

How Narrow is the Path

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The path that Jesus tells us to follow is a narrow path. We are to go through this present life walking on this narrow path. The question one needs to identify is how narrow ? If you do not know that the one path forward is very narrow, then chances are you are going forward on the wide path, which is the wrong path. As one learns God's Word, one learns that the path we need to walk is indeed very narrow, much more than what one would think.

Mat 7:13 Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide *is* the gate, and broad *is* the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereat:

Mat 7:14 Because strait *is* the gate, and narrow *is* the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.

Mat 7:21 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.

Luk 13:23 Then said one unto him, Lord, are there few that be saved? And he said unto them,

Luk 13:24 Strive to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.

The members in the early congregations as set up by the apostles were walking that narrow path. Paul addresses them as the Saints in his letters to the various locations that he set up the groups or congregations. Nowadays people refer to them as Churches. The early congregations were very different from the Churches today, both in how they were organized and operated and also in how they learned and what they believed. If you wish to understand how these early people went forward you need to put yourself in their shoes. They learned both from the Torah, the first five books of the Bible, and from directions from the apostles who were themselves taught from the Holy Spirit. They did not have a copy of the New Testament. They were zealous of the Law, in other words they walked forward keeping the Commands of God, or keeping the Torah.

Act 21:19 And when he had saluted them, he declared particularly what things God had wrought among the Gentiles by his ministry.

Act 21:20 And when they heard *it*, they glorified the Lord, and said unto him, Thou seest, brother, how many thousands of Jews there are which believe; and they are all zealous of the law:

Those that are identified as the Saints are defined by Paul in his addressing of his letter to the various congregations.

Eph 1:1 Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, to the saints which are at Ephesus, and to the faithful in Christ Jesus:

Col 1:2 To the saints and faithful brethren in Christ which are at Colosse: Grace *be* unto you, and peace, from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

The main definition of being one of the Saints is found in Revelations as follows;

Rev 14:12 Here is the patience of the saints: here *are* they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus.

This verse identifies three distinct conditions that the Saints keep or satisfy as they go forward, first they keep the Patience or Endure no matter what, second they keep the Commandments of God, or the Law of God, third they keep the Faith of Jesus. The Commandments of God are found in the first five Books of the Bible, they are the Torah or the Law, or the Way forward. From this we can see that there are few people today that walk on that narrow path, many might think they do, but in fact do not meet the ways the Saints are defined.

Consider the following that tells us about keeping the Commandments of God. They are very clear, the verses say what they mean. God speaks truth, God does not change, it is our choice to either obey or go our own way, rather than walking on the narrow path. It really does not matter what others do or what others say, only God's Word is what is to be obeyed and followed.

Rev 22:14 Blessed *are* they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city.

Joh 14:15 *If ye love me, keep my commandments.*

Joh 14:21 *He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.*

1Jn 2:3 And hereby we do know that we know him, if we keep his commandments.

1Jn 2:4 He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him.

1Jn 2:5 But whoso keepeth his **word**, in him verily is the love of God perfected: hereby know we that we are in him.

1Jn 5:2 By this we know that we love the children of God, when we love God, and keep his commandments.

1Jn 5:3 For this is the love of God, that we keep his commandments: and his commandments are not grievous.

Deu 5:29 O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep **all** my commandments **always**, that it might be well with them, and with their children for ever!

Deu 7:11 Thou shalt therefore keep the commandments, and the **statutes**, and the **judgments**, which I command thee this day, to do them.

Deu 8:6 Therefore thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, to walk in his ways, and to fear him.

Deu 8:11 Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his **judgments**, and his **statutes**, which I command thee this day:

Deu 11:1 Therefore thou shalt love the LORD thy God, and keep his **charge**, and his **statutes**, and his **judgments**, and his commandments, **alway**

Deu 28:9 The LORD shall establish thee an holy people unto himself, as he hath sworn unto thee, if thou shalt keep the commandments of the LORD thy God, and **walk in his ways**.

Keeping the Commandments is much more than what most all people today think, the 10 Commandments were an abbreviated summary used as a legal document for the covenant. Also check out Psalms 119 with Strong's Numbers. Understand that Jesus as the "Word" in the Old Testament, was the mediator for the Father, the one who dwelt with man. Jesus is the one that gave the Laws to man, so when Jesus says "*keep my commandments*" it has a much broader meaning than what most would think.

Keeping the faith of Jesus is knowing who He is and following and doing what He told us and showed us, His words are not idle words, they are full of meanings and instructions to us on how we are to walk forward. Many say they follow Jesus, but most all are only paying lip service to what they say. Jesus tells us that there will be a large number to whom He will say, "I know you not". As we go forward we are to grow and mature in the manner that both God and Jesus demand. Keeping the faith is a continual process of growing, it is accomplished with the help of the Holy Spirit within us.

The following are some of the things Jesus told us with respect to going forward in life;

Mat 19:16 And, behold, one came and said unto him, Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?

Mat 19:17 And he said unto him, *Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments.*

Mat 19:29 And every one that hath forsaken houses, or brethren, or sisters, or father, or mother, or wife, or children, or lands, for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold, and shall inherit everlasting life.

Mat 25:42 For I was an hungred, and ye gave me no meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me no drink:

Mat 25:43 I was a stranger, and ye took me not in: naked, and ye clothed me not: sick, and in prison, and ye visited me not.

Mat 25:44 Then shall they also answer him, saying, Lord, when saw we thee an hungred, or athirst, or a stranger, or naked, or sick, or in prison, and did not minister unto thee?

Mat 25:45 Then shall he answer them, saying, Verily I say unto you, Inasmuch as ye did *it* not to one of the least of these, ye did *it* not to me.

Mat 25:46 And these shall go away into everlasting punishment: but the righteous into life eternal.

Mar 8:34 And when he had called the people *unto him* with his disciples also, he said unto them, *Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me.*

Mar 8:35 For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it.

Luk 10:25 And, behold, a certain lawyer stood up, and tempted him, saying, Master, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?

Luk 10:26 He said unto him, *What is written in the law? how readest thou?*

Luk 10:27 And he answering said, Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy strength, and with all thy mind; and thy neighbour as thyself.

Luk 10:28 And he said unto him, *Thou hast answered right: this do, and thou shalt live.*

Joh 3:16 For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

The above are just a few verses that point to walking forward on the narrow path. We must use the whole or complete Bible to find the way forward. When we study God's Word and do God's Will as we walk forward, then we continue growing as we walk on the path through this life. If you truly love God, then you will obey and do what He tells us, for when you love someone you want to do what pleases them. Obedience in following Jesus and in doing God's Will is our showing love to both Jesus and the Father.

Mat 12:50 For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother.

Luk 11:28 But he said, Yea rather, blessed *are* they that hear the word of God, and keep it.

Ask yourself, where do you find God's Will ? It is in the complete Bible, both the Old and New Testaments. Most of God's Will is found in the first five books of the Bible, these books are known as the Law or the Torah, they identify God's Way.

If you think that God's Law is not needed today, consider the following;

Luk 16:17 And it is easier for heaven and earth to pass, than one tittle of the law to fail.

Neither God nor Jesus lie and they do not change, that means one must study God's Word carefully and do what it tells us.

If you are walking on the narrow path, then you are reading and studying God's Word every day, continually growing and always learning and reflecting on God's Word. You are one who keeps the Laws as given by God, keeping them with the intent placed in your heart. You form a personal relationship with God and continually work on having it grow. You follow and do all that Jesus told us and showed us to the best of your ability. You are always focused on working towards our future life in the presence of Jesus and the Father. You walk forward in the spirit and not in the flesh. You pray and continually ask God to help you to grow and walk on the narrow path. Read, study, pray and watch always.
