

THE WAY THAT LEADS TO DESTRUCTION

Matt. 7: 13 – 14

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INTRODUCTION

1. Christ, in these passages, talks about TWO ways:
 - a. One leads to eternal life with God in heaven.
 - b. The other leads to eternal Hell – “*to destruction*” – Matt. 10:28.
2. The way unto life is the way of righteousness – Acts 10: 34 – 35; I John 3:7; Rom. 5:21.
3. The way that leads to destruction is the way of sin and disobedience – 2 Thess. 1: 8 – 9; Rom. 6:23.
4. The way to destruction is BROAD; it includes every evil way.
5. Its GATE is WIDE – we enter it by sin.
6. The company one has in the broad way is LARGE – Matt. 7:13.
 - a. Worldly men who make a profession of religion – I John 4: 1, 5; I Pet. 2:1 – 3; Tit. 1:11.
 - b. Worldly men who make no profession of religion.
 - c. The Atheist
 - d. The infidel
 - e. The unconcerned
 - f. The nominal Christian
 - g. Men and women of pleasure
 - h. People of every age, rank, profession, and employment.
7. Let us study some of the sins that LEAD TO DESTRUCTION.

I. THE WAY OF PRIDE

- a. The Lord hates PRIDE and arrogancy – Prov. 8:13.
- b. He hates a proud look – Prov. 6:17.
- c. “*When pride cometh, then cometh shame*” – Prov. 11:2.
- d. “*Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall*” – Prov. 16:18.
- e. A man’s pride shall bring him low – Prov. 29:23.
 - i. The pride of Nebuchadnezzar: “*But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in pride, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him*” . . . Dan. 5:20.
 - ii. The pride of Belshazzar: “*And thou his Son, O Belshazzar, has not humbled thine heart, though thou knewest all this*” . . . Dan. 5:22.
 1. In that night he was slain and Darius the Median took the kingdom.
- f. Many of our problems in the church could be settled easily if it were not for the sin of Pride:
 - i. Pride keeps people from confessing their sins when they can see that they have done wrong.
 - ii. Pride brings contention among brethren:
 1. Prov. 13:10
 2. Phil. 2:3
 3. 3 John 9 – 10
 - iii. Pride keeps us from seeing our sins – Luke 18: 9 – 14.
 - iv. Pride causes us to be hypocrites – Matt. 7: 1 – 5.

- g. Pride keeps men from saying “I am wrong in my religion”.

II. THE WAY OF SELF-INDULGENCE

- a. Our passions, like our children, must be controlled – I Cor. 9:27.
- b. No man can indulge himself in sin and go to heaven when he dies – Gal. 5: 19 – 21; I Cor. 6: 9 – 10.

III. THE WAY THAT SEEMS RIGHT UNTO MAN

- a. Prov. 14:12 – *“There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death.”*
- b. God’s thoughts are not man’s thoughts – Isa. 55:8 – 9.
- c. Some of the ways that seem right unto man:
 - i. Praying for pardon – Rom. 8:2; Rom. 1:16.
 - ii. Faith only – James 2:24.
 - iii. Baptism that is not for salvation from past sins – Acts 2:38.
 - iv. “One church is as good as another” – Matt. 16:18.

IV. THE WAY OF UNCONTROLLED TEMPER

- a. Paul said, *“Be ye angry, and sin not”* – Eph. 4:26.
- b. To the Colossians he said, *“Put off all these; anger, wrath, malice”* – Col. 3:8.
- c. Anger, held in the heart very long, become malice, and hatred, and produces a desire for revenge – Rom. 12:19.
 - i. Cain hated Abel and murdered him – I John 3:12.
 - ii. I John 3:15.

V. THE WAY OF OMISSION

- a. It is a sin not to do good – James 4:17.
- b. One can go to hell as quick for doing nothing as he can for doing something.

VI. THE WAY OF HEEDLESSNESS

- a. The people of Noah’s day – Luke 17: 26 – 29; 2 Pet. 2: 5 – 6
- b. Many today are the same way . . .

CONCLUSION