

# One Way, One Truth, One Life

Matthew 7:13-23

## Introduction:

● Many search for a quality of life and try to grab hold of it by:

1. Reaching a certain level of i\_\_\_\_\_
2. Having a certain amount of free t\_\_\_\_\_ (retirement)
3. R\_\_\_\_\_ (e.g., marriage, having a family)
4. Job positions
5. Health

● Jesus tells us that there is only one way, one truth, and one life of e\_\_\_\_\_ value (Matt 7:13-23)

## The way – e\_\_\_\_\_ the gateway (13,14)

● Jesus tells us that people are on one of two paths

1. The path that leads to l\_\_\_\_\_ (eternal)
  - a. This is a life that is based on the w\_\_\_\_\_ Jesus did in saving us from sin's penalty.
  - b. We enter through the gateway to this path by f\_\_\_\_\_ in Jesus as our God and Savior.
2. The path that leads to d\_\_\_\_\_ (eternal)
  - a. All of us got onto this path because we s\_\_\_\_\_ (Rom 3:23; 6:23).
  - b. Many on this path are trying to save themselves by their own w\_\_\_\_\_.

● We need to point people on the wrong road to f\_\_\_\_\_ in Christ.

## The truth – e\_\_\_\_\_ the “guides” works (15-20)

● Many have claimed to be a prophet of God

1. Definition of a prophet – one who prophesies in the name of the L\_\_\_\_\_ (Deut 18:22)
2. Definition of prophecy – 2 Pet 1:21
  - a. No prophecy in Scripture was ever made by an act of h\_\_\_\_\_ will (a prophet could not just decide to prophesy)
  - b. But men were m\_\_\_\_\_ by the Holy Spirit (a prophet was compelled to prophesy – see Jer 20:9)
  - c. And spoke f\_\_\_\_\_ God (the message is not the prophet's word but God's word)

●We can identify false prophets

1. By their f\_\_\_\_\_ (v. 20)
  - a. Judge their c\_\_\_\_\_ by God's word
  - b. Judge their t\_\_\_\_\_ by God's word
2. Examples of false prophets
  - a. Charles Russell (founder of Jehovah's Witnesses)
  - b. Joseph Smith (founder of the Mormons)
  - c. David Karesh (claimed to be a modern day Messiah)
  - d. Most prosperity preachers claim the gift of prophecy

**The life – e\_\_\_\_\_ God's will (21-23)**

●Many will base their salvation on their p\_\_\_\_\_ (21)

1. Modern examples: praying the sinner's prayer, coming forward in a church service, baptism.
2. However, a person who is truly saved will p\_\_\_\_\_ doing God's will (the meaning of the tense of the word "does" in the Greek text).
  - a. Practicing God's will is not the c\_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.
  - b. Practicing God's will is the r\_\_\_\_\_ of salvation.

●Many will base their salvation on their works (22)

1. Religious works (e.g. prophesying, casting out demons, working miracles – an obvious description of those who are merely imitating these works rather than actually doing them)
2. How many people today point to their religious deeds as the basis of their salvation?

●Salvation is by Jesus k\_\_\_\_\_ us (23)

1. Not knowing a\_\_\_\_\_ us
2. But knowing us p\_\_\_\_\_ (the meaning of the Greek word "to know" in this verse)
3. When we are in a personal relationship with Jesus, we then practice His will and so experience His will.

**Conclusion – there is only one way, one truth, and one life**

●God's will for us is to l\_\_\_\_\_ Him with our whole being and to allow Him to use us in His w\_\_\_\_\_.

●Being in the middle of God's will is s\_\_\_\_\_, regardless of your health, your income, your circumstances, your relationships, etc.