

THE NARROW AND WIDE GATES

The decisions humans make.

He is the Rock, his work is perfect: for all his ways are judgment:
a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is he.

Deuteronomy 32:4





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Dear friends,

Each day we make an endless round of decisions, second-by-second, minute-by-minute. Hours, days, weeks, months and years all seem to just fly by. Growing older, we consider life, *and death*. We attend more funerals and memorials and we think about being young again, or at least *feeling* young again. Through the aging process, we watch family and friends meet eternity head on. We will all have our own turn.

Somehow, the older we get, the faster time seems to go by. Our entire lives revolve around personal *decisions*, and sometimes, the unfortunate decisions of others. When bad decisions are made, whether they be ours or someone else's, *no one* can slow time down or turn the clock back. Tragic accidents happen, folly is perpetuated, and spiritual deception *versus* biblical truth is reality. Choices!

So how do we fare? What are we doing with our "time" each day? How does our "Worldview" affect our daily life and decisions? What is most important to us? Do we really believe in heaven and hell? Simple questions these are, and for each individual, the answers are different and often very profound.

Bad Fruit: Consider these personalities (*Time Magazine* covers) - Satan (Lucifer), Carroll, Jim, David, Ron, Shoko and Herff? They made some serious decisions, some *seriously wrong decisions!* Each of their spiritual beliefs determined their eternity. Like them, those captivated by renegade cults, abusive churches, flowery New Age ideas of ones own "personal divinity," and a million other deceptions, have embraced false teachings and

irrational thinking. Wholeheartedly deceived, their minds stop short of believing the truth; they cannot do so, for they are stuck in neutral, spiritually blinded by the god of this age (John 12:31; 2 Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; 6:10-20). Proclaiming lies and believing lies, they reject historical data, factual evidence, rational thinking, and even basic common sense. People of this sort are doing this today, virtually throwing their minds out of the window. In the occupation I am in, I see this process and the bad fruit of it all the time. It is grievous to see people, like blind sheep, following one another over the edge of a steep spiritual cliff. Like sheep, humans are capable of incredible delusion too!

Quicksand and Kool Aid: Many people like to collect rocks, and as far as I know, most people like to drink uncontaminated water. But what happens if the rock one is standing on is crumbling sandstone, or a top layer of congealed quicksand? And what if the water one is drinking while standing on the congealed landscape contains *four parts per billion* Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCB's)? Standing on quicksand drinking poisonous water is not an ideal situation. Quicksand sinks and PCB's are synthetic chemicals that are useful, but highly toxic. PCB's kill worms, fish, birds, *and humans too*. This sounds sort of like the scenario "Brother" Jim Jones (Peoples Temple, Guyana) provided as he offered his allegiant followers the choice of *arsenic* spiked Kool Aid or the cold muzzle of a gun. Himself included, Jim Jones led 918 people, including 276 children, to their deaths (1974, Jonestown). Big Jim was

into *big* recruitment, *big* "faith healing" and of course, *big* money. Like Jim Jones' heresies, false teachers are a dime a dozen.

Narrow and Wide Gates: Simply put, one must be *aware* of what one is consuming, physically and spiritually. One must also be *aware* of what he/she is believing, as far as personal beliefs about God and eternity. Is the belief true? Is there credible evidence for it? Jesus Christ Himself was very clear that the gate to eternal life is *narrow*, and that we are to *watch out* for spiritual *deceivers*. We would do well to heed Jesus' words:

"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." (Matt. 7:13-14).

True and False Prophets: Equal to the task of identifying false teachers *outside* the church, is identifying and exposing false teachers *inside* the Church (Rom. 16:17-19; Gal. 1:6-9; I & II Tim.; Titus, etc). This is what is needed more than ever, and this is part of the daily decision making process of truly serving the LORD - discerning between good and evil!

"Beware of false prophets, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. Ye shall know them by their fruits. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles?" (Matt. 7:15-16)



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Your financial support allows my family and I to continue our missions work and our apologetics outreach. As a missionary with World In Need International I am required to raise my financial support. My support is dependent on monthly recurring and one-time gifts from churches, family and friends. We are thankful that God is increasing our support for personal living expenses and we thank you for your continued prayers and financial support.

Ministry Update: The past few months have been extremely busy with an endless string of tasks. Although we reestablished our ministry in California a few years ago, our lifestyle is much like it was when we lived in Scotland. Meeting with people, Bible studies, family sporting events, my wife working at a local store, periodic counseling, writing and editing, website maintenance, correspondence, and some surf sessions in the freezing cold ocean every now and then.

Family: My wife keeps busy working part time and taking care of us all. Our kids are healthy, active and achieving outstanding grades. I am working through bad sleep issues, foot pain, and the usual issues with my injured back. Altogether, we are joyful in the LORD and trusting Him. We do need more monthly donor support as we are now in full swing as a ministry family with growing teenagers. Our funds are very limited, my wife and I both need dental work, and I need to have surgery in a few months. We pray for God's provision and wait on Him.

Spiritual Research Network:

We continue to make headway with SRN and over the last few weeks I have received some very important phone calls; calls from people who were literally on the edge of their sanity because of corrupt ministers literally destroying more than just a few lives (rape, pedophilia, authority abuses, etc.) At times the phone counseling leaves me very exhausted, but we help where we can. I primarily try to point people back to the LORD and His Word, and put this into a very practical context. Helping people simply get on track with a normal and balanced lifestyle, apart from "church abuse mayhem" is greatly needed today. Many people who have called in the past have been reeling in agony from horrible church experiences. We do have plenty of material on our website to help people with numerous issues. I am now beginning to work more on material to help people who are being ruined by Yoga, Reiki, "Centering prayer," seances, Ouija Boards and a whole host of other dangerous practices that are wrongfully being "Christianized." It is amazing to see the delusion people are into these days.

Local Issues: One of the saddest things I've seen in years is a whole host of

local Christian pastors embracing Contemplative Spirituality (New Age / New Spirituality) in varying levels, and being "ecumenical" (unbiblical ecumenism) with Word Faith prosperity gospel pastors. Some of them are even into the lunacy oriented hyper-faith churches (lying signs and wonders). Others have joined with the liberal, ecumenical Roman Catholic campus ministries. Churches I never dreamed would embrace this stuff, *have and are!* Several of the pastors positively quote from aberrant and known false teachers, striking up "dialogue" to gain hits on their blog and Facebook pages. Strange! Apparently confusing sincere Christians in the churches these men pastor doesn't seem to bother them.

Pointing People to God's Word:

People contact us in disgust over these things and we simply try to point them back to God's Word, and what to do about the lack of discernment in the church(es) they attend. Generally speaking, the pastors do nothing about publicly repenting when they are confronted by people in their churches. It is unfortunate that so many people just get bulldozed by leaders. Repeatedly seeing no change, the people leave. Amazingly, another local pastor has allowed a hardcore ecumenical/contemplative college student to launch a two-year contemplative "School of Jesus" *Apprentice Series* program - for the college students. The dangers of courses like this are that they have the capacity to *literally undo* a biblical Christian's personal faith and replace it with New Age, mystical, yogic meditation techniques, mantras (phrases/words), *lectio divina* practices, Ignatian spirituality (Jesuit), etc. The outcome is a false Christianity based on "experience," more than the clear teachings of the Word of God. This is *one example among many* that we see on a regular basis.

- * **Please pray** for us as we continue to help many who are in need of even the most basic Christian teachings.
- * **Please pray and consider** becoming a monthly donor if our ministry has been a help to you.

With sincere thanks in the LORD!

- Chris Lawson

"As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge [command] some that they teach no other doctrine"
(1 Tim. 1:3)

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