

THE CHOICE IS YOURS**A. DESTINATION: WHERE YOUR LIFE IS LEADING TO (:13-14)**

1. One Of The Basic Realities Of Existence Is That Life Leads Somewhere
 - a. We each have a destination
2. The Wide Road Is Like A One-Way Highway With Two Lanes
 - a. One lane is worldly living (NLT: the easy way) normal
 - 1) the belief that indulging the pleasures of the world are all that matter
 - 2) ignores spiritual reality - or invents a spiritual fantasy that excuses their depravity
 - 3) (Prov. 14:12, 16:25) *There is a way that seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death*
 - b. The other lane on the wide road is religious living
 - 1) includes the belief that avoiding the pleasures of the world somehow pleases God
 - 2) takes spiritual reality & puts an earthly spin on it that turns God's holiness into a weakness
 - c. Both lanes lead to destruction
3. The Narrow Road Has Just One Lane
 - a. Enjoying pleasures of the world, but recognize that every good thing this world has to offer is just a hint/taste of what Eternal Life has to offer
 - 1) any limitations are there to protect you from harm
 - b. It's the lane that Jesus described in 5:2
 - 1) admitting that I'm hopeless & helpless apart from God's power to rescue me from my fallen nature (Step 1 of 12)
 - c. Religious works will lead you to the wrong destination just as easily as worldliness
 - 1) e.g. backpacker fitting through narrow passage
4. Jesus Says, "The Choice Is Yours"
 - a. If you're looking at all the sinners around you saying; "I'm glad I'm not like them";
 - 1) if you're more into debates & intellectual discussions ABOUT God than opening your heart TO God & walking WITH God;
 - 2) if you say to God; "not your will, but MY will be done", then turn your back on Him when you don't get everything on your wish list:
 - 3) if you "stick it to others before they can stick it to you";
 - b. You're on the wrong road. you're on the wide road - the one that leads to destruction
 - c. The road that leads to life is narrow & gate is small & His name of Jesus
 - 1) there is no other way - no other road - no other gate
 - d. Now, although the the gate is small & the road narrow, it's open to everyone
 - 1) "But Christianity is so narrow" - that's right! But the gate is open
 - 2) Come just as you are - dirty feet, planks in your eye, full of sin, bad habits, bad attitudes -
5. The Good News "Coin" Has A Flip Side - & It's NOT So Good - It's Bad.
 - a. Jesus is reminding us of that -
 - b. But the more we talk about condemnation & hell the more we appreciate Jesus: who he is & what He's done on the cross

(The choice is yours when it comes to...)

B. INSPIRATION: WHO YOU'RE GONNA LISTEN TO (:15-23)

1. (:15-20) A False Teacher Will Lead You Down The Wide Road (cf. 13-14)
 - a. sheep/wolves (:15) = motives (money, prestige)
 - b. Don't listen to just anybody. Check them out (:15-20)

2. (:21-23) There Are A Lot Of Folks Claiming To Know God, Claiming To Serve God -
 - a. But they don't & they're not - cf. Saul
 - b. Counterfeit bill - does good 'till reaches bank - then exposed, worthless
 - c. Watch out for counterfeits - check the fruit

(The choice is yours when it comes to...)

C. FOUNDATION: WHAT YOU'RE GONNA BUILD YOUR LIFE ON (:24-27)

1. Any Builder Will Tell You That The Foundation Is The Most Important Part
 - a. Road, house, skyscraper...
 - b. good/bad, foundation wins every time
2. A Wise Person Doesn't Just Hear God's Word, They Put It Into Practice
 - a. God's word says He love me - I've gotta live like He loves me
 - b. God's word says I'm forgiven - I've gotta live like I'm forgiven
 - c. God's word says all my guilt, all my shame & all my rage were put to death - I've gotta live like they're dead
 - d. God's word says no one can snatch me out His hand - I've gotta live like that's true
3. If I Hear The Word, But Don't Put It Into Practice, I'm Gonna Worry: He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not; He Forgives Me, He Forgives Me Not; I Belong To Him, I Belong To Him Not
 - a. & when the storms of life hit me (and they will hit me) my whole world comes crashing down
4. (:28-29) The Ultimate Foundation Is Jesus