

Oakland Church of Christ
December 1, 2024

Bible Class 9 AM
Worship Service 10 AM

The One Less Traveled By
Matthew 7:13-14

ROBERT FROST

The Road Not Taken

Two roads diverged in a yellow wood,
And sorry I could not travel both
And be one traveler, long I stood
And looked down one as far as I could
To where it bent in the undergrowth;

Then took the other, as just as fair,
And having perhaps the better claim,
Because it was grassy and wanted wear;
Though as for that the passing there
Had worn them really about the same,

And both that morning equally lay
In leaves no step had trodden black.
Oh, I kept the first for another day!
Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back.

I shall be telling this with a sigh
Somewhere ages and ages hence:
Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—
I took the one less traveled by,
And that has made all the difference.

The Broad and Narrow Way

- **Matthew 7:13-14** - 13 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

Why is the Gate Narrow?

- Requires self-denial and obedience
- **Matt. 16:24** - 24 Then Jesus told his disciples, “If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me.”
- Has no room for a consuming desire for earthly goods
- **Matthew 6:19-20** - 19 “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal, 20 but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal.

My Plan :



God's Plan :



Why is the Gate Narrow?

- Has no room for an unforgiving spirit
- **Matt. 6:14-15** - 14 For if you forgive others their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you, 15 but if you do not forgive others their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses
- Has no room for Self-righteousness
- **Matt. 6:1** - “Beware of practicing your righteousness before other people in order to be seen by them, for then you will have no reward from your Father who is in heaven.”

There Are Two Ways

1. The Broad Way

a. The way that leads to destruction is broad because it allows:

1) Any behavior one desires

2) No need for reformation or changes in one's "lifestyle"

Where Will Your Beliefs and Actions Take You?



Most Americans (68%) still consider themselves to be Christians. Among these self-identified Christians, though, only 6% have a biblical worldview.

Adults under 30, just 1% have a biblical worldview. The incidence rises to 3% among people in their 30s and 40s; 5% among those ages 50 to 64; and peaks at 8% among adults 65-plus.

The majority Americans are making the most important decisions in their lives without the teachings of the Bible.

Spiritual Transformation

Biblical Mind/Worldview

- **Romans 12:1-2** - I appeal to you therefore, brothers, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but **be transformed by the renewal of your mind**, that by testing you may discern what is the will of God, what is good and acceptable and perfect.

Spiritual Transformation

Victory Over the Flesh

- **Galatians 5:16-17** - But I say, walk by the Spirit, and you will not gratify the desires of the flesh. For the desires of the flesh are against the Spirit, and the desires of the Spirit are against the flesh, for these are opposed to each other, to keep you from doing the things you want to do.
- **Colossians 3:5** - Put to death therefore what is earthly in you: sexual immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and covetousness, which is idolatry.
- **Galatians 5:24** - And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires.
- **Galatians 2:20** - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Spiritual Transformation

A Life of Service to Jesus

- **Galatians 2:20** - I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.
- **1 Peter 3:13-16** - Now who is there to harm you if you are zealous for what is good? ¹⁴ But even if you should suffer for righteousness' sake, you will be blessed. Have no fear of them, nor be troubled, ¹⁵ but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect, ¹⁶ having a good conscience, so that, when you are slandered, those who revile your good behavior in Christ may be put to shame.

There Are Two Ways

2. The Narrow Way

c. The way that leads to life is “difficult” because it requires:

1) A righteousness that exceeds that of many religious people

2) **Matthew. 5:20** - 20 For I tell you, unless your righteousness exceeds that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.

3) A change in our behavior — **Matthew 5:21-7:12**

There Are Two Groups

1. The Many

Matthew 7:13 - ...For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many.

2. The Few

Matthew 7:14 - 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.

There are Two Groups

- Jesus warned on another occasion
- **Luke 13:23-24** - 23 And someone said to him, “Lord, will those who are saved be few?” And he said to them, 24 “Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able.
- Strive suggests effort must be expended
- Not just effort, but the right kind of effort
- **Matthew 6:33** - 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

There Are Two Destinations Destruction

- Paul wrote of the “eternal destruction” that is to come
- **2 Thessalonians 1:9** - 9 They will suffer the punishment of eternal destruction, away from the presence of the Lord and from the glory of his might...
- John described it as “a lake of fire”
- **Revelation 20:15** - 15 And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life, he was thrown into the lake of fire.
- **Revelation 21:8** - 8 But as for the cowardly, the faithless, the detestable, as for murderers, the sexually immoral, sorcerers, idolaters, and all liars, their portion will be in the lake that burns with fire and sulfur, which is the second death.”

There Are Two Destinations Life

- This “life” is the “everlasting life” received at the judgment
- **Matthew 25:46** - 46 And these will go away into eternal punishment, but the righteous into eternal life.”
- It is the “gift of God”, given at the end
- **Romans 6:22-23** - 22 But now that you have been set free from sin and have become slaves of God, the fruit you get leads to sanctification and its end, eternal life. 23 For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.