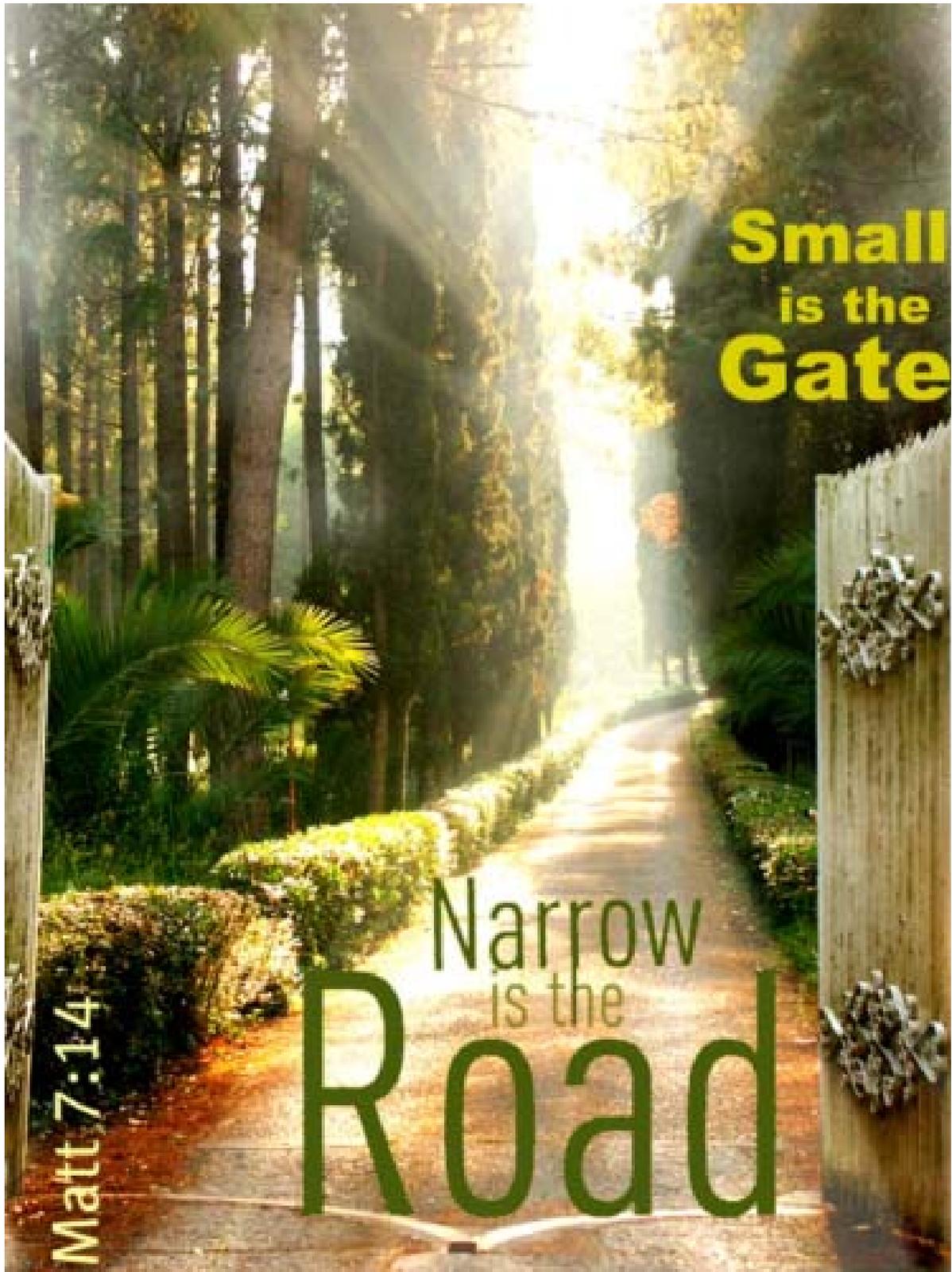


After this life—  
What comes Next?



Matt 7:14

Small  
is the  
Gate

Narrow  
is the  
Road

Can You Know for Sure?

*Author's Note:  
After This Life What Comes Next?  
Can You Be Sure?*

The answer to our two title questions in large part describes the heartbeat of the fellowship at Vistoso Community Church. For it is our great privilege to share with you the confidence we have regarding the future, and that includes that includes a compelling and wonderful answer to both questions as they are spelled out in God's Word.

Consider this booklet your gift from the followers of Jesus at Vistoso Community Church. We love our Lord, and we want you to know Him too—now, and for all eternity.

In His grace,



Kevin Redig, Pastor  
Vistoso Community Church



## After This Life, What's Next?

After this life, what's next? One way to answer that question is to say, "It depends upon what road you are on!" I say this because Jesus said:

*"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." (Matthew 7:13)*

There you have it—upon the authority of God's Word— when this life is over a person is either going to step into life or into destruction! (The Bible defines eternal life as knowing God [John 17:]—to deeply and thoroughly know and be known by the One who has loved us for all time. On the other hand, destruction is an eternity apart from God, in that place prepared for Satan and his demons.)



This applies to all people of all times: no exceptions! Do you see now why it is absolutely essential to know upon "what road" you are living out your life—especially as it draws to a close?

Perhaps you are already trying to decide upon what road you are traveling. I can tell you this much--every human being is born on the broad road leading to destruction. It is not that we somehow arrive there via some evil deed; but rather, that is where we begin. How do I know this? The Scriptures says:

*"There is no one who is righteous, not even one. . ."; ". . . for all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God. . ." (Romans 3:10, 23)*

Reread those two short passages of Scripture again—and note just how unequivocal they really are. If you are like most people, this is the single hardest concept for you to confront. You know bad people, or people who do bad things, and you are nothing like them! In fact, you resent being lumped together with them. If you will give the Word of God a chance to explain, then you will see both mankind's problem and God's stupendous answer.

### Where Do All Lanes on the Broad Road Lead?

In the same way that our super-highways have multiple lanes, so too there are multiple *lanes* on the broad road leading to destruction. In fact, the first three chapters of the book of Romans describe three of them. There is the *lane* upon which the immoral man is traveling, another lane for the moral man, and finally, one for the religious man. Now, keep in mind, although these are outwardly quite different kinds of individuals, they are ultimately all on the same road with the same destination. They inwardly share the same fundamental problem; and, as a result, are all on the road to destruction.



Now many would agree that the immoral man is headed for destruction; in fact, even the immoral man will often agree! However, the moral man sees himself as miles above the immoral man and resents being categorized with him. However, let me give you two

things to consider. First, God says that “you who pass judgment do the same things.” (Romans 2:1) God is not saying that the moral man and the immoral are necessarily involved in the same kind of immorality. But rather that even the moral man at various times and in various ways breaks whatever moral code he has established for himself.

Second, the standard against which we will be compared is **not** the lowest common denominator of the immoral man. Instead we will be judged against the righteousness of God. For it is not the immoral man before whom we are going to one day stand, but the perfectly holy One Who alone lives in unapproachable light.

*He will judge the world in righteousness and the peoples in His truth.  
(Psalm 96:13)*

So no matter how *good* the moral man is, he is going to have a problem before a holy God. That is why he is on the same road as the immoral man—and desperately needs to get off that road!

Finally, we come to the religious man. Those in this lane are often the most blinded to their need to get off the broad road and get onto the narrow one that leads to eternal life. For they are convinced that they are a cut-*above* even the moral man. After all, they can point to all of their religious activities and deeds. Once again, the book of Romans makes short work of this attitude. It shows that what religious people preach and teach against—they are guilty of themselves.

In fact, Romans levels a scathing indictment of how God's name is blasphemed among non-religious people because of the hypocrisy of religious people. I am sure we can all recall some famous *television Christian* whose double-life was exposed. And, of course, irreligious people always use such events to show that religious people are no better than anyone else—and in truth, the book of Romans would agree!

You see there is none righteous enough to stand before the holiness of God—not even one, and this includes people who devoutly practice religion. (Romans 3:9-20)

### **Why Must We Change Roads—Not Lanes?**

I have laid out the case that all mankind is born onto the broad road; and therefore if nothing changes, each and every one of us is going to end up eternally separated from God, and in a place of great suffering. We must get off the broad road! We desperately need to get onto the narrow road which leads to eternal life.

And please don't be misled—our "broad road" problem is not solved by simply changing lanes. It is not going to suffice to leave the immoral lane for the moral one. It is of no help at all in the life to come to move from the moral lane to the religious one. For once again, "all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God". This is our status, and if we push a bit further into the book of Romans we will see the penalty for falling short: "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23).

Note that the concept of death here is just another way of referring to the end of the broad road. Death is separation from God for all eternity.

# What Must We Do?

So how do we get off of the *broad road* and get onto the *narrow road*? Let me go back to Matthew 7:13 again, which begins with the words: “*Enter through the narrow gate.*” This *narrow gate* is the entry to the *narrow road*, the road we have already learned that leads to *eternal life*. Now what exactly does this figurative language mean? Let me break it down for you:

- Jesus states unequivocally, “*I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved.*” (John 10:9)
- It is a narrow gate—because Jesus is the *only way*: “*I am the way the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father, except through me.*” (John 14:6)



How exactly do we *enter* the gate that is Jesus Christ—what work do we have to do? “*The work of God is this—to believe in the One (Jesus) He has sent.*” (John 6:29) Do you see it? To *enter* through Jesus Christ is not a work. Rather, it is believing in who Jesus is, and what He has done for us.

*For 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. (John 3:16)*

## Can You Put It All Together?

We get off the broad road that is leading to eternal damnation by believing in Jesus Christ, the One sent by the Father and full of grace and truth. Placing our faith in Him is the *gate* by which we access the narrow road that terminates in eternal life!

I hope you are wondering, how this addresses all of the problems associated with being born on the broad road. Let me give you three things to consider:

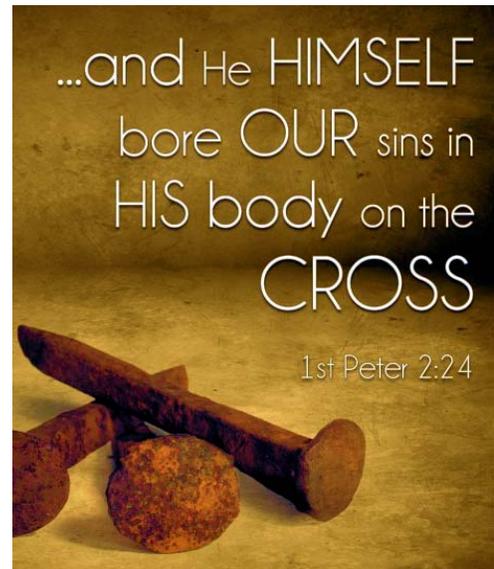
- Jesus Himself bore the sins of the human race upon Himself when He went to the cross. (1 Peter 2:24) This took care of the penalty for sin that otherwise would require all men to face the judgment of God—irrespective of whether they are immoral, moral, or religious.

*With our sin debt removed, faith in Christ causes us to receive something*

- With our sin debt removed, faith in Christ causes us to receive something we desperately need in order to stand before a holy God: “a righteousness from God. . . This righteousness from God comes through faith in Jesus Christ to all who believe.” (Romans 3:21-22)
- Once sin has been dealt with and we have a righteous standing before God, He is free to give us eternal life! “For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life.” (Romans 6:23)

y believing in what God has done through His Son. Specifically, He has paid for our sins on the cross; provided His righteousness for those who believe; and granted eternal life to those who believe.

Let me summarize it like this: salvation (a change in roads and destinations) is ours through faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ. His person, in that He is the second person of the trinity Who came to save us from our hopeless situation. His work, in that when He went to the cross He received upon Himself the sins of the entire human race,—past, present, and future.



The Bible teaches us that Jesus was our *sin-substitute*. This opens the door for many, many wonderful things to come to us from the hand of God including a spiritual birth, imputed righteousness, and eternal life. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

### *Can We Know for Sure?*

Now let me just briefly address the second question that was raised at the beginning of this booklet. Can we know for sure what comes after this life? The answer is that we most certainly can! If you have placed your faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ, listen to these marvelous words of Scripture:

*I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God so that you may know that you have eternal life.” (1 John 5:13)*

The term *name* carries the idea of the essence or sum-total of a person, in other words the person and work of Jesus Christ. And notice what we are to know--that we have changed roads completely and now have a brand new destination--an eternity with our Heavenly Father.

### What to do Next?

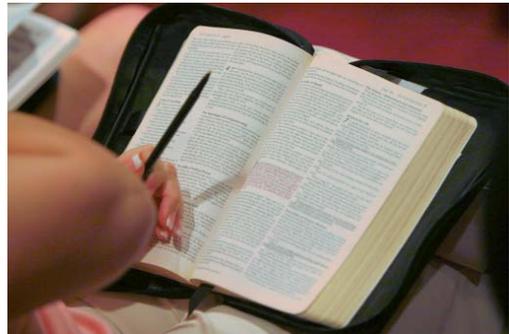
I urge you to carefully consider the content of this little booklet. Get a Bible and look more carefully at the full context of the Scriptures I have given you.

And then, I urge you to do these things:

- If you have questions, seek out a Christian and ask for answers from the Scriptures. (I hope you received this booklet from someone at Vistoso Community Church, and if so, there are many at our church who can answer your questions.)

**This issue has eternal consequences, so don't rest until you get your questions answered.**

- Once the light of the truth shines into your soul, do not delay, for "now is the day of your salvation" (2 Corinthians 6:2). You can lay your head on your pillow tonight, knowing that, were you to "step out of this life" tonight, you would be ushered into the presence of your Lord and Savior. Simply come before God in the quietness of your own soul and tell Him:



- ✦ That you believe that Jesus is the Son of God who came to save
- ✦ That you believe He died on the cross for your sins and rose again as proof of the sufficiency of His work
- ✦ That you are trusting in the person and work of Jesus for eternal life
- Find a Christian and share that you have changed *roads* as the result of placing your faith in the person and work of Jesus Christ.
- Find a Bible-believing and teaching fellowship of believers and begin to grow in the new life that you have in Jesus.

The fellowship at VCC is committed to helping you in any way that we can.

# Vistoso Community Church

## OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of Vistoso Community Church  
is to bring glory to God by completing  
the work He has given us to do.

John 17:4

## OUR MISSION

Our mission is to be used by God to help  
the lost receive eternal life,  
and those with eternal life to grow  
in grace and knowledge.

## OUR CORE VALUES

- Christ is the only Lord and Savior. Acts 2:36
- The Bible is the inspired word of God. II Timothy 3:16-17
- We honor God through traditional worship: Psalm 19:14
- Our loving fellowship strengthens us. Hebrews 10:24-25
- Seeking the lost is our commission. Matthew 28:19-20
- The principles of divine establishment are God given.  
Nehemiah. 4:14



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