

CHOOSE WISELY

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IN THE "BLUEPRINT FOR LIFE" SERIES:

June 8: *Receiving God's Blessings*

June 15: *Authentic Righteousness*

June 22: *Our Motivations Matter*

June 29: *Seek First His Kingdom*

July 6: *Treat Others the Jesus Way*

July 13: *Choose Wisely*

July 20: *A Strong Foundation for Life*

Matthew 7:13–23 (NLT) (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. (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. (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.'

1) The path to heaven _____ that many people do not choose.

Matthew 7:13–14 (NLT) (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.

John 3:16–18 (NLT) (16) "For this is how God loved the world: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. (17) God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him. (18) "There is no judgment against anyone who believes in him. But anyone who does not believe in him has already been judged for not believing in God's one and only Son.

John 14:1–6 (NLT) (1) "Don't let your hearts be troubled. Trust in God, and trust also in me. (2) There is more than enough room in my Father's home. If this were not so, would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? (3) When everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with me where I am. (4) And you know the way to where I am going." (5) "No, we don't know, Lord," Thomas said. "We have no idea where you are going, so how can we know the way?" (6) Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me.

Matthew 10:32–33 (NLT) (32) "Everyone who acknowledges me publicly here on earth, I will also acknowledge before my Father in heaven. (33) But everyone who denies me here on earth, I will also deny before my Father in heaven.

Matthew 10:37–39 (NLT) (37) "If you love your father or mother more than you love me, you are not worthy of being mine; or if you love your son or daughter more than me, you are not worthy of being mine. (38) If you refuse to take up your cross and follow me, you are not worthy of being mine. (39) If you cling to your life, you will lose it; but if you give up your life for me, you will find it.

Romans 10:9–10, 13 (NLT) (9) If you openly declare that Jesus is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved. (10) For it is by believing in your heart that you are made right with God, and it is by openly declaring your faith that you are saved.... (13) For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."

HELL IS A REAL PLACE. IT SHOULD DISTRESS US THAT SO MANY PEOPLE ARE CHOOSING THE BROAD ROAD.

2) Followers of Jesus need to be _____ for false teachers.

Matthew 7:15–16 (NLT) (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?”

Galatians 5:22–23 (NLT) (22) But the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, (23) gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against these things!

1 John 4:1–3 (NLT) (1) Dear friends, do not believe everyone who claims to speak by the Spirit. You must test them to see if the spirit they have comes from God. For there are many false prophets in the world. (2) This is how we know if they have the Spirit of God: If a person claiming to be a prophet acknowledges that Jesus Christ came in a real body, that person has the Spirit of God. (3) But if someone claims to be a prophet and does not acknowledge the truth about Jesus, that person is not from God. Such a person has the spirit of the Antichrist, which you heard is coming into the world and indeed is already here.

3) Genuine faith _____.

Matthew 7:21–23 (NLT) (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.’”

Ephesians 2:8–9 (NLT) (8) God saved you by his grace when you believed. And you can’t take credit for this; it is a gift from God. (9) Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done, so none of us can boast about it.