

Holding fast in a sea of change



Studies in the book of Hebrews



Now who, *exactly*, was God talking to then? Who heard and rebelled? Wasn't it all of those whom Moses led out of Egypt? 17 And who made God angry for an entire generation? Wasn't it those who sinned *against Him*, those whose bodies are still buried in the wilderness, *the site of that uprising*? 18 It was those disobedient ones who God swore would never enter into salvation's rest. 19 And we can see that they couldn't enter because they did not believe. Hebrews 3:16-19



Studies in the book of Hebrews

This particular generation will never get to enjoy the land I promised to their ancestors *so long ago*. Although they witnessed My glory and signs firsthand, and the amazing feats I accomplished *on their behalf* in Egypt and on this desert *sojourn*, they tested Me *over and over again*, even 10 times, and even directly disobeyed. None of the people who have turned their backs on Me will ever see the land.

Numbers 14:22,23

That's why, as long as that promise of entering God's rest remains open to us, *we should be careful that none of us seem to fall short ourselves.* 2 Those people in the wilderness heard *God's* good news, just as we have heard it, but the message they heard didn't do them any good since it wasn't combined with faith. Hebrews 4:1-2



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We who believe are entering into salvation's rest, as He said, That is why I swore in anger they would never enter *salvation's rest*, even though God's works were finished from the very creation of the world. 4 (For didn't God say that on the seventh day *of creation* He rested from all His works? 5 And doesn't God say in the psalm that they would never enter into *salvation's rest*? Hebrews 4:3-5



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So if God prepared a place of rest, and those who were given the good news didn't enter because they chose disobedience over *faith*, then it remains open for us to enter. 7 Once again, God has fixed a day; and that day is "today," as David said so much later when he wrote *in the Psalm 95: "Today, if you listen to His voice, Don't harden your hearts."* Hebrews 4:6,7



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Now if Joshua had been able to lead those who followed him into God's rest, would God then have spoken this way?
9 There still remains a place of rest, a true Sabbath, for the people of God 10 because those who enter into salvation's rest lay down their labors in the same way that God entered into a Sabbath rest from His. Hebrews 4:8-10



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So let us move forward to enter this rest, *so that none of us fall into the kind of faithless disobedience that prevented them from entering.* 12 The word of God, *you see*, is alive and moving; sharper than a double-edged sword; piercing the divide between soul and spirit, joints and marrow; able to judge the thoughts and will of the heart. 13 No creature can hide from God: God sees all. Everyone and everything is exposed, opened for His inspection; and He's the One we will have to explain ourselves to. Hebrews 4:11-13



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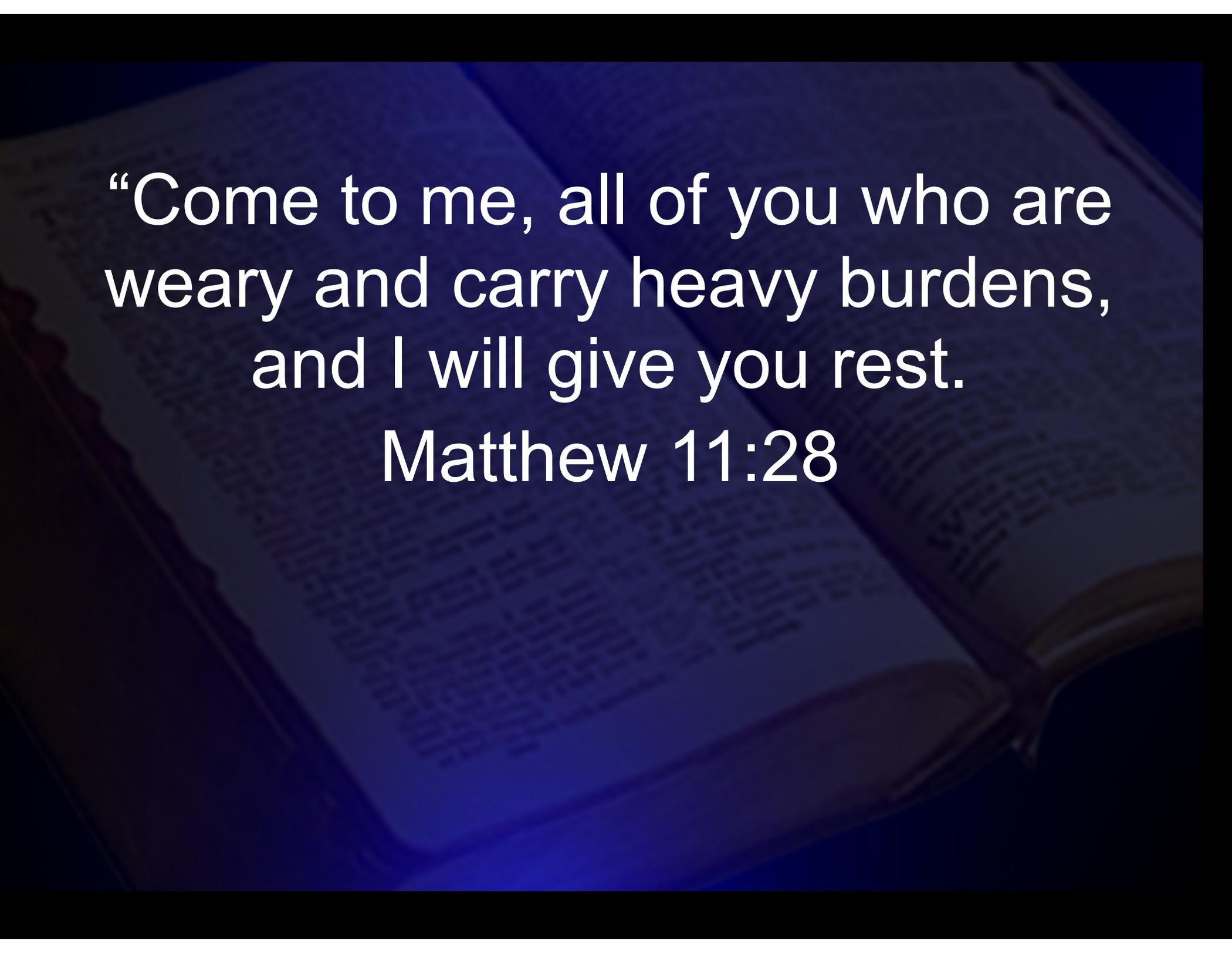
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Once again, God has fixed a day; and that day is "today," as David said so much later when he wrote *in the Psalm 95*:
"Today, if you listen to His voice, Don't harden your hearts."

Hebrews 4:7



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“Come to me, all of you who are weary and carry heavy burdens, and I will give you rest.

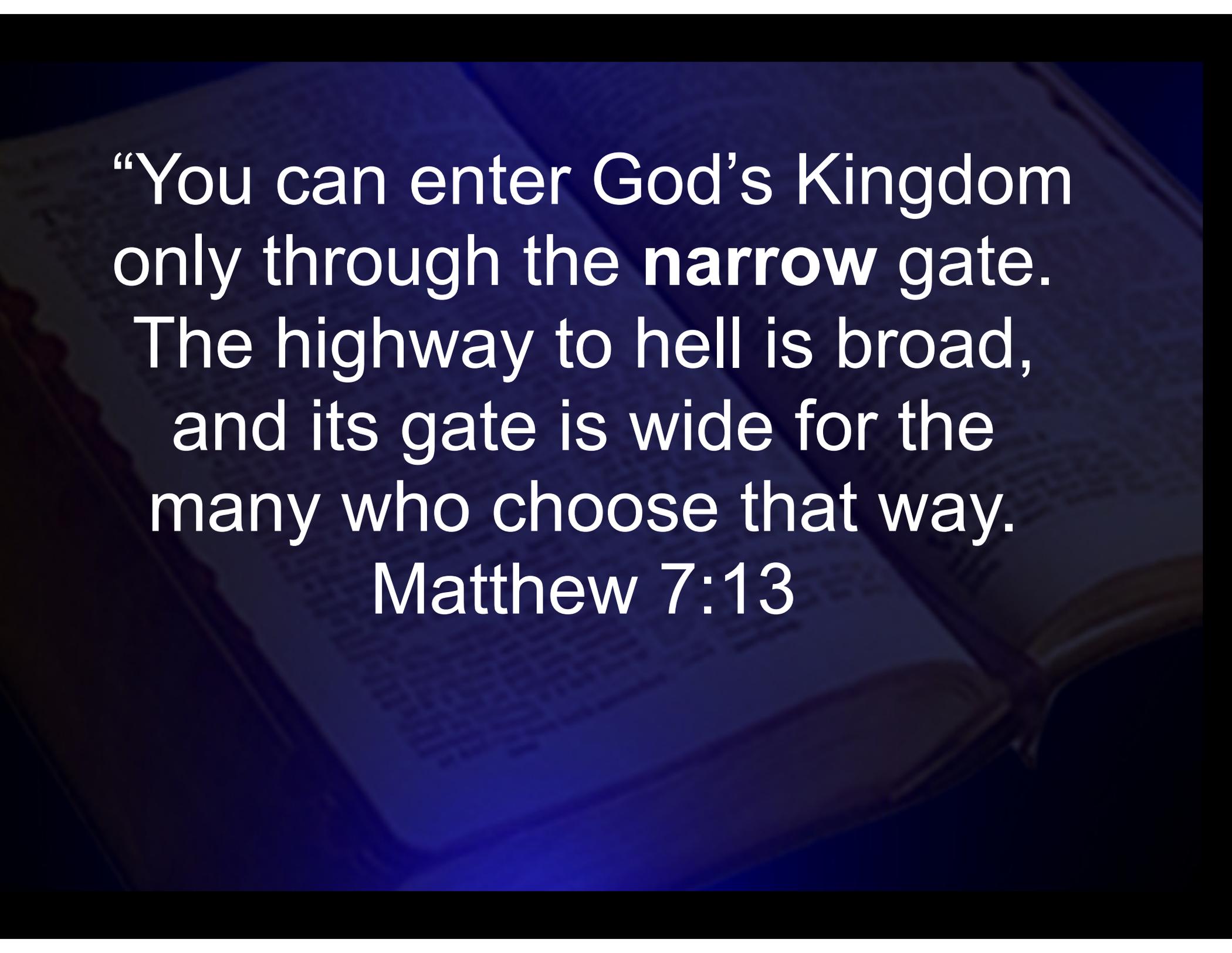
Matthew 11:28

We who believe are entering into salvation's rest, **vs.3**

So if God prepared a place of rest, and those who were given the good news didn't enter because they chose disobedience over *faith*, then it remains open for us to enter. **vs. 6**



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“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.

Matthew 7:13

There still remains a place of rest, a true Sabbath, for the people of God 10 because those who enter into salvation's rest lay down their labors in the same way that God entered into a Sabbath rest from His. Hebrews 4:9,10



Studies in the book of Hebrews



Dallas Willard

The Grace of God isn't opposed to effort, it is opposed to earning.

Earning is an attitude.

Effort is an action.

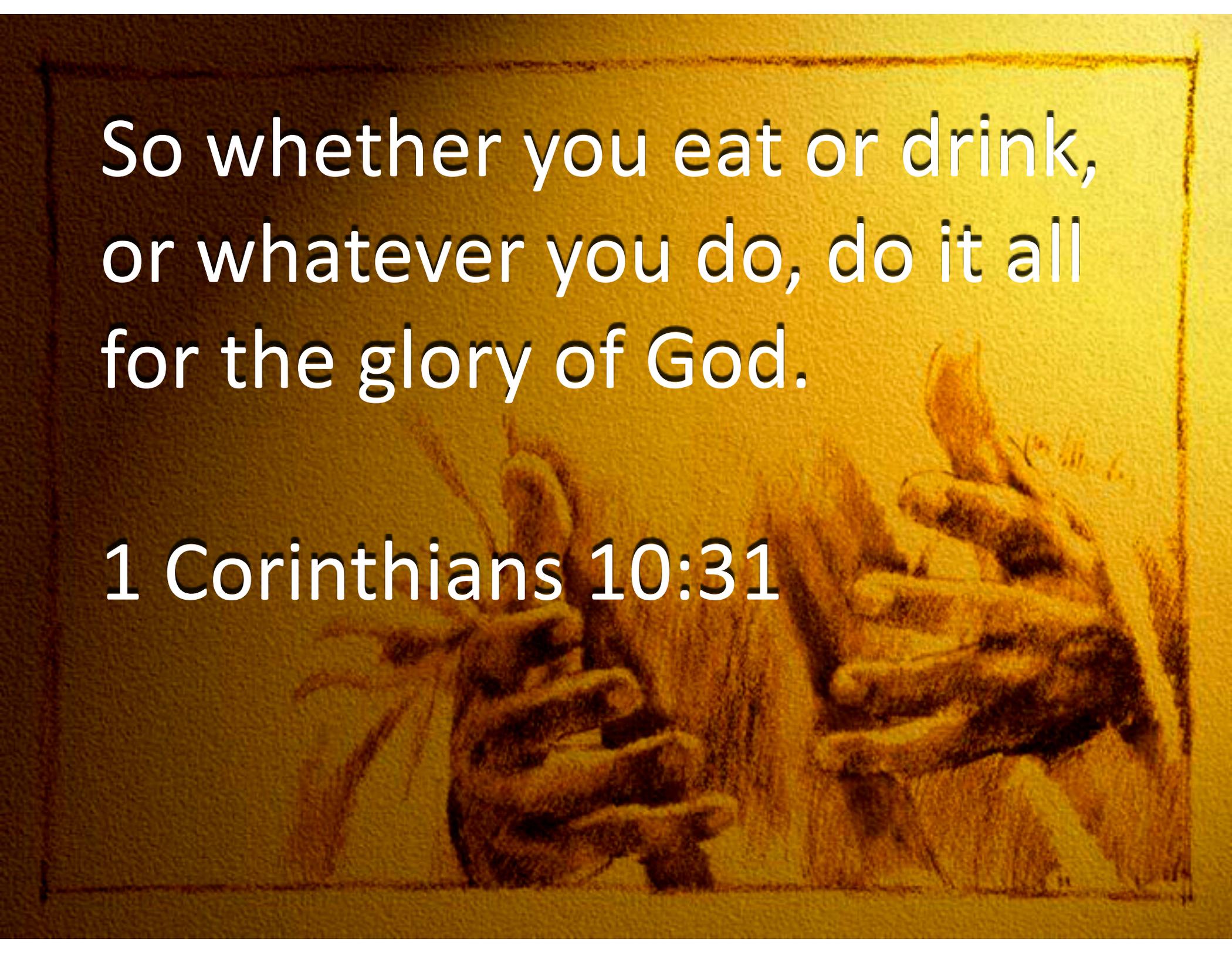
God saved you by his grace when you believed. *And you can't take credit for this;* it is a gift from God. 9 *Salvation is not a reward for the good things we have done,* so none of us can boast about it. 10 For we are God's masterpiece. He has created us anew in Christ Jesus, so we can do the good things he planned for us long ago. Ephesians 2:8-10

Obviously, the law applies to those to whom it was given, for its purpose is to keep people from having excuses, and to show that the entire world is guilty before God. ²⁰ For no one can ever be made right with God by doing what the law commands. The law simply shows us how sinful we are.

Romans 3:19,20

So whether you eat or drink,
or whatever you do, do it all
for the glory of God.

1 Corinthians 10:31



Work with enthusiasm, as though you were working for the Lord rather than for people. Ephesians 6:7



John 6:28-29"

"We want to perform God's works, too.
What should we do?"

Jesus told them, "This is the only work
God wants from you: Believe in the one
he has sent."

Verse 6 So if God prepared a place of rest, and those who were given the good news didn't enter because they chose disobedience over faith...

Verse 11 So let us move forward to enter this rest, so that none of us fall into the kind of faithless disobedience that prevented them from entering.



Studies in the book of Hebrews

"Dear friends, if we deliberately continue sinning after we have received knowledge of the truth, there is no longer any sacrifice that will cover these sins" Hebrews 10:26,27



Studies in the book of Hebrews



“Anyone who isn’t with me
opposes me, and anyone who
isn’t working with me is
actually working against me.
31 “So I tell you, every sin and
blasphemy can be forgiven—
except blasphemy against the
Holy Spirit, which will never
be forgiven. Matthew 12:30

That's why, as long as that promise of entering God's rest remains open to us, *we should be careful that none of us seem to fall short ourselves.* Hebrews 4:1



Studies in the book of Hebrews

Once again, God has fixed a day; and that day is "today," as David said so much later when he wrote *in the Psalm 95: "Today, if you listen to His voice, Don't harden your hearts."*

Hebrews 4:7



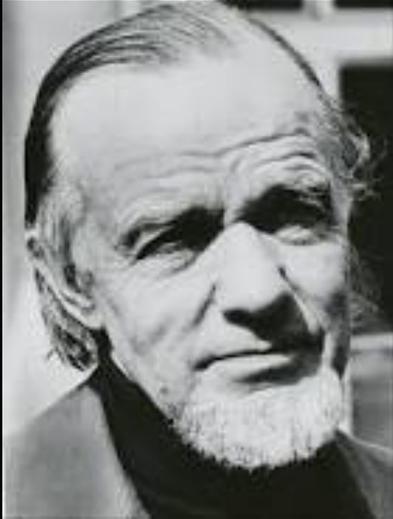
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No creature can hide from God: God sees all. Everyone and everything is exposed, opened for His inspection; and He's the One we will have to explain ourselves to.

Hebrews 4:13

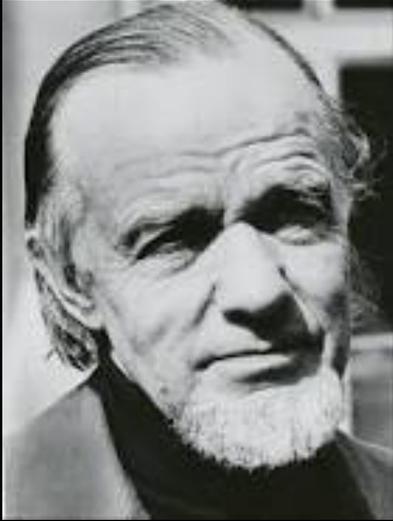


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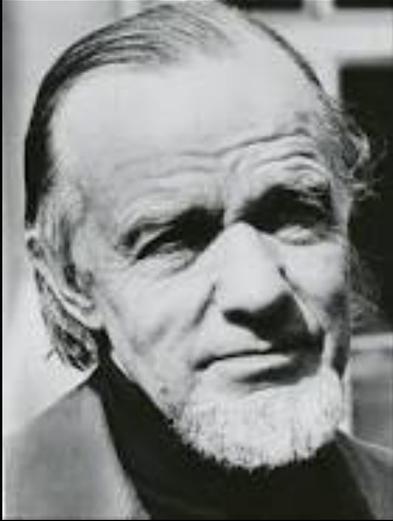
Francis Schaeffer

Imagine if everybody had a little invisible tape recorder around their neck their entire lives and all it ever did was record the things that you told to others to do in their life.



Francis Schaeffer

So on judgment day God takes the tape recorder, sets it down, and says, "I want you to know I'm going to be really fair about this as Judge of the world. I'm not going to judge you by my standards I'm simply going to judge you by your standards of human behavior you laid on everyone else all of your life"?



Francis Schaeffer

Schaeffer wrote:

*Not a single person would
pass that test.*

Matthew 11, says,
"Come to me ...

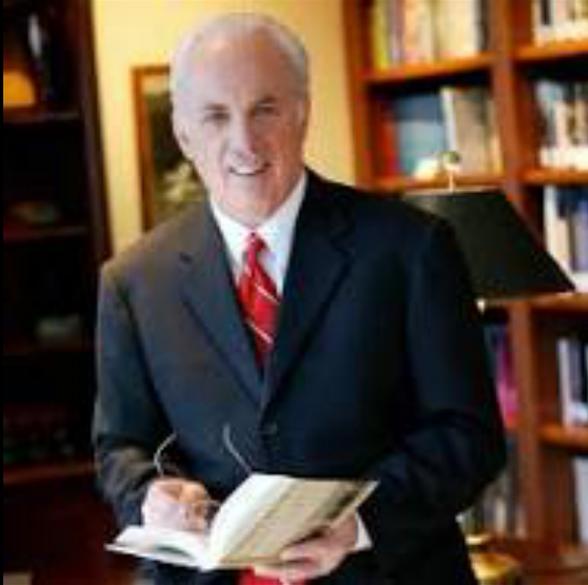
...I will give you rest."



Apostle Paul:

"This is a faithful saying and worthy of all acceptance, that Jesus Christ came into the world to save sinners, of whom I am chief."

I Timothy 1:15



John MacArthur

*I'm too much of a sinner to deserve salvation but
I'm **not too much of a sinner** for the grace of
God to handle my sin.*

