

## TWO WAYS TO ETERNITY

### Matthew 7:13-14

**Introduction:** Since eternity has no beginning (beyond our comprehension) it has no ending either. Every single person born is to live somewhere forever. While alive physically we, of course, live on this earth, but when our physical body dies, we still continue to live on into eternity. The bible declares that there are two "ways into eternity" from our physical death: the way of life and the way of death. Or in other words, there are two "places" people can continue to live on forever.

### I. THE TWO WAYS DESCRIBED

- Every person alive is traveling one or the other of the two ways (roads). Which one are you on?

#### 1. The Origin of the Two Ways. (*Genesis 2:9*)

- The Lord caused to grow in the garden of Eden two trees, "The Tree of Life" and "The Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil."
- The Lord set before Adam and Eve two ways: the way of life and the way of death.
- Had they eaten only of the tree of life, they would have lived forever. God told them the day they ate of the other tree they would die.
- This was the origin of the two ways.

#### 2. Our Text Describes One Way as Being Strait and Narrow.

- Only those who go straight ahead can travel this road. At the end of this road is heaven.
  - It is an upward way. To travel this road one must continually press his/her way along.
- One cannot stop without going backward (backsliding). All who travel this road are good people. Those on this road are declared to be few in number. This way leads to life.

#### 3. Our Text Describes One Way as Being Broad.

- This way is declared to lead to destruction. It is said that many are traveling this road.
  - This road is broad and leads downward. It is easy traveled; requires no resistance, no decision, no pressing along.
  - Follow the line of least resistance and you are on this broad way.
  - The crowds are going this way. This is the way of death.
  - Destruction awaits every one who comes to the end of this way.

### II. WHERE DO THE TWO ROADS LEAD?

- People are interested in the city or place to which they are going. Those on either of these roads should be interested to know about the place where they will one day arrive.

1. Death is the End of Each Way, Abel was the First One to Reach the End. (*Genesis 4:8*)

- Death was appointed unto man after the sin of Adam. Cain killed his brother Abel.
  - Abel was the first man to ever die. He came to the end of the way. His time began in eternity then. Yet, he has no less time left to live.
- All people will come to the end of life, regardless of which way they are traveling.

2. The End of the Narrow Way is Heaven. (*Luke 16:22*)

- The beggar traveled the narrow way. It is said, "The Beggar Died." He came to the end of the way.
  - Angels took charge of him and carried him into heaven. All the righteous will come to the end of the way and Angels will be awaiting them.
- The end of this way will be happiness, nothing to dread. It will be the beginning of eternal joy.

3. The End of the Broad Way is Hell. (*Luke 16:22-23*)

- The rich man traveled the broad way. It was said, "The Rich Man Also Died." He came to the end of the way.
  - No angels were there to take charge of him. It was said of him, "*..in Hell he lift up his eyes, being in torments...*"
- Hell is the end of this way and the doom of every one who travels therein. Those who come to the end of the broad way will die just as others die. They will be buried, which is nothing unusual, but from there on they will be living in the torments of Hell forever.

### **III. PEOPLE ARE FREE TO MAKE CHOICE OF THE TWO WAYS**

- The Bible describes the ways. People are not in darkness; they know which way they are on. People are free to investigate and make their choice.

1. Adam and Eve Were the First Two People to Make Their Choice

- They were not in darkness. God gave them advice and told them what the penalty would be should they choose the evil way.
- Eve was first to make a choice. Adam easily followed her into sin.
- From Adam, people have had their choice. YOU now have yours.
- Those traveling the downward way of destruction are doing so by choice.

2. The Two Ways Were Set Before Israel (*Jeremiah 21:8*)

- The Lord set before Israel "The Way of Life" and He set before them "The Way of Death."
  - They were free to choose between the two.

- God, from the beginning, gave people this privilege. Both ways are clearly identified. There is no reason that anyone should be deceived.

### 3. Hobab Was Invited to Travel With the Lord's People (*Numbers 10:29*)

- Israel was on her way from Egypt to the Promised Land. Moses invited Hobab to go with them. Israel was journeying under the directions of the Lord. "***Come thou with us and we will do thee good...***"
- Anyone will do well to travel with the Lord's people for they are going to the right place. Hobab had the chance of his life.
- You have the chance of your life, the chance to save your life, to inherit eternal life.

### 4. Hobab Rejected the Invitation and Returned to His Kindred (*Numbers 10:30*)

- Hobab let his own land and his own people come between him and God. He knew the right way but was not willing to sacrifice home and friends to travel with God's people.
- He lacked the courage and bravery. Hobab wasn't willing to start by faith. He loved his his own land and his own people more than he loved God.
- Hobab is an example of millions who have lived since. They also came to the place Hobab came to, and were faced with the same decision to choose between God and their people. Some have said, "I will go with the Lord's people." Others, by their actions, said, "I will return unto my people, to my land and to the world."
- By deciding as Hobab did, people say "Goodby, God."

## CONCLUSION:

1. Every one of us is traveling to eternity on one or the other of the two roads. Death will bring us to the end of our ways. We travel the road only once.
2. It is important that we make sure we are on the right road. We travel highways by looking for and at the road signs. There are also signs along each of these two roads. Look at the signs along your pathway of life. They tell you where you are going.
  - If there are signs of sin and wickedness in your life, if you are associating with the world and the worldly crowds, there are plenty of signs that tell you the road on which you are traveling leads to death and destruction.
3. We are free to choose which road we will travel in life, but remember at the moment of death our eternal destiny is sealed and there can be no changing our eternal destination.