

# Proclaiming My Position

## Amazed at Some Things

- politics and positions on moral issues
- people agreeing to what they don't believe
- always arriving at lowest common denominator
- religious abandonment of truth
- fear of being politically incorrect
- fear of being unpopular

Three Unpopular Things I Am Convinced Of!

# Proclaiming My Position

## 1. There Is Only One Way to Eternal Life With God!

*“Enter through the narrow gate. 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.” Matt. 7:13, 14*

- look at the contrasts: narrow – wide, broad – small, many – few

- broad way – nothing must be believed, nothing must be obeyed

- wide gates and many choosing not evidence it is the right choice or path

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Scripture Proclaims:

*“There is a way which seems right to a man, but its end is the way of death.” Prov. 14:12*

*“Jesus said to him, ‘I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but through Me.’” John 14:6*

*“I am the door; if anyone enters through Me, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.” John 10:9*

*“For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.” 1 Tim. 2:5*

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## The Reality of the Narrow Path:

- decision to walk on that road – intentional
- no room for baggage on the trail – leave it behind
- many will not understand your choice
- watch carefully for the path – harder to follow
- remember where the paths lead
- eternal consequences for this choice

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## 2. Choose Your Influences With Care!

- we all have influences, friends, teachers, spiritual authors or speakers – those who influence our lives
- who we allow to speak into our choices and decisions – is a huge decision that leaves great impact

*“Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep’s clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. Thus, by their fruit you will recognize them. Matt. 7:15-20*

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## a) Cannot Tell By Outer Appearances

- sheep's clothing – fit in, looks great

## b) Can Tell By Motives and Heart

- do they want you to see Jesus – or depend on them?
- does their heart beat for the things of God, is scripture the rule of their life?
- is there life change evident in those they influence?
- By their fruit you will know them!

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## 3. You Must Live What You Claim To Believe!

- many people get involved, participate in programs
- many people give verbal assent to creeds
- many people find security in doing for God

*“Not everyone who says to me, Lord, Lord, will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles? Then I will tell them plainly, I never knew you, away from me you evildoers!” Matt. 7:21-23*

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a) What you claim must be evident

- if you truly believe – action will follow
- if you have surrendered to God – obedience
- hearts and wills seem to be joined

b) You Really Believe If You Act

- *“Why do you call me Lord, Lord and not do what I say?” Luke 6:46*

- There can be no Lord without Lordship – Tozer

c) God alone Knows The Heart Of Mankind

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## So What

1. There is Only One Way To Eternal Life With God!
  - One name under heaven by which we might be saved
2. Influences in My Life Must Be Chosen With Care
  - Look for Heart after God, Motives – growth in Christ, and fruit – changed lives. Critical to your survival
3. You Must Live What You Believe
  - Cannot have Christ without Cost – will affect your life
  - Heart conviction must have so what in our lives