

How Many Ways Are There?Tim Canup

It has often been said that all who believe in Jesus are all traveling to the same place, except on different roads. Certainly one must follow Jesus in order to be able to go to heaven

(Matthew 16:24); however, what does the Bible say concerning the way? Notice a couple of passages.

Having announced His departure from this world (John 14:1-3), Jesus then said to His apostles, "And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know" (verse 4). This confused them and Thomas asked, "Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way?" (verse 5). Jesus responded: "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me" (verse 6). We can understand Jesus is the only way to the Father and salvation; however, notice He said, "I am THE way..." not, "A way..." or "one of many ways!" The way mentioned here is by obedience to all the commandments He has given in the New Testament (James 2:10; Hebrews 5:9). Solomon said, "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12). Jeremiah said, "O LORD, I know that the way of man *is* not in himself: *it is* not in man that walketh to direct his steps" (Jeremiah 10:23).

Next, consider Matthew 7:13-14, where Jesus said, "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: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it." There are two different and distinct ways mentioned in these verses, only one of which will lead to the Father and eternal life. In life, we have two choices, we can either choose to follow that which seems right in our own heart or we can choose to follow Jesus (not picking and choosing what we will and will not obey). We cannot do that which we "believe" is right and enter the strait gate and walk the narrow way. The standards of the **broad way** are set by

each individual; however, the end of this way is destruction (II Thessalonians 1:7-9). Any person willing to conform their life to God's Will is walking in the narrow way, which leads to eternal life. Remember, Satan is the deceiver of the whole world (Revelation 12:9) and is doing his best to convince us that the way we are traveling is the right way. Be not deceived!

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