

## Take the Cramped Road

**(Matthew 7:13, 14)** "Go in through the narrow gate, because broad is the gate and spacious is the road leading off into destruction, and many are going in through it; <sup>14</sup> whereas narrow is the gate and cramped the road leading off into life, and few are finding it.

Why does Matthew 7:14 say that few find the cramped road, while Revelation 7:9 says that a "*great crowd*" make it through Armageddon?

**(Revelation 7:9)** After this I saw, and look! a great crowd, which no man was able to number, out of all nations and tribes and peoples and tongues,

Because Matthew 7:14 isn't about the numbers. It's about the conditions on the road. On the wide road you don't have to think for yourself, make decisions, or stand-up for anything because you are allowing yourself to be swept along by the crowd around you. Taking the wide road means taking the easy road.

Unfortunately that's what Jehovah's Witnesses (JW) do. They choose the easy way. They don't want to stand out or make waves so they fall in line, keep their head down, and allow themselves to be carried along by the crowd. That is how it is on the wide road. (Mt 7:13)

It takes courage to not "go with the flow", to not give-in to the peer pressure that every JW is continuously subjected-to to obey the Governing Body (GB). It takes courage to break away from being followers of men and take your stand for Christ and Jehovah the way the scriptures tell us to.

**(Isaiah 2:22)** For your own sakes, quit trusting in mere man, Who is only the breath in his nostrils. Why should he be taken into account?

**(Psalm 146:3, 4)** Do not put your trust in princes Nor in a son of man, who cannot bring salvation. <sup>4</sup> His spirit goes out, he returns to the ground; On that very day his thoughts perish.

**(Jeremiah 17:5)** This is what Jehovah says: "Cursed is the man who puts his trust in mere humans, Who relies on human power, And whose heart turns away from Jehovah.

**(Matthew 23:10)** Neither be called leaders, for your Leader is one, the Christ.

**(1 Timothy 2:5)** For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, a man, Christ Jesus,

**(John 14:6)** Jesus said to him: "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

**(Matthew 24:24)** For false Christs and false prophets will arise and will perform great signs and wonders so as to mislead, if possible, even the chosen ones.

JW's should take the cramped road instead of sticking with the crowd around them and giving-in to its influence. Peer pressure is a powerful weapon, and the GB are very skilled at wielding it.

On the cramped road you walk single-file. Even though you are not alone on the cramped road, it's up to you to choose your steps and make your way along it. No one does it for you. Peer pressure doesn't guide you. You read the Bible, see what it tells you to do, and you make the decision to do it.

On the cramped road you have to think for yourself, because on the cramped road you aren't surrounded by others for you to walk in lockstep with them. You have to exert yourself to make your own way along it.

**(Luke 13:24)** Exert yourselves vigorously to get in through the narrow door.

You don't step through a narrow gate with others at the same time. That's why Jesus called it "*narrow*", because stepping through it is stepping through it on your own. Not going through it with a crowd. It's the same reason that Jesus described the road as "*cramped*".

Yes, a "*great crowd*" make it through Armageddon (Re 7:9), but they get there by individually making their way along the cramped road, choosing their steps wisely, and allowing themselves to be guided by Bible principles.

Unfortunately JW's have been taught that being compliant and non-confrontational is what it means to be a sheep (Jn 10:3), so they allow themselves to be carried along. (See my Article "Are you a sheep?") But if you are "going with the flow", if you are allowing yourself to be carried along by those around you because it is the easy thing to do and you don't

want to cause ripples, then you are on the wide road. (1Ti 6:12)

Note that not choosing the wide gate does not mean you have chosen the narrow gate. Jesus only speaks about two options, the wide gate or the narrow gate. There is no third option where you don't choose either one. If you choose not to decide, you still have made the choice not to enter the narrow gate, which is the only avenue for life.

Going through the narrow gate requires action. You may not have acted wickedly, but have you acted righteously? To get on the cramped road you must step forward and go through the narrow gate, not just sit and look at it. What are you required to do?

**(James 2:14)** Of what benefit is it, my brothers, if someone says he has faith but he does not have works? That faith cannot save him, can it?

People go through the narrow gate by performing good deeds. (Mt 25:34-40; Jas 2:15-16)

You don't have to save the world, but you do have to do *something*.

**(Matthew 10:42)** And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water to drink because he is a disciple, I tell you truly, he will by no means lose his reward."

Happily, most of us **have** helped others, and not just with words, but with deeds.

But JW's are taught that their GB are the equivalent to the apostles in the first century, and should be obeyed. However Christ made it very clear that his apostles should not hold positions of authority. (see my article "The Governing Body")

The GB have deceived millions by performing "*great signs and wonders*". (Mt 24:24)

Are the powerful works they perform fake, or trickery?

**(Matthew 7:22)** Many will say to me in that day: 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and expel demons in your name, and perform many powerful works in your name?'

No, Christ does not deny it. They truly do perform many powerful works in his name, but Jesus still tells them "*I never knew you.*" (Mt 7:23) Why does he say "*never*" to those "*in that day*"? Because from their very beginning they were "*false Christs and false prophets.*"

(Mt 24:24) Or as Luke 21:8 puts it, they falsely say '*I am he,*' and they falsely prophecy that '*the due time is near.*'

Do you say: [But the GB don't say "I am he."](#)

Not true. The GB claim the seat of Christ, just as the scribes and the Pharisees claimed the seat of Moses. (Mt 23:2) Moses was the spokesman for God. The GB have seated themselves in Christ's seat by claiming to be God's spokesman, and therefore the God-ordained interpreters of the Law.

Note that i said God's spokesperson, not Christ's spokesperson. A group of Christians who belong to Christ (1Co 3:23) would be Christ's organization, but the GB repeatedly say that they are God's organization. Why? Because they are side-stepping Christ. They claim to replace Christ.

You don't believe me? In outright defiance to the Bible (De 4:2; Pr 30:6; Re 22:18) the GB have even added to the scriptures to promote their claim as Christ's replacement:

**(2 Corinthians 5:20)** Therefore, we are ambassadors substituting for Christ, as though God were making an appeal through us. As substitutes for Christ, we beg: "Become reconciled to God."

The original Greek does not say "substituting" or "substitutes" for Christ. Don't believe me. Look it up for yourself. "Substitute" means replacement, and no one can replace Christ. (Mt 23:10; 1Ti 2:5; Jn 14:6)

Yes, the GB have symbolically sat down in the temple of God. (2Th 2:4)

Men who solicit the obedience of others, disobeying Matthew 23:10, will pay a heavy price. The fact that they brought people to God will not excuse them, no matter how much they plead their case. (Mt 7:22-23)

Since the GB are so convincing will Christ show their followers leniency? I don't know, since he made it very clear not to be followers of men. And he said that those who blindly follow others "will fall into a pit." (Mt 15:14) So JW's will have to answer for intentionally disregarding Christ's command not to be followers of men.

Since the GB claim to have replaced Christ they teach their followers that Christians who

listened to the apostles speak the words of Christ in the first century is the same as JW's obeying the GB today. But the early Christians did not have the Greek scriptures containing Christ's instructions that Christians today have. So they had to listen to the apostles to know Christ's words.

Therefore, when the apostles or early Christians were imprisoned or killed, it was for obeying Christ's instructions, not for obeying the instructions of men who neither claimed to replace Christ nor claimed his authority or power.

What about you today? Do you follow men who claim Christ's position and authority? Or do you follow Christ's instructions directly from the Bible?

Even Jesus was presented with the decision whether to follow men, or God's word.

**(Matthew 16:22)** At this Peter took him aside and began to rebuke him, saying: "Be kind to yourself, Lord; you will not have this happen to you at all."

What did Jesus do? He chose to obey God's will rather than man's. If Jesus listened to Peter he would be listening to the words of men instead of following God's directions. But Jesus chose to ignore Peter's directions, setting a good example for all of us.

We should follow Jesus' example and ignore the directions of men (even men like Peter) when they contradict the Bible, such as the directions in all those scriptures referenced above. (There are many more scriptures in my article "Are You Worshiping Jehovah Acceptably? - Expanded")

Peter wanted Jesus to be kind to himself, to do the easy thing. (Mt 16:22) But Jesus chose the more difficult path. (Mt 7:13-14)

JW's who question the GB's directives are told by the JW's around them not to make waves, to just go with the flow, to do the easy thing of obeying the GB without question. But they should follow Jesus' example and take the more difficult (cramped) path of obeying the Bible instead of men. They should tell those other JW's the same thing that Jesus told Peter:

**(Matthew 16:23)** "Get behind me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to me, because you think, not God's thoughts, but those of men."

Have your actions shown that you have chosen the wide gate? All is not lost. You can turn around and go through the narrow gate instead.

**(Matthew 18:3)** Truly I say to you, unless you turn around and become as young children, you will by no means enter into the Kingdom of the heavens.

**(John 12:40)** "He has blinded their eyes and has made their hearts hard, so that they would not see with their eyes and understand with their hearts and turn around and I heal them."

**(Acts 3:19)** "Repent, therefore, and turn around so as to get your sins blotted out, so that seasons of refreshing may come from Jehovah himself

(see also Mt 13:15; Mr 4:12; Acts 28:27)

Here is what Jesus said is required for everlasting life:

**(John 3:15-16)** so that everyone believing in him may have everlasting life. <sup>16</sup> "For God loved the world so much that he gave his only-begotten Son, so that everyone exercising faith in him might not be destroyed but have everlasting life.

**(John 3:36)** The one who exercises faith in the Son has everlasting life; the one who disobeys the Son will not see life, but the wrath of God remains upon him.

**(John 6:40)** For this is the will of my Father, that everyone who recognizes the Son and exercises faith in him should have everlasting life, and I will resurrect him on the last day."

**(John 17:3)** This means everlasting life, their coming to know you, the only true God, and the one whom you sent, Jesus Christ.

**(John 20:31)** But these have been written down so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and because of believing, you may have life by means of his name.

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Bible: Do not trust men. (Isa 2:22; Ps 146:3-4; Jer 17:5)

JW: I trust the GB.

Bible: There is only one mediator between God and men. (1Ti 2:5)

JW: The GB is between me and God.

Bible: Your Leader is one, the Christ. (Mt 23:10)

JW: The GB are my spiritual leaders.

Bible: One is your Teacher, Christ. (Mt 23:8)

JW: I follow the teachings of the GB.

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What do you think?

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