**The Narrow And Difficult Way**

Kenneth D. Sils

 ***“Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.”* Matthew 7:13-14**

 From the greatest sermon ever, Jesus began to press those along the mount that far too many of them would “miss the boat” spiritually.

 How? They were Jews, the special treasure of the true and living God! They were curious to consider deep spiritual truth, willing to come out and hear the One that practically the entire region considered, at the least, a prophet of Jehovah. They were probably serving God in a decent capacity according to the Old Testament Law system. So, why would Jesus preach this tragic concept among the midst of seemingly correct believers in God?

 The “why” is obvious for us with hindsight! They were being taught about the great kingdom God had been promising for centuries. They must now “enter the narrow gate” and “walk upon the difficult path.” As we wind our way through the gospel story, many of these Jewish people would end up rejecting Jesus as the Messiah, resist the Jesus’ pathway for entering His church and thus, will not walk on the pathway of Jesus, being Christians!

 Millions today are just like these followers Jesus was preaching to: they believe Jesus is a great religious teacher, but they never walk through the gate of His church, making it possible for them to dwell on “the narrow road”. Friend, be sure: hear, believe… and enter through the open gate into His church and walk the difficult way. That is how we’ll get to heaven!