

Many profess to have that special relationship with God.

- There are many who claim to know God but the Scriptures do not support this claim.

Only a few enter into the path of life.

- **Many will try but will not be able.**

In Acts Chapter eight there is a man named Simon who tried to enter life but he was denied.

- He did not meet the conditions of Eternal Life.

King Solomon thought He had exclusivity with God but he did not observe what the LORD had commanded.

- his heart was turned away from the LORD

King Saul thought he was the Lord's anointed.

- But he did not keep the command of the Lord. God destroyed him.

Adam walked with God in the Garden of Eden in the cool of the day.

- But the Scriptures do not include his name among the heroes of Faith

There are many who start off walking with God.

- But they never make it to the finish.

Jesus said when they hear the Words of Eternal Life they receive it with joy!

- But they only endure for a while.

Endurance was explained by Paul as being similar to a race.

- Paul said; I buffet my body so I am not disqualified... I want to run my race **TO THE FINISH!**

He said if you run the race of life;

- Run in such a way that you obtain the prize!

And so the path of Life is one that few are able to proceed onward to the finish.

- There are many obstacles that block the way. The biggest obstacle is a hypocritical heart.

The Prophet Jeremiah points this out to the people when he says:

- For you were hypocrites in your heart when you sent me to the Lord your God saying whatever the Lord our God may say, tell us and we will do it.

But the people did not do what Jeremiah said the Lord commanded.

It's like when God told the Prophet Ezekiel:

- The people talk about you. They know you are a man of God so they come to you.

Yes; they come to you and sit before you as though they are still my people. They listen to your words but they will not obey them.

For with their mouths they make a show of love but their minds are set on their own selfish gains.

You are to them like a singer of love songs with a beautiful voice and able to play well on the instrument. They listen to your Words but they will not obey them.

Finally, God explains to the Prophet Isaiah the situation of the heart very well.

- These people draw near to me with their mouth and honor me with the lips but their hearts are far from me.

Their reverence for me is taught by the injunctions of men which were learned by repetition.

All of these are denied entry to the path of Eternal Life

Jesus explained to the Church of Laodicea:

- **You are neither cold or hot...your not really for me but not adamantly opposed to me. You are Lukewarm!**

You have pursued your own gains. You say; you are rich and wealthy and don't have any needs. But truly I say to you are wretched, poor and blind!

Many profess to have that special relationship with God.

- But God says, I don't know who you are or where you are from.

Truly as Jesus said:

- the cares of this life have choked the Word of God in many people causing them to become unfruitful.

Therefore they are like the branches that are cut off and thrown into the fire to be burned.

Therefore, STRIVE to enter through the narrow gate; for many I say to you, will seek to enter but will not be able.

Have you gone through the gate or did you climb up over the wall to get in?

- How have you gained access to God?**
- Did you gain access through repentance and confession?**

You must go through the gate and finish the race to receive the “crown of life” God has promised to those who love Him.

- To go through the gate you **MUST** be “Born Again”

- **Closing**