



## A Note from Ray

### THE BROAD ROAD



*“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and **many** enter through it. But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a **few** find it.”* (Matthew 7:13-14). We need to pay attention to three important words Jesus uses in this scripture: FEW, MANY and FIND.

This Scripture, in its context, refers to the church body and not to the lost world. Jesus is saying that the entrance to Eternal Life is very narrow and *few* find it! What does He mean by *few*? He is saying that only a small number of those who are sitting in the pews of our churches -- those who call themselves Christians -- are truly regenerated born again believers! AW Tozer felt that only 10% of those sitting in the pews were truly born again. Barna Christian Research feels that only 20 to 30 percent of those sitting in American Church pews are born again -- so there is a possibility that in a row of ten people, seven to nine people may be lost and not on the narrow road.

What does a truly born again, regenerated believer look like? We see in the prophet Ezekiel the promise of what true salvation looks like. *“Then I will sprinkle clean water on you, and you will be clean; I will cleanse you from all your filthiness and from all your idols. Moreover, I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you; and I will remove the heart of stone from your flesh and give you a heart of flesh. I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”* (Ezekiel 36:25-27) Through the Holy Spirit, God does a miraculous change in the person who has *humbled* themselves before Him; *realized* they are filthy with sin and the idol of self; *see their need* to repent before holy God; and *seek salvation* through Jesus Christ alone. Then the Holy Spirit supernaturally washes their soul clean, and gives them a new heart -- the heart of Christ -- and gives them a new human spirit (small “s”) which is now holy and fills this human spirit with the Holy Spirit. Thus, now the newly regenerated soul has the Holy Spirit writing God’s Word on their heart (the inner man), and they obey God’s Word. By God’s hand, they supernaturally become a new creature in Christ. *Has this supernatural act transpired in your life? Are you one of the few on the narrow road?*



The broad road is the religious road composed of many souls who have never experienced true salvation. They may have walked an aisle; said a prayer; and may have been even baptized -- but they have never been truly regenerated (Ezekiel 36:25-27). So, *who are the many that are on the broad road?* It can be anyone in the church -- including the leaders! They have heard and believed the false gospels, false prophets and false teachers of our day which have taken control of most of the evangelical churches in America. We are living in the last days and of the great apostasy (falling away from truth) prophesied by Paul *“Let no one in any way deceive you, for it will not come unless the apostasy comes first, and the man of lawlessness is revealed, the son of destruction”* (2Thess 2:3). Jesus warns us in Matthew 7 that there would be false teachers, leaders, and prophets who would lead the broad road believers, and we would know them by their fruits! *“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thorn bushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise, every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them.”* (Matthew 7:15-20).

The broad road believers can be highly active in ministry and leadership within the church body and be considered pillars in the community and church. *“Holding to a form of godliness, although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these”* (2 Timothy 3:5). These will think they are doing God’s work and expect eternity in heaven with great rewards! BUT THEY ARE SELF DECIEVED! *“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only the one who does the will of My Father who is in heaven. Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name and in Your name drive out demons and in Your name perform many miracles?’ Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from Me, you evildoers!’”* (Matthew 7:21-23). This is one of the most frightening Scriptures in the entire Bible! These people were active in ministry in Jesus’ name and where doing miracles, signs, and wonders. They were the ones making the headlines in all the Christian media, the headliners of their day, and the ones who others looked up to BUT Jesus sees they are not His and has DAMNED them!

Let us look at this Scripture in more detail. Jesus said just calling Him Lord is not the key to heaven; but doing the will of the Father is. What is the Father’s will? The Father’s will is for us to be obedient to His Word. If you remember in Ezekiel 36:25-27, verse 27 says *“I will put My Spirit within you and cause you to walk in My statutes, and you will be careful to observe My ordinances.”* The truly regenerated soul can obey God’s will because of the Holy Spirit that dwells in them supernaturally. These false Christians did not have this and were depending on their self-righteous, self-centered works which they listed to Jesus as the reason He should let them in: Prophecy (False Prophecy), Exorcism, and Miracles (False Miracles). They were not trusting in Jesus but were trusting in themselves and their mighty religious works. Our best works are considered filthy rags to God. Paul made it clear in Ephesians *“For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not as a result of works, so that no one may boast.”* (Ephesians 2:8-9). Christ’s judgment on them was complete and eternal! They received the greatest shock of their lives! They left this life thinking they were going to heaven, but instead found themselves condemned by Jesus to the Lake of Fire for all eternity!

This is very sobering! *Many* are on the broad road to destruction and *few* are on the narrow road to Christ and heaven. The Scriptures are clear that more are lost in the churches than saved. So, *the most important question for you and me to answer is which road are we on?* Paul asks this important question in 2 Corinthians 13:5 *“Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is in you -- unless indeed you fail the test?”*. My prayer is that you will examine yourself and see where you are in Christ. Remember: If you hear the words from Christ *“I never knew you”*, it is too late and there is no remedy for you. Remember: Do not harden your heart. Today is the day of salvation.

