



November 14, 2021

“Walk Through that Door”

Luke 13:22–30

Pastor Gary Hamrick

The Bible describes salvation like a gate or a door. It’s open to all, but it’s narrow and it won’t stay open forever. We are invited to walk through the door of salvation through faith in Jesus Christ. Jesus will take us just as we are, broken and bruised, dirty and ashamed, and he will make us whole!

1. The Door of Salvation

- a. **Luke 13:23** - *“Then one said to Him, ‘Lord, are there few who are saved?’ ”*
- b. **Luke 13:23** - *“And someone said to him, ‘Lord, will those who are saved be few?’ ”* (ESV)
- c. Pastor Gary said, “The question is about salvation... From time to time I’ve wondered what will heaven be like, and what will the population of heaven be like, and will there be a lot of people or not so many? ... The assumption by the one asking the question is that only a few will be saved. ... This person was framing [the question] in a way that he or she thinks... that there will probably be few people in heaven. ... Jesus [didn’t] answer the question about how many will be saved... [Jesus’ reply placed the emphasis on] being sure that you are saved. ... [At] the end of the day God’s going to sort out the sheep from the goats... and however many end up in heaven is up to God; that’s God’s number. We shouldn’t be concerned about the number we should be concerned about whether we are a part of that number.”

2. What is salvation and what does it mean to be saved?

- a. Pastor Gary said, “The Greek word is *sozo*. <sup>1</sup> [*Sozo*] is an all-encompassing word. [This word] is used in different ways, [and it’s found] more than one hundred times in the New Testament. [It] is used to communicate some

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.blueletterbible.org/lexicon/g4982/nkjv/tr/0-1/>

aspect of the Lord's work in the life of an individual. [Sometimes] the word is used to describe a person who has been delivered from a demon.<sup>2</sup> [It's a word that is also used] for the healing of a sick person.<sup>3</sup> [It's a word that is also used] in the context [of] what we are reading [in Luke 13 regarding] the forgiveness of sins.<sup>4</sup> <sup>5</sup> [This] word is often used to describe the totality of God's healing virtue in the life of an individual: body, soul, and spirit. ... [This word] speaks to how an individual is made whole ... It infers that we're all broken people. ... If you don't understand your own brokenness, you will never see your need for a Savior. ... [The nursery rhyme Humpty Dumpty] describes the human condition. ... We've all had a great fall. We've sinned against God, [and] we've rebelled against God. ... [We] can't fix ourselves. ... This is what the message of the cross is all about."

- b. **John 3:16-17** - *"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved."*

3. The door is open, but it is narrow

- a. **Luke 13:24** - *"Strive to enter through the narrow door, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able."*
- b. Pastor Gary said, "[Jesus crushed] the false narrative that says many paths lead to God [or] the door to heaven is wide. ... Now, [the] word 'narrow' is offensive to a lot of people. Those who are skeptical about Christianity [or] those who don't like Christians, they will actually use the word narrow to define us in a very negative way. ... To say that this is a narrow gate is not a bad thing. People [declare that we] should be broadminded, openminded about everything. ... In fact, the truth of the matter is that the only way that you can be broadminded in the world today is because [the world] is dominated by narrowminded thinking. Without [narrowmindedness] there is chaos, anarchy, and confusion. ... Narrow just simply means that it is limited in scope. ... In other words, there is an exclusive, singular way to be saved; it's not multiple choice. [Because] some people are not willing to accept the singular way to be saved, they will not be able to enter in. ... They won't be able to enter because the door is shut. They won't be able to enter because they don't like [the] exclusive door. ... I have no problem that [God's Word tells us] there's only one way. I'm just glad that he made a way."

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<sup>2</sup> **Luke 8:36** - *"They also who had seen it told them by what means he who had been demon-possessed was healed."*

<sup>3</sup> **Mark 5:23** - *"[He] begged Him earnestly, saying, 'My little daughter lies at the point of death. Come and lay Your hands on her, that she may be healed, and she will live.'"*

<sup>4</sup> **Matthew 1:21** - *"And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus, for he will save His people from their sins."*

<sup>5</sup> **Ephesians 2:8** - *"For by grace you have been saved through faith, and that not of yourselves; it is the gift of God."*

4. The door will not stay open forever

- a. **Luke 13:25-27** - *"When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door, and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door, saying, 'Lord, Lord, open for us,' and He will answer and say to you, 'I do not know you, where are you from,' then you will begin to say, 'We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say, 'I tell you I do not know you, where are you from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.' "*
- b. Pastor Gary said, "We need to get this. This is sobering stuff here. There will come a day, the last day, when no one else will be able to get saved. There is open enrollment [so to speak], right now. ... All of our days are numbered. [There's] going to be a day when you breathe your last and [you] don't know when [that] day is for us. God knows because he has numbered our days. ... We have to be ready to face him. Are [you] saved? Do [you] know that you are going to be with him forever? Don't just think that you can put off that decision until tomorrow because [none of us] is guaranteed tomorrow."
  - i. **Job 14:5** - *"You have decided the length of our lives. You know how many months we will live, and we are not given a minute longer."*(NLT)
  - ii. **James 4:14** - *"[You] do not know what will happen tomorrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapor that appears for a little time and then vanishes away."*

5. The door is open to all

- a. **Luke 13:29-30** - *"They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last."*
- b. Pastor Gary said, "Salvation does not discriminate. ... Jesus died for all and loves all. ... Don't think that you have to clean yourself up before you come through the door. ... [You can't clean yourself up!] ... He died for us because we are all imperfect people."
  - i. **Romans 2:11** - *"For there is no partiality with God."*
  - ii. **Romans 3:23** - *"[All] have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."*
  - iii. **Romans 3:10** - *"There is none righteous, no, not one."*
  - iv. **2 Corinthians 5:17** - *"Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new."*

6. The door is Jesus

- a. **John 10:9** - *"I am the door. If anyone enters by Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."*
- b. Pastor Gary said, "The uniqueness of Christianity is rooted in the uniqueness of Jesus himself. ... Other religious leaders of other world religions will say things like, 'Follow me and I will show you how to find the truth.' But Jesus

said, 'I am the truth.' Other religious leaders will say things like, 'Follow me and I will show you the way.' But Jesus said, *'I am the way.'* Other religious leaders will say things like, 'Follow me and I will show you how to find the light.' But Jesus said, *'I am the light of the world.'* Other religious leaders will say things like, 'Follow me and I will unlock the door to eternal life. But Jesus said, *'I am the door.'* Do you see the difference? ... This is what Jesus does. He takes broken people and makes them whole. He takes lost people and makes them found. He takes sinful people and makes them saved and forgiven. But you have to walk through that door. ... You have to say, 'Yes,' to Jesus. Don't worry about the few. You worry about you, and you get right with him."

- i. [John 14:6](#) - *"Jesus said to him, 'I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.'"*
- ii. [John 8:12](#) - *"... 'I am the light of the world.' "*
- iii. [Romans 10:13](#)- *"For 'whoever calls on the name of the LORD shall be saved.' "*

#### Discussion Questions

1. Read [Luke 13:22-30](#) to provide a foundation for your Bible study time.
2. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments concerning [Luke 13:22-30](#) being about salvation. (See #1c above)
3. Spend time talking about the meaning of salvation and what it means to be saved. (See #2 above)
4. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the way to salvation if open but narrow. (See #3 above)
5. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's remarks about the time to be saved is now. (See #4 above)
6. Read and discuss [John 14:5](#) and [James 4:14](#). (See #4b-i and #4b-ii above)
7. Read and discuss [Romans 2:11, 3:10, and 3:23](#), [2 Corinthians 5:17](#). (See #5b-i through #5b-iv above)
8. Allow the people in your group an opportunity to share their testimony of coming to faith in Christ.
9. Read and discuss Pastor Gary's comments about the way of salvation is found only in Jesus. (See #6b above)

10. Read and discuss [John 14:6](#), [John 8:12](#), and [Romans 10:13](#). (See #6b-i through #6b-iii above)

11. Close your meeting by allowing the Holy Spirit to lead your time of prayer.

\* Unless noted, all Scriptures quoted are from the New King James Version (NKJV)