

Is Christianity Too Narrow?

Matthew 7:13-14

Explore God, Pt. 4

October 4, 2015

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

Why All The Religions?

Romans 1:21, *For although they knew God, they neither glorified Him as God nor gave thanks to Him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. ²²Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools ²³and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.*

What Makes Christianity Unique Among Other Religions?

- Every other religion encourages mankind to reach up to God for salvation through human effort. Christianity is the only religion that teaches that God reaches down to mankind. (Galatians 2:16: no one is justified by works; Galatians 3:23-26: law is a tutor; Matthew 5:48: be perfect; Philippians 2:5-11: God’s Son became a man)
- Every other religion is a system of do’s and don’ts to appease God, whereas Christianity is a relationship with God. (Romans 3:23, 6:23, 5:1-2, 8, 10:9-13)
- Christianity looks to the Bible as the singular source of truth. (2 Timothy 3:16-17)

- Christianity is based upon the most amazing event in all of human history, the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. (1 Corinthians 15:3-8)

What Makes Jesus Unique?

- Jesus was born of a virgin; Jesus repeatedly demonstrated His deity; Jesus made statements about His own deity; Jesus’ deity was supported by evidence; Jesus’ earliest followers declared He was God.

John 14:1, *“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in Me. ²My Father’s house has many rooms; if that were not so, would I have told you that I am going there to prepare a place for you? ³And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with Me that you also may be where I am. ⁴You know the way to the place where I am going.” ⁵Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we don’t know where You are going, so how can we know the way?” ⁶Jesus answered, “I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. ⁷If you really know Me, you will know My Father as well. From now on, you do know Him and have seen Him.” ⁸Philip said, “Lord, show us the Father and that will be enough for us.” ⁹Jesus answered: “Don’t you know Me, Philip, even after I have been among you such a long time? Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father. How can you say, ‘Show us the Father’? ¹⁰Don’t you believe that I am in the Father, and that the Father is in Me? The words I say to you I do not speak on My own authority. Rather, it is the Father, living in Me, who is doing His work. ¹¹Believe Me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me; or at least believe on the evidence of the works themselves.*

Is Christianity Too Narrow? A Couple Of Thoughts:

1. God Hasn’t Revealed EVERYTHING To Us!

Isaiah 55:7, *Let the wicked forsake their ways and the unrighteous their thoughts. Let them turn to the Lord, and He will have mercy on them, and to our God, for He will freely pardon.*⁸ *“For My thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways My ways,” declares the Lord.*⁹ *“As the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts.”*

2. God Has Revealed SOME Things To Us!

- God Desires To Bless ALL PEOPLE

Genesis 12:1, *The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you.”*² *“I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.”*³ *I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”*

2 Chronicles 16:9, *For the eyes of the Lord range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to Him...*

Revelation 5:9, *And they sang a new song, saying: “...with Your blood You purchased for God persons from every tribe and language and people and nation...”*

- God Is More Loving, Compassionate And Gracious Than We Can Ever IMAGINE

Psalms 103:8, *The Lord is compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, abounding in love.*⁹ *He will not always accuse, nor will He harbor His anger forever;*¹⁰ *He does not treat us as our sins deserve or repay us according to our iniquities.*¹¹ *For as high as the heavens are above the*

*earth, so great is His love for those who fear Him;*¹² *as far as the east is from the west, so far has He removed our transgressions from us.*

- God Has Removed Every BARRIER To Salvation Except Our PRIDE

Matthew 21:28, *“What do you think? There was a man who had two sons. He went to the first and said, ‘Son, go and work today in the vineyard.’”*²⁹ *“‘I will not,’ he answered, but later he changed his mind and went.”*³⁰ *“Then the father went to the other son and said the same thing. He answered, ‘I will, sir,’ but he did not go.”*³¹ *“Which of the two did what his father wanted?”* *“The first,” they answered. Jesus said to them, “Truly I tell you, the tax collectors and the prostitutes are entering the kingdom of God ahead of you.”*³² *For John came to you to show you the way of righteousness, and you did not believe him, but the tax collectors and the prostitutes did. And even after you saw this, you did not repent and believe him.*

The Only Question That Really Matters?

What Will You Do With The Knowledge You Have Of God?

John 11:25, *Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in Me will live, even though they die”*

What Next?

1. Don’t miss the next few weeks as we study: Is Jesus Really God And Is The Bible Reliable?
2. Read or listen to my daily devotions on this topic at johnmarkcaton.com or follow on twitter @johnMarkCaton.