

TITLE: BROAD OR NARROW road– which do you choose?

SONGS:

LORD I LIFT YOUR NAME 3:25

LORD I NEED YOU 3:25

INTRO: Welcome to Grace Notes. The poet Robert Frost wrote a famous poem entitled ‘The road not taken’. In 1961, Frost commented that his intention in this poem was to comment about indecision and people finding meaning in inconsequential decisions.

Though this poem is not Christian-based, the last phrase does lend itself to a spiritual parallel. It reads, ‘Two roads diverged in a wood and I - I took the one less traveled by, and that has made all the difference.’

The choice between two roads is the subject of our discussion today. Stay tuned as our host, Barbara Sandbek, discusses how our choice determines our eternal future.

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Dale and I were having dinner with a couple who are skeptical about embracing Jesus as their Savior. It didn’t appear as if they wanted us to whip out our Bibles just then so we responded with simple answers and moved on with the conversation.

It bothered me, though, so I gathered verses that would answer their question more fully and emailed them. Sorry to say there was little response, but we continue to socialize with them and share our faith.

I realized from this experience, that it would be beneficial to share these Scriptures to help you believe what God says regarding gaining entrance into Heaven and be able to answer this question effectively if put on the spot.

The verse they cited was Matthew 7:13-14...

*“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.*

And their question was

“Why is there a BROAD road leading to destruction and a NARROW one to Heaven?” – followed by the comment, “This doesn’t seem fair.”

We’ve found that peoples’ skepticism often surfaces in the questions they ask.

The main thing to see in these verses is that ALL people have a CHOICE. Note it says ‘many, not all, enter’ the BROAD road to destruction, even though the best choice is available.

It is natural to reject the narrow way - it runs contrary to human inclination.

Romans 3:10b says...

“There is none who seeks after God.”

In our day especially, the word narrow is offensive because people are about tolerance, pluralism and inclusivism. To imply that there is only ONE WAY to God is objectionable. But it has and will always be that way.

The implication is not that many people look for the way yet never find it; the implication is that it is not natural so many don't bother to look.

The gate to life is narrow because there is only ONE correct choice. God made it SIMPLE. 'THE' way through the narrow gate is belief in Jesus. In John 14:6 Jesus said,  
*"I AM the WAY, the truth, and the LIFE.*

*No man comes to the Father (who is in Heaven) except by Me."*

Acts 4:12 says, "... there is salvation in no one else [than Jesus]; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved".

If you choose to look to Jesus you will find Him. *Your decision about Jesus affects your destination.*

John 1:12 shows that the good or BROAD road can be taken by many people...

*"...as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name.*

\*\*\*\*\* WRITER: Hillsong United  
\*\*\* Lord I lift Your Name \*\*\* LENGTH: 3:25  
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Lord I lift your name on high/Shout to the Lord

[Verse]

Lord, I lift Your name on high  
Lord, I love to sing Your praises  
I'm so glad You're in my life  
I'm so glad You came to save us

[Chorus]

You came from heaven to earth  
To show the way  
From the earth to the cross  
My debt to pay  
From the cross to the grave  
From the grave to the sky  
Lord, I lift Your name on high

Shout to the Lord all the Earth, let us sing  
Power and majesty, praise to the King  
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar  
At the sound of Your name  
I sing for joy at the work of Your hand  
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand  
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You.

Jesus depicts Himself a Shepherd. A Shepherd made a Sheep Pen to protect the sheep from predators and destruction. The Pen had only ONE gate.

John 10:9-10 Jesus said...

*I am the GATE; whoever enters through me will be saved. They will come in and go out, and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I have come that they may have LIFE, and have it to the full.*

It's like putting something together with instructions. The designer crafted the item so each piece would match up and ultimately result in a functioning product. Sometimes, we think we can figure it out ourselves, but we all know how that ends up. The designer has the RIGHT and only way to achieve the correct result.

God is the MASTER designer of the way to eternal life. He developed it even before the creation of the world because He knew man would fall from the Glory of God and need a Savior/Mediator.

Jesus, God's only son, is THE Mediator between God and man. His death and resurrection paid the penalty for our sin when we acknowledge Him as our one and only way to God.

This goes along with John 3:16...

*"...God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that **WHOEVER** believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.*

You see, it's a gift, and a gift must be received individually (or chosen in this case) to be ours.

Some people, though, only ever read John 3:16 and conclude that God is love and will not allow anyone to go to Hell. We must read Scripture in context. The next 3 verses describe the choice each person must make.

*John 3:17-19*

*For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Whoever believes in him (the narrow road) is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already (the broad road) because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son. This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness (the broad road) instead of light because their deeds were evil.*

The broad road represents people's ideas and choices as to how they can get to God and Heaven their own way: church affiliation, good works, baptism, position, family heritage, self-suffering, even jihad.

Let's look at John 3:36...

*"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them."*

But Romans 10:9-10 clearly states:

*"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be SAVED. For it is with your heart that you believe and are justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved.*

This is the way we are kept safe from eternal destruction because we are 'in Christ'.  
Romans 8:1 says, "There is therefore now NO COMDENATION for them  
that are in Christ Jesus."

Why not choose the narrow road today and become a child of God?  
Just pray a prayer like this:

Dear God,

I know I cannot come to you any other way than through Jesus, your Son.  
I do believe that He died to pay the penalty for my sin and rose again to  
save me eternally. I ask Jesus to forgive my sin and be my Savior and Lord.  
Amen.

\*\*\*\*\* **WRITER: Chris Tomlin**

**\*\*\* LORD I COME/I NEED YOU \*\*\* LENGTH: 3:25**

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*Verse 1:*

*Lord I come, I confess  
Bowing here I find my rest  
Without You I fall apart  
You're the one that guides my heart*

*Chorus:*

*Lord, I need You, oh I need You  
Every hour I need You  
My one defense, my righteousness  
Oh God, how I need You*

*Verse 2:*

*Where sin runs deep, Your grace is more  
Where grace is found is where You are  
And where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me  
Yes where You are Lord I am free  
Holiness is Christ in me*

*Bridge:*

*So teach my song to rise to You  
When temptation comes my way  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay  
And when I cannot stand I'll fall on You  
Jesus You're my hope and stay*

**If you prayed that prayer, we'd like to send you some information to  
help you in your walk with Jesus.**

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**P.O. Box 581**

**Fallston, MD 21047**

**or contact us through our web site at [www.gracenotesradio.com](http://www.gracenotesradio.com).**

**Join us on our next program. Until then, let your grace notes be a song  
of praise!**