

THERE ARE A FEW THINGS

Text: **1 Timothy 2:3-4**

Introduction:

1. God wants *all men to be saved* - **2 Peter 3:9**.
2. Yet, most reject the Christ due to *spiritual blindness* - **John 12:37-40**.
3. Where will you spend your eternity?

I. JESUS SAID **FEW ARE SAVED** - **Matthew 7:13-14.**

- A. It Is A False Security To Think That Everybody Goes To Heaven - **Matthew 7:13-14.**
1. **How many are saved?**
 - a) *Noah, 1 Peter 3:20 - 8 out of the entire world.*
 - b) *Only Joshua and Caleb entered Canaan out of 2-3 million! – Numbers 26:65*
 2. **Who goes to heaven?** – **Matthew 7:21-23, 24-27.**
 - a) *7:21-23 - Those who do the Father's will.*
 - b) *7:24-27 - These are those who hear and obey Jesus - Hebrews 5:9.*
 3. **The "chosen" are saved** - **Matthew 20:16; 22:14.**

Who are they?

- B. Those Who Strive To Enter **The Narrow Gate** - **Luke 13:23-24.**
1. **Strive** (labor fervently) - "*to contend, struggle, with difficulties and dangers...to make an effort with strenuous zeal, strive: to obtain something*" (Thayer).
 - a) ***Against unbelief*** - **Acts 26:27-28** (Agrippa didn't strive to believe).
 - b) ***Against self*** - **Acts 26:9** (Saul strove with himself - admitted wrong).
 - c) ***Against sin*** - cf. **Luke 19:8-10** (Zacchaeus strove against sin!).
 2. Personal choice is being made **right now!** - **Joshua 24:15; 2 Corinthians 6:2**

II. JESUS SAID THERE ARE **FEW LABORERS** - Matthew 9:37.

- A. Who **Will Truly Care** For The Spiritual Welfare Of Others - **Philippians 2:19-22**
(servant heart - **Matthew 20:26-28**). Godly motives at work.
 - 1. Not complacent and lethargic – but Zealous - **Romans 12:11**.
 - 2. Stagnation kills a congregation! Will not be saved! - **Revelation 3:1**
- B. Who **Will Serve** Instead Of Being Served - **3 John 9-10**.
 - 1. "Rule or ruin" is the motto (real or implied) of too many.
 - 2. Subtle at times: Ruin reputations, confidence in others, effectiveness of one's influence and the gospel by slander, gossip, opposition to godly work - **3 John 9-10** (prating - "to talk long and idly").
- C. Who Will Preach **The Whole Counsel Of God** - **Acts 20:26-28**.
 - 1. *Preachers who will preach* - **2 Timothy 4:2**.
 - 2. *Elders who will feed the flock (not themselves)* - **Acts 20:28**.
 - 3. *Saints who will follow their leadership* - **Hebrews 13:17**.

III. JESUS SAID TO BE **FAITHFUL OVER A FEW THINGS** - **Matthew 25:21-23**.

- A. The Lord Has Placed Something Into Our Hands To Use In His Service - **Matthew 25:14-19, 21, 23, 25-30**.
 - 1. Abilities, possessions, communication skills, labor skills, teaching skills, etc.
 - 2. Use it to serve the Lord! - **Luke 16:10**

Conclusion:

- 1. **Revelation 2:14, 20** - Does Jesus have a few things against us?
- 2. **Revelation 3:4** - Or are we among the few who have not defiled themselves? The Lord knows our names!
- 3. Strive to enter the narrow gate that leads to heaven!! Obey Jesus now!