,
  - and to be **CALLED OF MEN**, Rabbi, Rabbi.

<sup>8</sup> **BUT** be **NOT** ye called Rabbi: for **ONE** is your Master, even Christ; and all ye are brethren.

<sup>9</sup> And **call NO man your father upon the earth**: for **ONE** is your Father, which is in heaven.

<sup>10</sup> **NEITHER** be ye called masters: for **ONE** is your Master, even Christ.” ([Matt.23:5-10](#))

The Entrance is Too Narrow for,

### D. Works of merit, which would force a debt

The Bible says,

- “**NOT** by works of righteousness which **WE HAVE DONE**, but according to His **MERCY** He **SAVED** us, **BY** the **WASHING** of regeneration, and **RENEWING** of the Holy Spirit;” ([Titus 3:5](#))
- “Washing of regeneration” is accomplished by Biblical baptism
- And “Renewing of the Holy Spirit” is accomplished by increasing our knowledge of the Holy Spirit revealed Word of God

The Entrance is Restricted, or Too Narrow for,

### E. God to save anyone, Except on HIS Terms

Peter through Inspiration of God said,

- “**REPENT**, and be **BAPTIZED**, every one of you **IN** the **NAME** of Jesus Christ, **FOR** the remission of sins, and ye shall **RECEIVE** the gift of the Holy Spirit.

<sup>39</sup> For the promise is unto you, and to your children, and to all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall **CALL**.” ([Acts 2:38-39](#))

And don't forget, we are **CALLED**, BY the **GOSPEL** ([2Thess.2:14](#))

Not by traditions of men ([Mk.7:8,13](#)), or our own THINK SO's ([Isa.55:8-9](#)).

- F. It is not surprising then, that only 3,000 were baptized on the Day of Pentecost (out of the uncounted multitudes from all over the world), because **the conditions for Entrance is Restricted**.

We need to strive to enter in at the Strait Gate, BUT

## II. The Means of Entrance is Restricted

### A. The means, is provided by grace

- “almost all things, are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is **NO** remission.” ([Heb.9:22](#))
- “but now **IN** Christ Jesus, ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh **BY** the blood of Christ.” ([Eph.2:13](#))

### B. Wishing, will not suffice

- “**STRIVE to enter IN** at the strait gate: for **MANY**, I say unto you, will **SEEK** to enter in, and shall **NOT** be able. <sup>25</sup> When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you **NOT** whence ye are:” ([Lk.13:24-25](#))

Paul said,

- “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for **IT** is the power of God **UNTO** salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek.” ([Rom.1:16](#))

Some don't believe the power of the gospel, and that's WHY,

- “they have **NOT** all **OBEYED** the gospel.  
For Esaias saith, Lord, who hath **BELIEVED** our report (or our preaching)?” ([Rom.10:16](#))
- “Seeing ye have **PURIFIED** your souls in **OBEYING** the truth **THROUGH** the Spirit **UNTO** unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently:” ([1Pet.1:22](#))

### C. Some look for an easy way – They Do not Seriously Search; Therefore they are unable to Enter IN at the Strait Gate.

Some will say,

- “We have eaten and drunk in thy presence, and thou hast taught in our streets.  
<sup>27</sup> But He shall say, I tell you, I know you **NOT** whence ye are; depart from Me, all ye workers of iniquity.” ([Lk.13:26-27](#))

### D. Each one must STRIVE, or face the prospect of being TOO LATE

In the old time, Jerimiah said,

- “The harvest is past, the summer is ended, and we are not saved.” ([Jer.8:20](#))

E. And THE MEANS OF ENTRANCE, demands obedience, within the boundary of the law of Christ

- “**NOT** every one that **SAITH** unto me, Lord, Lord, shall **ENTER** into the kingdom of heaven; **BUT** he that **DOETH** the **WILL** of My Father which is **IN** heaven.” ([Matt.7:21](#))

I’ve encountered people that say, “I know I’m going to Heaven”.  
And when you point out Bible Truth or Expose their religious error,  
They refuse to repent or change.

The **PROBLEM** is, they “*say and do not*”.

They believe religion is something “*that is better felt than told*”.

They **REFUSE** to develop a “*child-to-God*” relationship, through **OBEDIENCE** to God’s Word,  
But they **WILL NOT**, And thus the **MEANS** of entrance is **RESTRICTED** to those that **WILL OBEY!**

We need to strive to enter in at the Strait Gate, BUT

The Entrance is Restricted,

The Means of Entrance, is Restricted, AND

### III. The Number In This Membership, is Restricted

A. The number is OPEN in one sense

- “let us **DRAW** near **WITH** a **TRUE** heart, in **FULL** assurance of **FAITH**,  
having our **HEARTS** sprinkled (or clean) **FROM** an evil conscience,  
and our bodies **WASHED** with pure water (that is, Baptized INTO Christ)” ([Heb.10:22](#))

-- None of those in Heb 10:22 are excluded from the Membership

- “All that the Father giveth Me, shall **COME** to Me;  
and him that cometh to Me, I will in **NO WISE** cast out.” (Jesus said in [Jn.6:37](#))
- “**COME** unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you **REST**.” ([Matt.11:28](#))
- [Rev.5:9](#) reads, “they sung a new song, saying,  
Thou art worthy to **TAKE** the book, and to **OPEN** the seals thereof:  
for Thou wast slain, and hast **REDEEMED** us to God, **BY** Thy blood  
out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation;”

B. The emphasis, is not on How FEW will make it:

We need to be sure, to struggle our **BEST**, to be there!

- “**STRIVE** to **ENTER IN** at the strait gate:” ([Lk.13:24a](#))

C. Individuals are saved , one at a time; Not with parents or mate,  
but because of personal **CHOICE** to **WALK** with the Savior.

- “For the which cause I also suffer these things: nevertheless I am not ashamed:  
for I know whom I have believed, and am persuaded  
that He is able to keep that which I have committed unto Him, against that day.” ([2Tim.1:12](#))

We need to strive to enter in at the Strait Gate, BUT

## IV. The Quality of This Membership is Restricted

A. This fellowship is a HOLY nation: spiritual Priests; All brethren;  
It is a select family with inheritance beyond imagination

- “to an **INHERITANCE**, incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth NOT away, **RESERVED** in heaven for you,” ([1Pet.1:4](#))

B. True christians, are the world’s privileged, the spiritual elite

- “ye also, as lively stones, are built up a **SPIRITUAL** house, an **HOLY** priesthood, to offer up **SPIRITUAL** sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” ([1Pet.2:5](#))
- “But ye are a **CHOSEN** generation, a **ROYAL** priesthood, an **HOLY** nation, a **PECULIAR** people; that ye should **SHEW** forth the praises of Him, Who hath **CALLED** you out of darkness **INTO** His marvellous light (or gospel):” ([1Pet.2:9](#))

...and never forget, that we are **CALLED** by the gospel ([2Thess.2:14](#)).

C. Membership is very exclusive

- Jesus said, “No man can come to Me, **EXCEPT** the Father which hath sent Me **DRAW** him: and I will **RAISE** him up at the last day (speaking of the Judgment). <sup>45</sup> It is **WRITTEN** in the prophets, And they shall be all **TAUGHT** of God. Every man therefore that hath **HEARD**, and hath **LEARNED** of the Father, **COMETH** unto Me.” ([Jn.6:44-45](#))
- “Therefore **IF** any man be **IN** Christ, he is a **NEW** creature: **OLD** things are **PASSED** away; behold, **ALL** things are become **NEW**.” ([2Cor.5:17](#))
- “For ye are **ALL** the children of God **BY** faith **IN** Christ Jesus.  
<sup>27</sup> For as many of you as have been baptized **INTO** Christ, have **PUT ON** Christ.” ([Gal.3:26-27](#))

D. Clearly, this demands the BEST of one’s Heart and Life

- “I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the **MERCIES** of God, that ye **PRESENT** your bodies a **LIVING** sacrifice, **HOLY**, acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable (OR spiritual) service.” ([Rom.12:1](#))

We need to strive to enter in at the Strait Gate, BUT

The Entrance is Restricted

The Means of Entrance is Restricted

The Number In This Membership is Restricted

The Quality of This Membership is Restricted, AND

## V. The Time We Have To Enter, is Restricted

A. Some who see no reason to make haste NOW, will rush THEN, but only to hear Tragically SAD words

Jesus will say,

- “I know you **NOT** whence ye are;  
**DEPART** from Me, all ye workers of iniquity (or workers of sin).” ([Lk.13:27](#))

B. Then Gasp, in an Eternity of Tears, and Bitter Regret

- “There shall be **WEEPING** and gnashing of teeth, when ye shall **SEE** Abraham, and Isaac, and Jacob, and all the prophets, in the kingdom of God, and **YOU yourselves THRUST OUT.**” ([Lk.13:28](#))

C. For there is NO Promise of Forgiveness, AFTER this Life

- “as it is **APPOINTED** unto men **ONCE** to die, but **AFTER** this, the **JUDGMENT:**” ([Heb.9:27](#))

D. Many will SEEK to enter, but will “**not be able**” ([Lk.13:24](#))

E. In Life, the Door is Open, but Some Hearts are Untouched

[Lk.14:18-20](#) reads,

- “And they **ALL** with one **CONSENT** began to make **EXCUSE**. The first said unto him,
  - I have **BOUGHT** a piece of ground, and I must needs **GO** and **SEE** it:  
I pray thee, have me **EXCUSED**.
  - <sup>19</sup> And another said, I have **BOUGHT** five yoke of oxen, and I **GO** to **PROVE** them:  
I pray thee, have me **EXCUSED**.
  - <sup>20</sup> And another said, I have **MARRIED** a wife, and therefore I can**NOT** come.” ([Lk.14:18-20](#))

If we do not **STRIVE** now,

we will not be able to **ENTER** later.

## F. Eventually, GOD will shut the door

- “When once the master of the house is risen up, and hath shut to the door, and ye begin to stand without, and to knock at the door, saying, Lord, Lord, open unto us; and he shall answer and say unto you, I know you not whence ye are.” ([Lk.13:25](#))
- “He that rejecteth Me, and receiveth **NOT** My Words, hath one that judgeth him: the Word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” ([Jn.12:48](#))

### There is a Serious Word of Warning to UN-believers

- Jesus said, “I go My way, and ye shall seek Me, and shall **DIE** in your sins: whither I go, ye can**NOT** come.” ([Jn.8:21](#))
- “I said therefore unto you, that ye shall **DIE** in your sins: for if ye believe **NOT** that **I AM**, ye shall **DIE** in your sins.” ([Jn.8:24](#))

### Also: Serious Words of Warning to believers

- “whereas ye know **NOT** what shall be on the morrow. For **WHAT** is your life? It **IS** even a **VAPOUR**, that **APPEARETH** for a **LITTLE** time, and then **VANISHETH** away.” ([Jms.4:14](#))

## In-Conclusion,

The Rejoice gate may be **STRIAT**, but it is **BROAD** enough to include **ALL** who **CHOOSE** to be His.

- “And they shall come from the east, and from the west, and from the north, and from the south, and shall sit down in the kingdom of God.” ([Lk.13:29](#))
- John, “beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands;” ([Rev.7:9](#))

**Don't follow the majority to destruction:**

**Study; Understand; Obey; Serve -- No matter the present cost.**

- The Bible says, “**SAVE YOURSELVES** from this untoward generation.” ([Acts 2:40b](#))

**Enter NOW, while you have the time.**

- “**SEEK** ye **FIRST** the kingdom of God, and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you.” ([Matt.6:33](#))
- If you need to repent, take care of that
- If you have yet to be baptized into Christ (Rom.6:4), don't delay!

Come, while together we stand and sing.

Source: Sermon Outline by Derrel Shaw  
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