

How to Be Wise

Matthew 7:13–23

What Does The Bible Say?

Life is filled with choices and decisions (forks in the road). One of the choices is whether to follow God.

- Joshua 24:15 calls you to choose which God/gods you will serve.
- Psalm 1 calls you to choose the way of the righteous or the way of the wicked.
- Proverbs 15:19 calls you to choose the way of the slacker or the way of the upright.
- Deuteronomy 30:19-20 says, “19 “Today I have given you the choice between life and death, between blessings and curses. Now I call on heaven and earth to witness the choice you make.

Oh, that you would choose life, so that you and your descendants might live! 20 You can make this choice by loving the Lord your God, obeying him, and committing yourself firmly to him. This is the key to your life.”

13 “You can enter God’s Kingdom only through the narrow gate. The highway to hell is broad, and its gate is wide for the many who choose that way. 14 But the gateway to life is very narrow and the road is difficult, and only a few ever find it. (Matthew 7:13–14 NLT)

Choose The Narrow Gate!

15 “Beware of false prophets who come disguised as harmless sheep but are really vicious wolves. 16 You can identify them by their fruit, that is, by the way they act. Can you pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 A good tree produces good fruit, and a bad tree produces bad fruit. 18 A good tree can’t

produce bad fruit, and a bad tree can't produce good fruit. 19 So every tree that does not produce good fruit is chopped down and thrown into the fire. 20 Yes, just as you can identify a tree by its fruit, so you can identify people by their actions. (Matthew 7:15–20 NLT)

Choose good trees that produce good fruit!

21 “Not everyone who calls out to me, ‘Lord! Lord!’ will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Only those who actually do the will of my Father in heaven will enter. 22 On judgment day many will say to me, ‘Lord! Lord! We prophesied in your name and cast out demons in your name and performed many miracles in your name.’ 23 But I will reply, ‘I never knew you. Get away from me, you who break God’s laws.’ (Matthew 7:21–23 NLT)

Choose the genuine confession of the obedient.

What does this passage say about God?

15 “If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14:15 NLT)

God wants us to love Him; however, our obedience proves our love.

How Can You Obey?

Remember that Jesus is the only way to God.

6 Jesus told him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me. (John 14:6 NLT)

Remember that Jesus is the gate.

7 so he explained it to them: “I tell you the truth, I am the gate for the sheep. (John 10:7 NLT)

Remember that salvation comes through Jesus.

9 Yes, I am the gate. Those who come in through me will be saved. (John 10:9 NLT)

What is your takeaway?

Additional Notes:

If you want to use your home to disciple others, check out our training at www.crosswaveschurch.com/host. Cross Waves has produced short videos to train you to use your home to reach others for Christ. So please check it out.

Explore:

Christianity is about more than attending church and living a good moral life. Being a Christian is about having a vibrant personal relationship with Jesus Christ. Every Sunday School teacher or Bible study leader should want to see each learner

enter into this relationship—their eternal destiny depends on it.

As you work toward this goal, keep the following in mind:

Following Christ is more than a mere decision; it is about a lifelong relationship. Jesus called us to make disciples, not mere decision-makers. Aim for long-term faith, not momentary emotion.

Salvation is a matter of grace, not works. Our works do not save us (Ephesians 2:8-9), nor do they keep us (Galatians 3:2-6).

Good works are a product of salvation, not a prerequisite to it.

Don't confuse sanctification with salvation. Holiness follows salvation; it doesn't precede it. Don't try to impose "Christian" expectations on men and women who don't know Christ.

- Keep it simple. Being born again is not complicated. Here's a simple way to explain it:

- Acknowledge your sinfulness and need for a Savior (Romans 3:10, 23).

- Trust in Christ's sacrifice for your sins and His resurrection (Romans 10:9-10).

Surrender your life to God's transforming power (Romans 12:1-2).

Remember that your job is to tell the truth in a way others can understand, answer their questions, and allow them to respond.

If you do that faithfully, some will respond and join the band of Christ- followers. When they do, Heaven will rejoice!

Question 1 of 4

How can you know if you are walking on the wide path or the narrow path?

Question 2 of 4

True teachers and false teachers will both appeal to Scripture. So how can the church know which teachings are true and which are false?

Question 3 of 4

Is it possible for someone to teach something incorrect but not be a false teacher? Why or why not?

Question 4 of 4

If only some people who say they know Jesus are known by Jesus, how can you know for sure that Jesus knows you?