

**Verses 13-14**

**We are comparing gates and ways and the components that encompass them including size of the gates, width of the ways, nature of the ways, travel size per way, and the destination of each way.**

- **Comparing the gates: narrow and small vs wide**
  - The narrow and small gate/door refers to Jesus. These verses speak to the exclusivity of Christ being the only way to the Father.
    - **Acts 4:12** And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved.”
    - **1 Timothy 2:5** For there is one God, *and* one mediator also between God and men, *the* man Christ Jesus,
    - **John 10:7-9** So Jesus said to them again, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. <sup>8</sup>All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not hear them. <sup>9</sup>I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture.
- **Comparing the width of the ways: Narrow vs broad**
  - The narrow way is referring Christ as we believe in Him, obey Him, and walk in sanctification.
  - Christians were first called “Christians” Antioch (**Acts 11:26**) but before being called Christians followers of Jesus were called people of the Way (**Acts 9:1-2, Acts 19:9, Acts 19:23, Acts 22:4, Acts 24:14**)
    - **John 14:1-6** “Do not let your heart be troubled; <sup>1</sup>believe in God, believe also in Me. <sup>2</sup>In My Father’s house are many dwelling places; if it were not so, I would have told you; for I go to prepare a place for you. <sup>3</sup>If I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself, that where I am, *there* you may be also. <sup>4</sup>And you know the way where I am going.” <sup>5</sup>Thomas \*said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, how do we know the way?” <sup>6</sup>Jesus \*said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me.
- **Comparing the nature of the ways: Natural vs Supernatural**
  - In our fallen nature which is deserving of wrath and enslaved to devil, all humanity begins walking down the broad way from birth. Nothing has to happen to a person but be born to walk on the broad way.
  - Those who have been born again supernaturally walk on the narrow way.
- **Comparing traveler size: Many vs few**
  - It is easy to be on the broad way. This is the way we are on from birth. This way is easy as it allows us to continue in our fallen sinful desires without repentance, self-denial, and cross carrying. As a result the majority of people will be on this road and this road’s traveler count will be higher than that of the narrow way.
  - The narrow way has less travels and we must remember this as we walk in our Christian life on this earth. The majority view doesn’t make something true. We must be bold in our stand as we are on the less traveled path and will encounter persecution and testing.
- **Comparing the destinations of each way: Destruction/Hell vs Eternal Life with God**
  - Those who enter through the wide gate and travel on the broad way will have eternal destruction and the immutable wrath of God in the lake of fire as their final destination.
  - Those who enter through Christ and travel the narrow way will find eternal life, dwelling with God as their final destination. This destination is worth all the hardships, struggles, pain, and persecution while traveling on the narrow way.

## Verses 15-20

- One of the greatest dangers against the Church is false prophets.
- The dangers and the destruction from false prophets, teachers, and shepherds are in the Old Testament the New Testament.
  - **2 Peter 2:12-22** But these, like unreasoning animals, born as creatures of instinct to be captured and killed, reviling where they have no knowledge, will in <sup>[a]</sup>the destruction of those creatures also be destroyed, <sup>13</sup>suffering wrong as the wages of doing wrong. They count it a pleasure to revel in the daytime. They are stains and blemishes, reveling in their <sup>[b]</sup>deceptions, as they carouse with you, <sup>14</sup>having eyes full of adultery that never cease from sin, enticing unstable souls, having a heart trained in greed, accursed children; <sup>15</sup>forsaking the right way, they have gone astray, having followed the way of Balaam, the *son* of Beor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness; <sup>16</sup>but he received a rebuke for his own transgression, *for* a mute donkey, speaking with a voice of a man, restrained the madness of the prophet.<sup>17</sup> These are springs without water and mists driven by a storm, for whom the <sup>[c]</sup>black darkness has been reserved. <sup>18</sup>For speaking out arrogant *words* of vanity they entice by fleshly desires, by sensuality, those who barely escape from the ones who live in error, <sup>19</sup>promising them freedom while they themselves are slaves of corruption; for by what a man is overcome, by this he is enslaved. <sup>20</sup>For if, after they have escaped the defilements of the world by the knowledge of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, they are again entangled in them and are overcome, the last state has become worse for them than the first. <sup>21</sup>For it would be better for them not to have known the way of righteousness, than having known it, to turn away from the holy commandment handed on to them. <sup>22</sup><sup>[d]</sup>It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A dog returns to its own vomit,” and, “A sow, after washing, *returns* to wallowing in the mire.”
- The false prophets disguise themselves in sheep’s clothing. They may look and sound innocent, but inwardly they are ravenous wolves. Their message may seem attractive and appealing as so many are led astray by them but following them leads to the broad gate and way which leads to destruction.
- We can know them by their fruits. As appealing as their false doctrine may sound outwardly, they are not changed inwardly, and they produce and show evil and wicked actions from their fallen nature and flesh. Their false doctrines do not produce true fruits of repentance (**Matthew 3:8**) and the fruits that are of the Holy Spirit.
  - **Galatians 5:22-23** But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, <sup>23</sup>gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
- The trees that do not produce good fruit is cut down and thrown in the fire which is hell.
  - **John 15-1-6** “I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. <sup>2</sup>Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit, He <sup>[a]</sup>prunes it so that it may bear more fruit. <sup>3</sup>You are already <sup>[b]</sup>clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. <sup>4</sup>Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit <sup>[c]</sup>of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither *can* you unless you abide in Me. <sup>5</sup>I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing. <sup>6</sup>If anyone does not abide in Me, he is thrown away as a branch and dries up; and they gather them, and cast them into the fire and they are burned.

The broad way is the easy way as this is the path all humanity’s feet hit running when we are born. Only through the mercy and grace of God and faith in Jesus who is the gate do our path and way change. We then begin walking on the narrow way which can difficult way full of testing, persecution, and cross carrying. This is the way least traveled. However, this way is worth traveling because it has the greatest destination a creature could ever arrive. The destination is our eternal home where we have eternal life. Only those who have entered by the small gate can one day enter the gates of glory! Keep walking, it’s worth it!

