

## J Walking Sermon Series Part #4 – The Reality of Sin & Salvation

### Matthew 7:13-14

**1 John 2:6** – Whoever claims to live in him must walk as Jesus did.

#### Series Summary

#### Major Religious Traditions in the U.S.

	<i>Among all adults... %</i>
<b>Christian</b>	<b>78.4</b>
Protestant	51.3
<i>Evangelical churches</i>	26.3
<i>Mainline churches</i>	18.1
<i>Hist. black churches</i>	6.9
Catholic	23.9
Mormon	1.7
Jehovah's Witness	0.7
Orthodox	0.6
<i>Greek Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Russian Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	<0.3
Other Christian	0.3
<b>Other Religions</b>	<b>4.7</b>
Jewish	1.7
<i>Reform</i>	0.7
<i>Conservative</i>	0.5
<i>Orthodox</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	0.3
Buddhist	0.7
<i>Zen Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Theravada Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Tibetan Buddhist</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	0.3
Muslim*	0.6
<i>Sunni</i>	0.3
<i>Shia</i>	<0.3
<i>Other</i>	<0.3
Hindu	0.4
Other world rel.	<0.3
Other faiths	1.2
<i>Unitarians and other liberal faiths</i>	0.7
<i>New Age</i>	0.4
<i>Native American rel.</i>	<0.3
<b>Unaffiliated</b>	<b>16.1</b>
Atheist	1.6
Agnostic	2.4
Nothing in particular	12.1
<i>Secular unaffiliated</i>	6.3
<i>Religious unaffiliated</i>	5.8
<b>Don't Know/Refused</b>	<b>0.8</b>
	<b>100</b>

Due to rounding, figures may not add to 100 and nested figures may not add to the subtotal indicated.

\* From "Muslim Americans: Middle Class and Mostly Mainstream," Pew Research Center, 2007

The purpose of this series is to help each Christian establish a solid foundation in order to passionately pursue God. We will study through the Sermon on the Mount, picking up from the teachings of Christ immediately following the Beatitudes. We will focus on the basic components of walking with Jesus, like Jesus, and for Jesus. This series is needed for every new Christian and for people who want to refresh their walk with the Lord.

#### **Big Idea – Many Options Are Offered But Only One Solution Exist**

#### Main Passage

**Matthew 7:13-14** – <sup>13</sup>Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it. <sup>14</sup>But small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.

#### The Reality of Sin and Salvation

##### Truth #1 – Two Gates = Narrow and Wide

- **John 10:9**
- **Acts 4:12**
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text comes to a very important point in the history of our country. More than ever before, mankind has invented religion after religion to offer an alternative to Christianity. All of these religions have one thing in common: they all end of leading to the same place which is eternal destruction in hell.
- **Examine the statistics by Pew Forum<sup>1</sup> in the table shown.**
- **What are some of the different alternatives the world offers today? Why is this called the wide path?**

##### Truth #2 – Two Ways = Narrow and Broad

- **Proverbs 14:12**
- **John 14:6**
- **Key Point** – The key point that we examine in this text comes to a very applicable point in our modern day times. There are over 4300 representations of different religions and denominations in our culture today and all of them claim to represent one of the many

<sup>1</sup> Resource: U.S. Religious Landscape Survey. Pew Forum. <http://religions.pewforum.org/reports/>

ways to get to heaven. Observe that with all of the many ways that have been offered by mankind, we come back to this point: There is only one way to live for eternity and that is through Jesus Christ.

- **Why has mankind invented so many religions to offer an alternative to eternity through Jesus Christ?**
- **Why does Jesus call the path to eternity, “the narrow gate and narrow road” which few will find?**

### Truth #3 – Two Destinations = Eternal Life and Eternal Damnation

- **Matthew 18:7-9**
- **Romans 5:6-9**
- **Key Point** – The final point comes to us as we examine the ultimate outcome of the two different destinations. It is interesting to note that no where in this passage of Scripture does it declare that the “broad path” is advertised as the path that leads to hell. The reality is that all the religions and different options today that are on the broad path actually advertise that they are all leading to an eternal life. Many will be deceived and many will be condemned because they chose to enter through the wide gate.
- **Put yourself in the shoes of the average person out in the world today. They are bombarded by all these choices of religions and they are asked to choose. Help them answer this question: With so many options today, how can someone be sure that they are on the right path that leads to eternity?**

#### Memory Verse

- **Matthew 7:13** – <sup>13</sup>“Enter through the narrow gate. For wide is the gate and broad is the road that leads to destruction, and many enter through it.

#### Application

**J Walk Challenge** – Take the J Walking Challenge through this sermon series. Begin this new year by learning to walk in the footsteps of Jesus. **Step #1** – Through this sermon series read the Sermon on the Mount (Matthew 5-7) at least once every two days. **Step #2** – Write down or journal what God is showing you through this study. **Step #3** – Pray about how God wants you to apply His Word that you are learning about and then apply it in your everyday life.

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