

Strive to Enter through the Narrow Door

Luke 13:24-30

Practical atheism is living your life as if God doesn't exist, though you profess your belief that He does. When Jesus speaks of His Kingdom (e.g. God's reign in your life), He doesn't allow for practical atheism.

"Strive to enter through the narrow door."

I. The narrow door represents Jesus Christ and His invitation to sinners.

Jesus said, "I am the Door," (John 10:9) - not "a door," He is "the door." You must enter through Him.

A. Christ is the door of access to God (John 14:6; Eph. 2:18; Heb. 10:19-22).

"I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man comes to the Father, but by Me." (John 14:6)

"For through him we both have access by one Spirit unto the Father." (Ephesians 2:18).

Your faith relationship with Jesus matters. Without it, you do not know your Creator God at all.

B. Doors, gates and entrances in the Bible all point to Jesus Christ.

1. Christ is the entrance into the Garden of Eden
2. Christ is the door into the Ark of Noah
3. Christ is the gate to the ancient Cities of Refuge.
4. Christ is the door to the sheep pen; He is the Good Shepherd and calls us home.
5. Christ is the door that led Paul and Silas out of their bondage.

C. He is an open door, until the time God chooses to close the entrance.

Once the owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside knocking and pleading, 'Sir, open the door for us.' But He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know where you are from.'" (Luke 13:25). This must be the most solemn verse in the entire New Testament.

II. Striving to enter the narrow door is an image of entering the Kingdom.

"Strive to enter through the narrow door; for many will seek to enter and will not be able" v. 24).

A. Many seek but don't strive to enter.

It would be okay with you to enter in to eternal life. You would like to have their sins forgiven.

And you would like to go to heaven when you die. But you will not strive to enter in, because your heart is too much enamored by your sin. It is not particularly important for you to have Christ. It would be fine to have Him, but you would like your anger, lust, immorality and greed as well.

"Lay not up for yourselves treasures upon earth, where moth and rust doth corrupt, and where thieves break through and steal: But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven (Matt. 6:19-20).

B. Many seek but don't see to enter.

In the KJV the door is called a "strait," which means small, narrow or constricted (see Matt. 1:21).

There is a broad gate, which is far more flattering, far more appealing, far less costly, and far more popular. When you enter the strait gate, you must declare what is His and remove everything else.

C. Many seek but don't surrender to enter.

"I'll wait till I'm ready." No, you come when He calls. If you wait, then you will mistake reformation for regeneration, feeling for faith, emotion for love, religious habits for commitment to Christ.

III. Entering the narrow door is the most important legacy of your life.

The actual translation is, "*Make every effort to enter in at the strait gate.*" That means we must never give up. We must never be indifferent about the state of our souls and the surrender of our sins.

When we hear the Word, we learn more about the importance of Jesus Christ.

When we call out to God, we admit our dependence on His provision to remove our sins.

When we pray for Mercy, we ask God to deliver us from the broad and wide road of destruction.