

# “THE GATES OF THE KINGDOMS”

Delivered to DANVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Lord's Day Morning Jan. 15<sup>th</sup> 2017

Elder Jeff E. King TH.M.

(An Explanation of Grace)

We believe it is appropriate to preach this message, now, because we are deep in our study on the Kingdom of God Sunday afternoons. This is meant to complement our current study.

Luke 13:24

“Strive to enter in at the **strait gate**; for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able.”

Matthew 7:13-14

“Enter ye in at the **strait gate**; for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in there at: because **strait is the gate**, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it.”

There are, in the context of this language, **2 gates** at hand.

Adjectives are used to designate the distinction of each gate.

**Strait gate**: to eternal life. The gate of true conversion.

**Wide gate**: to eternal destruction. The gate of false profession.

There is no 3<sup>rd</sup> gate. (**Purgatory etc.**)

**Strive to enter** in at the **strait gate**; or simply **Enter ye in** at the **strait gate**;

**Strive** means to agonize and be diligent to...

**Strait**= narrow/difficult to be entered **not** **Straight**= not crooked.

**Note**: The reason for the simpler phrase **Enter ye in...** is due to its previous discussion in the Sermon on the Mount. This was the discussion about the need for **repentance**.

One more important point is that the command to strive is going to invoke our further need for additional graces... (Faith, holiness, intercession and prayer etc.)

**Now**, as to the **Strive to enter in at the strait gate**;

We first notice that this great doctrine is explained by an allegory.

I try to draw conclusion to my thoughts about doctrine under consideration on my messages but on occasion we do consider the scholars (primarily Baptist) of years past.

It is interesting to note here how many believe that this allegory may be due to philosophers from generations prior.

**Here, a student of Socrates is cited by many.**

"Dost thou not perceive a narrow door, and a pathway before the door, in no way crowded, but few, very few, go in thereat?" **Cebes**

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Maybe because it is relatable to the people, having heard this wisdom before, we cannot say for sure.

**Strait** means narrow or constricted.

Christ may be alluding to the measurements of roads in Jewish writings.

**Private way:** 4 cubits

**City to city:** 8 Cubits

**Public way:** 16 cubits

**Way to cities of refuge:** 32 cubits

**Speculation** on numbers will be the demise of a gambler and possible the “wall street” procrastinator.

**Equally** to the Pastor and zealous church energized only by numbers. Destruction will follow!!

These are people not numbers and we are indebted to offer the truth, not manufactured promises and unverified hope.

**Preach the gospel and encourage all to strive to enter in the strait gate.**

**Remember:**

One day the gate to the Kingdom of God shall be shut!!