

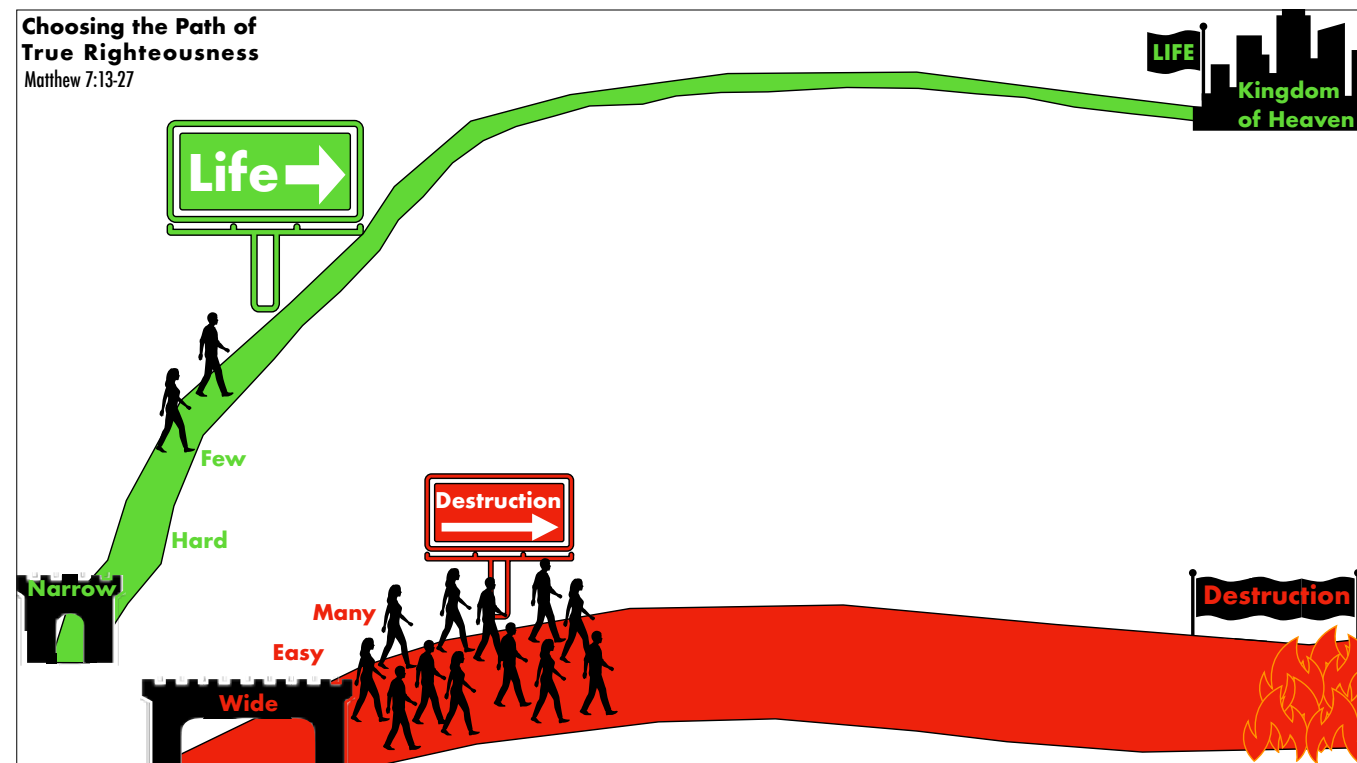
Choosing the Path of True Righteousness



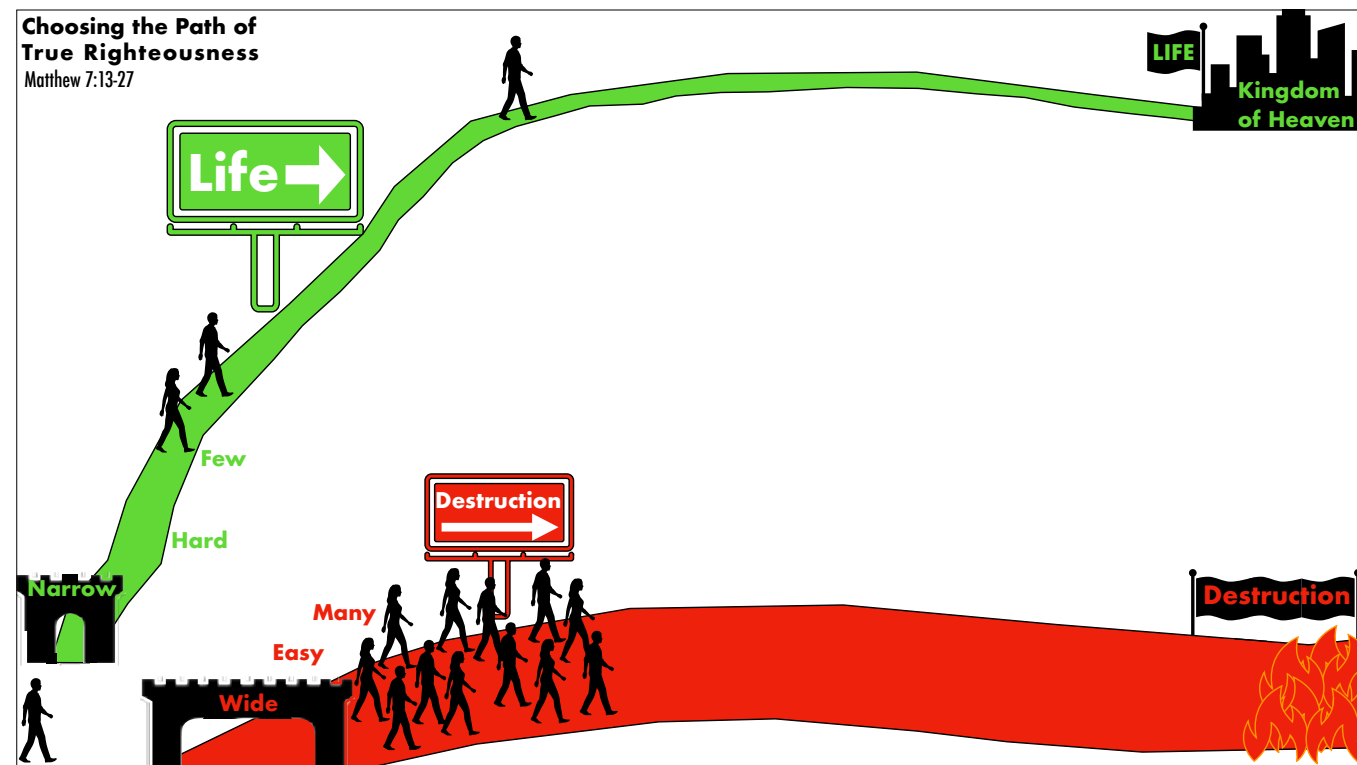
# Beware of False Prophets

Matthew 7:15

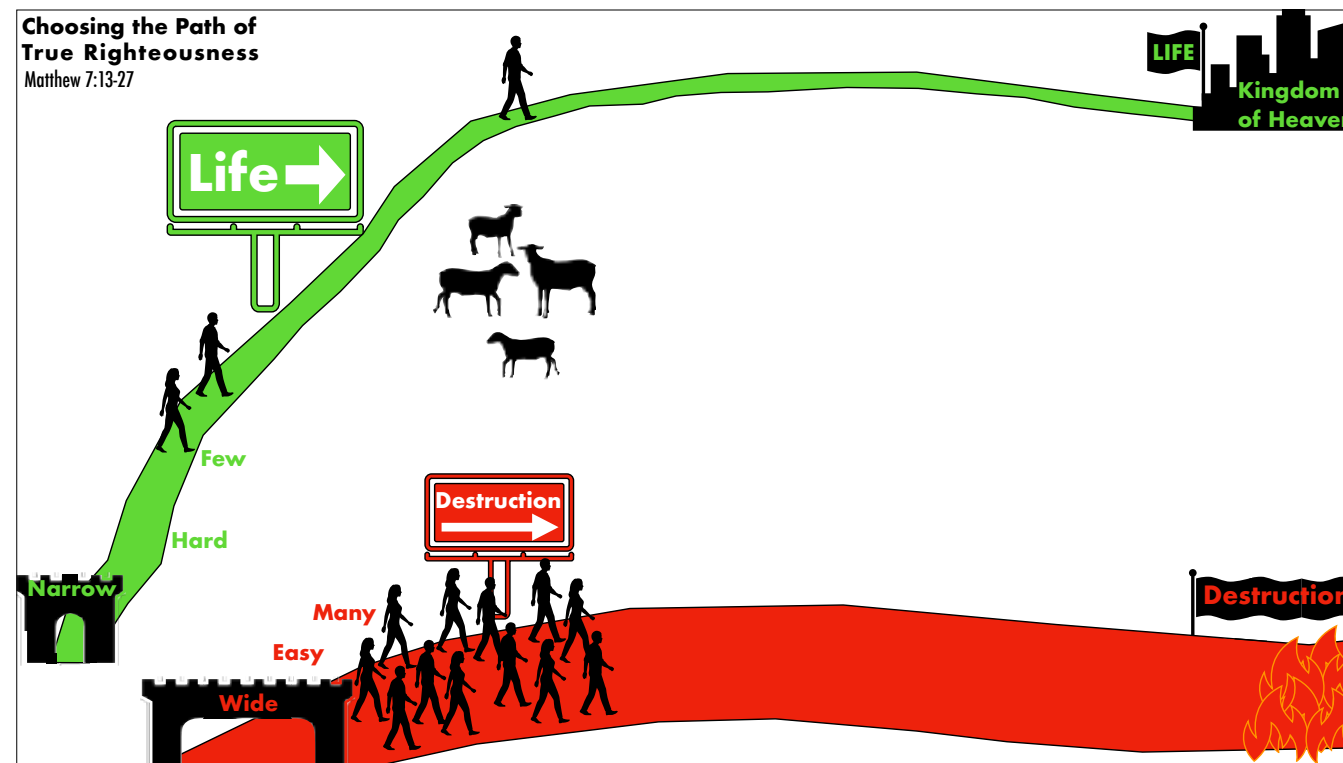
- End of world, April 23



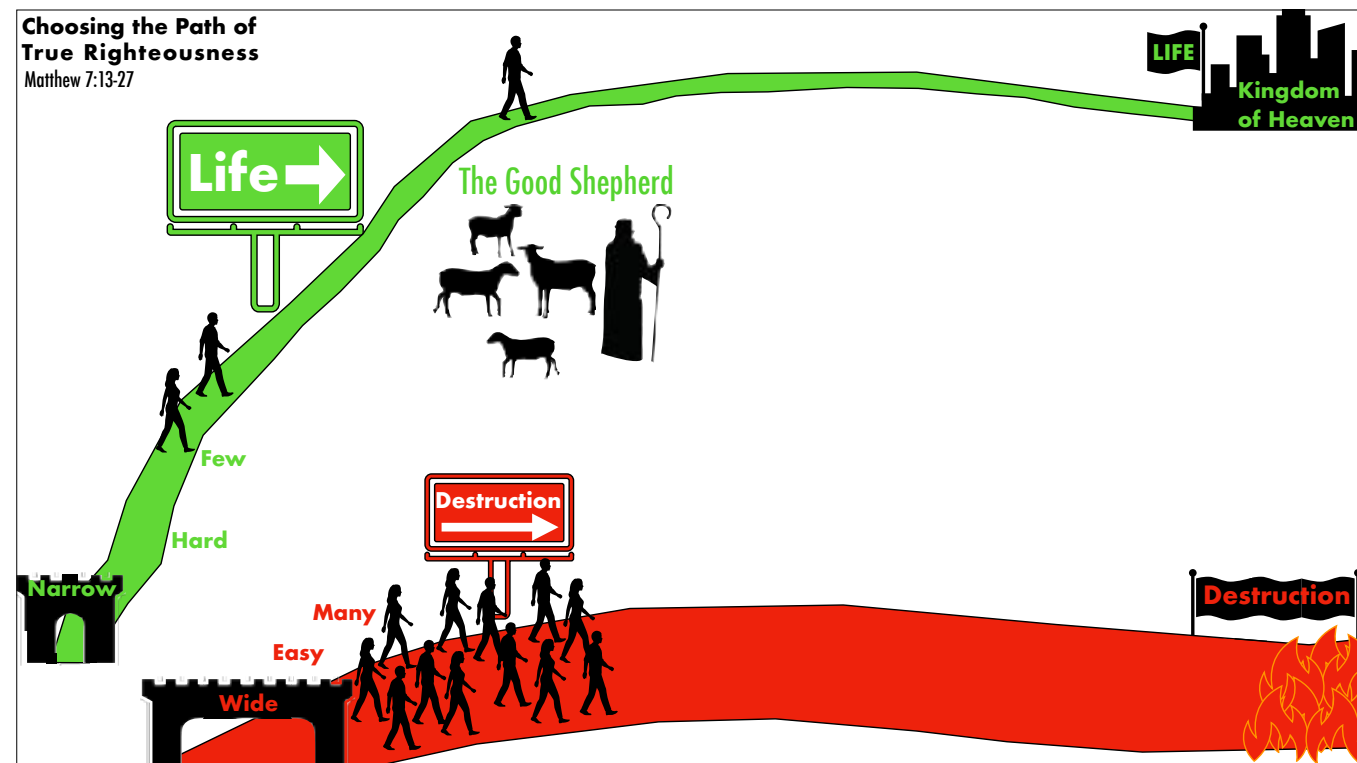
- Matthew 7:13-14 (ESV) 13 “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.
- Jesus has warned us that we must be sure to choose the path that leads to life.
  - Beware of picking the obvious path that is wide, easy and has many people.



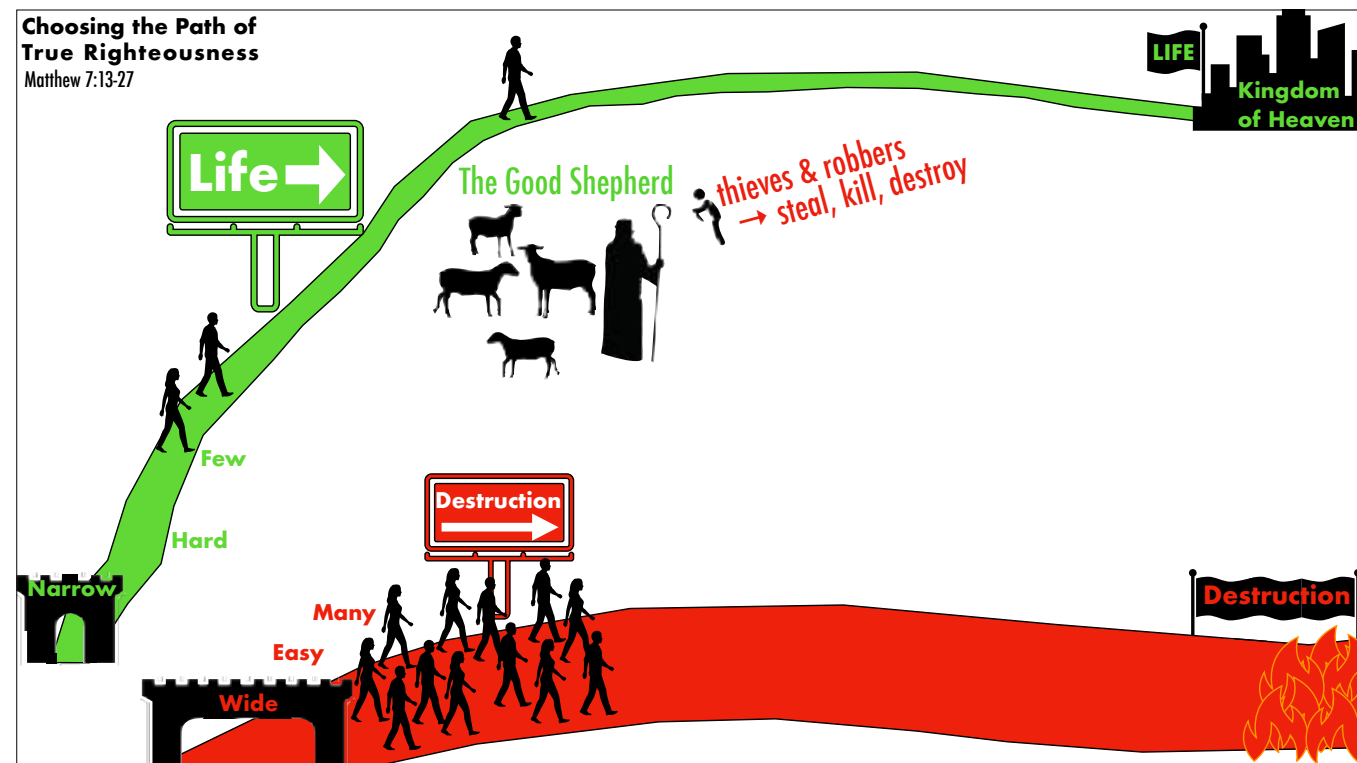
- Now further warnings that even when we choose the path to life, there are dangers that we face.
- The Hard...
- Beware!



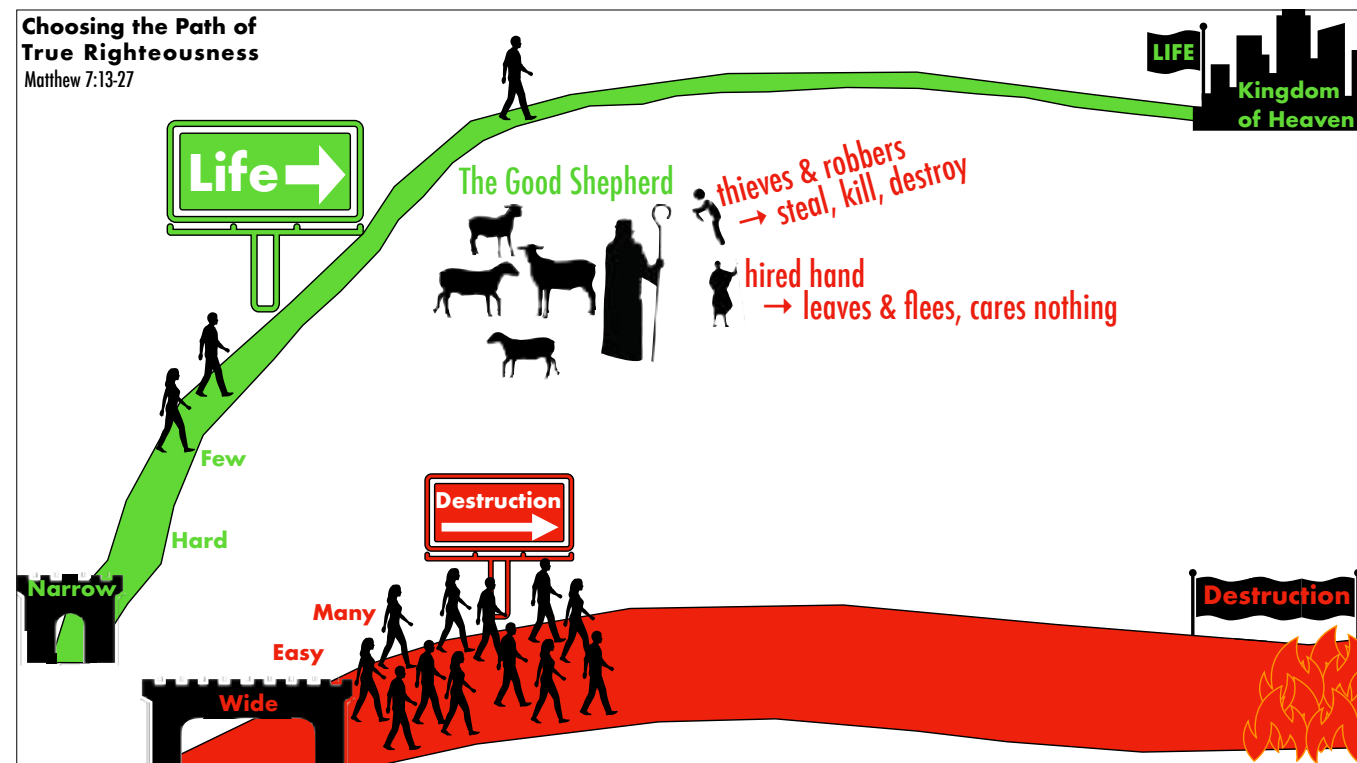
- Sheep, Shepherds and Danger
- John 10:7-14: So Jesus again said to them, “Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the door of the sheep. 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them. 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly. 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep. 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and flees, and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep. 14 I am the good shepherd.



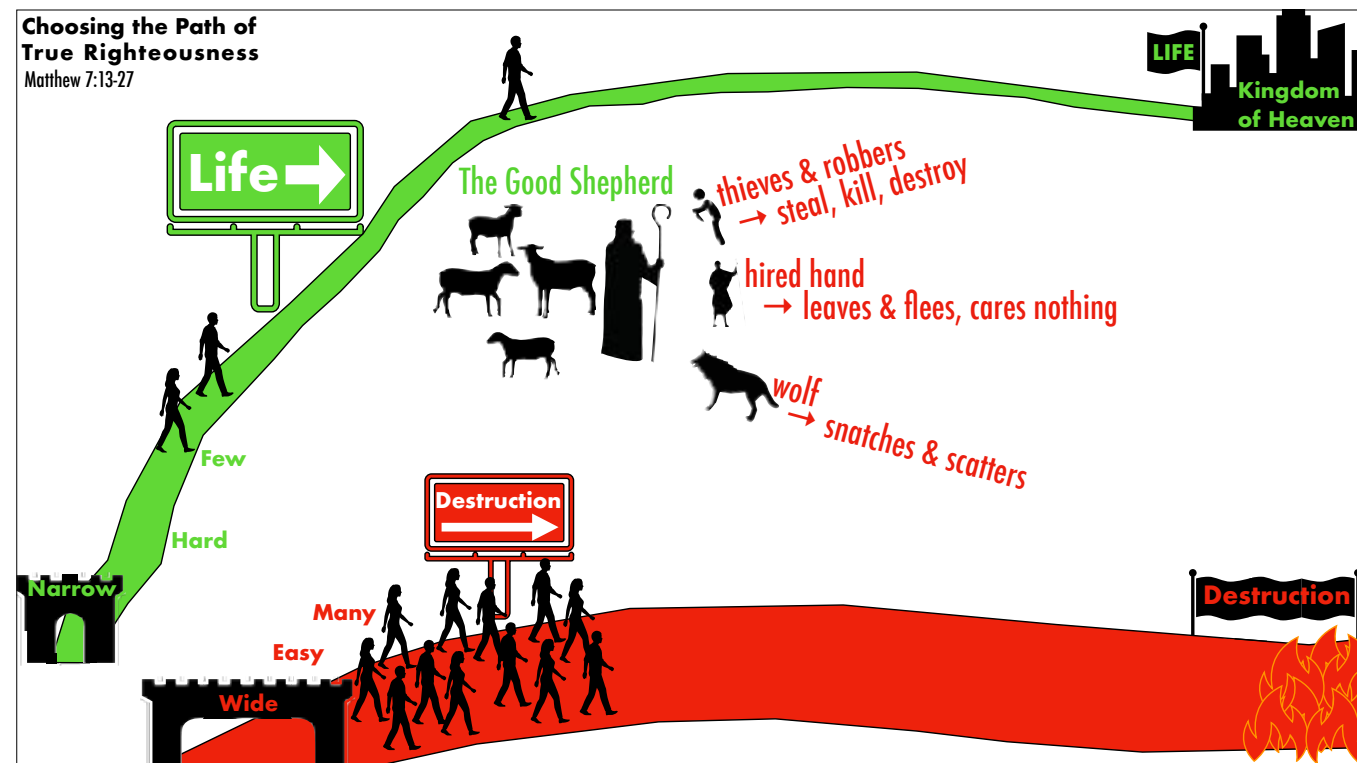
- Jesus is Good Shepherd
- 7: I am the door of the sheep.
- 9 I am the door. If anyone enters by me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture
- 10 I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.
- 11 I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down his life for the sheep.
- 14 I am the good shepherd.



- Thieves:
  - 8 All who came before me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep did not listen to them.
  - 10 The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy.

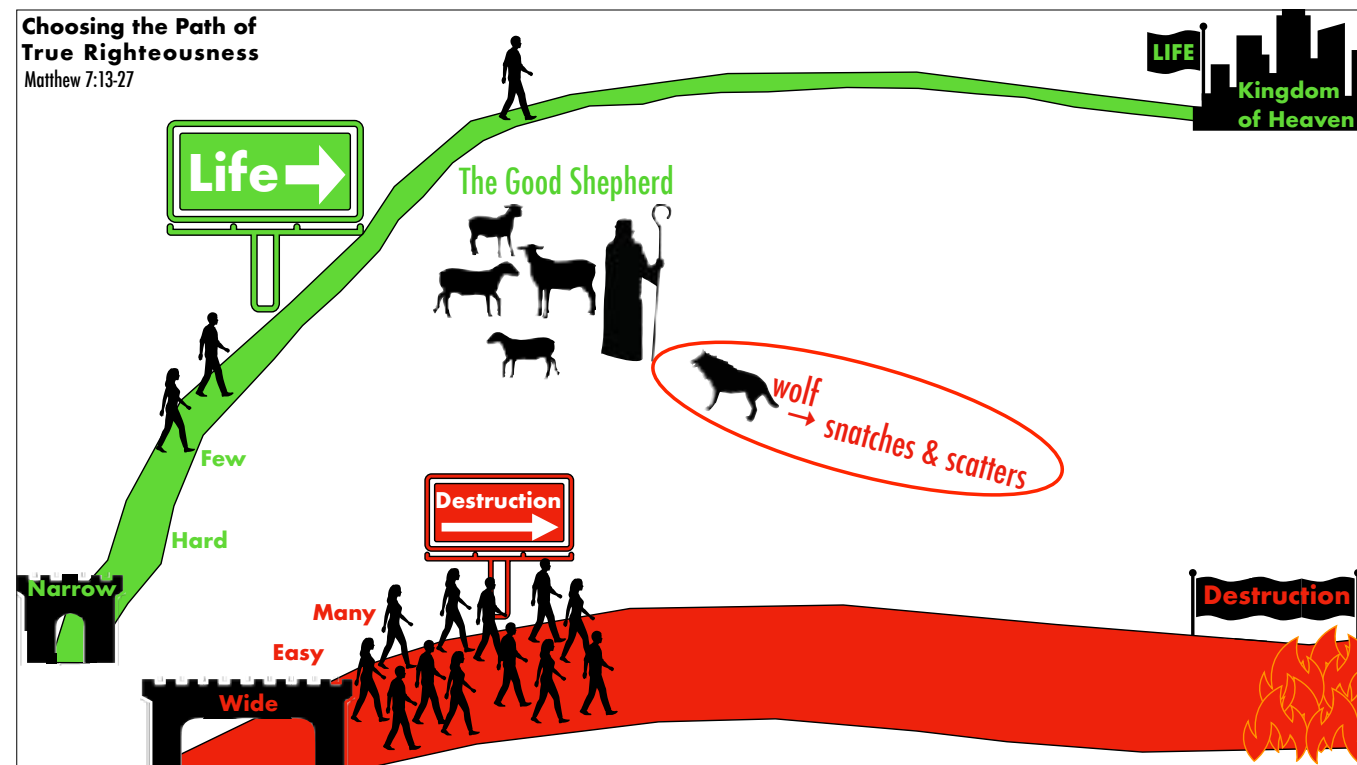


- Hired Hand
  - 12 He who is a hired hand and not a shepherd, who does not own the sheep,
  - sees the wolf coming and
  - leaves the sheep and flees,
  - 13 He flees because he is a hired hand and cares nothing for the sheep.

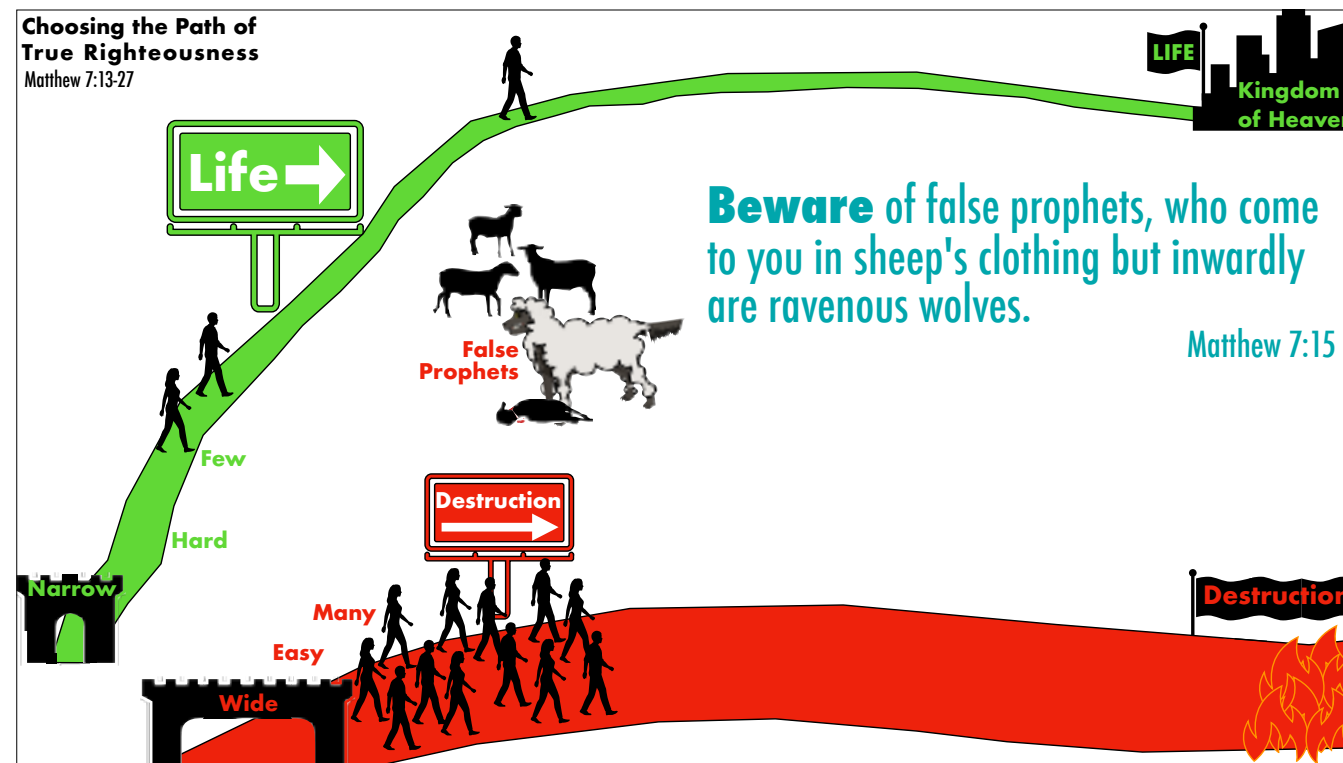


- Wolf
- 12: sees the wolf coming
- snatches them and scatters them.

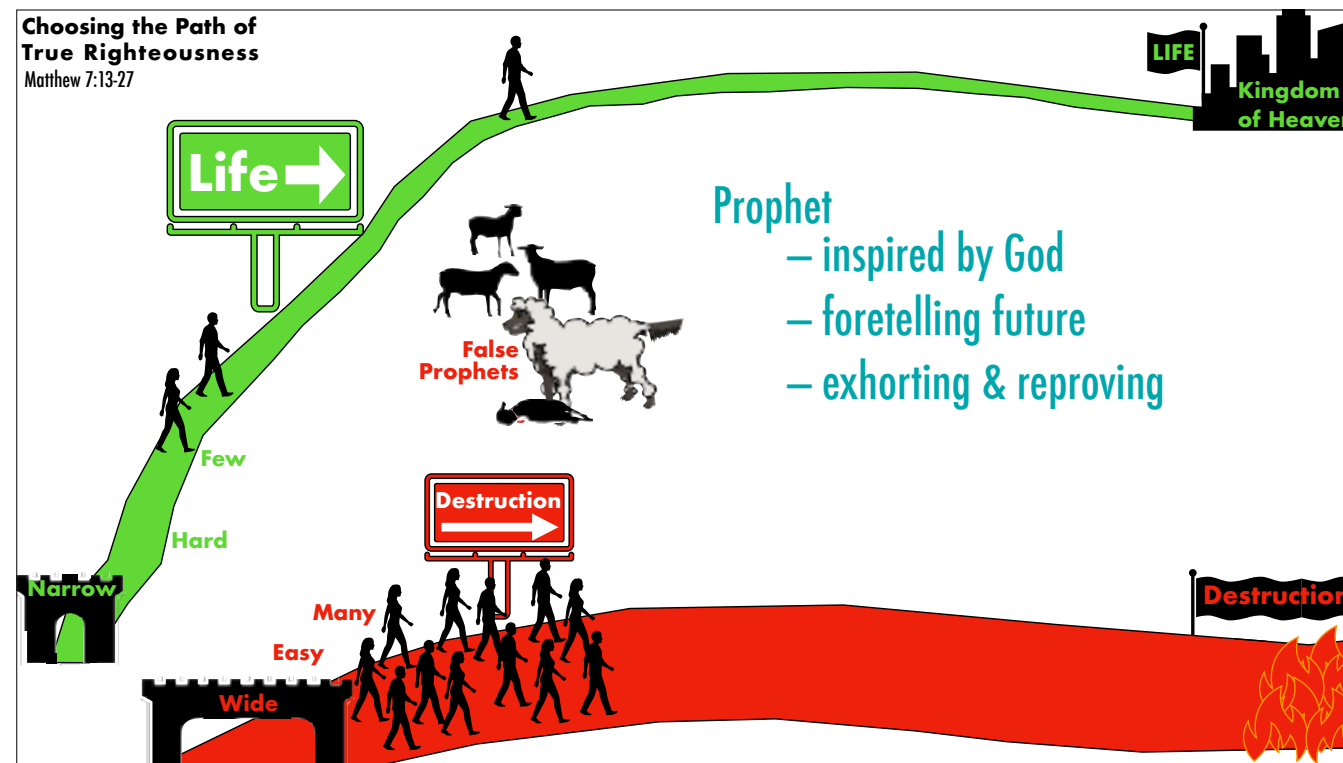




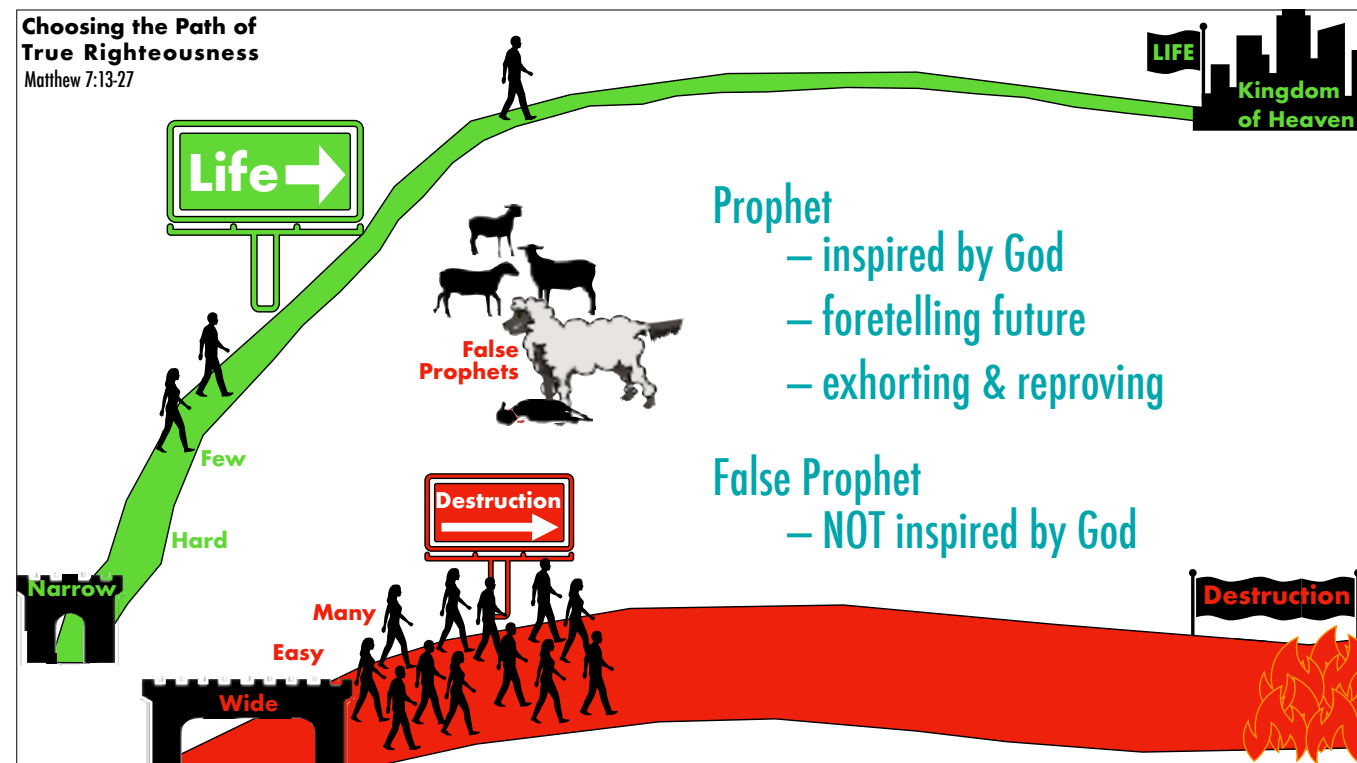
- Jesus wants us to focus on wolf



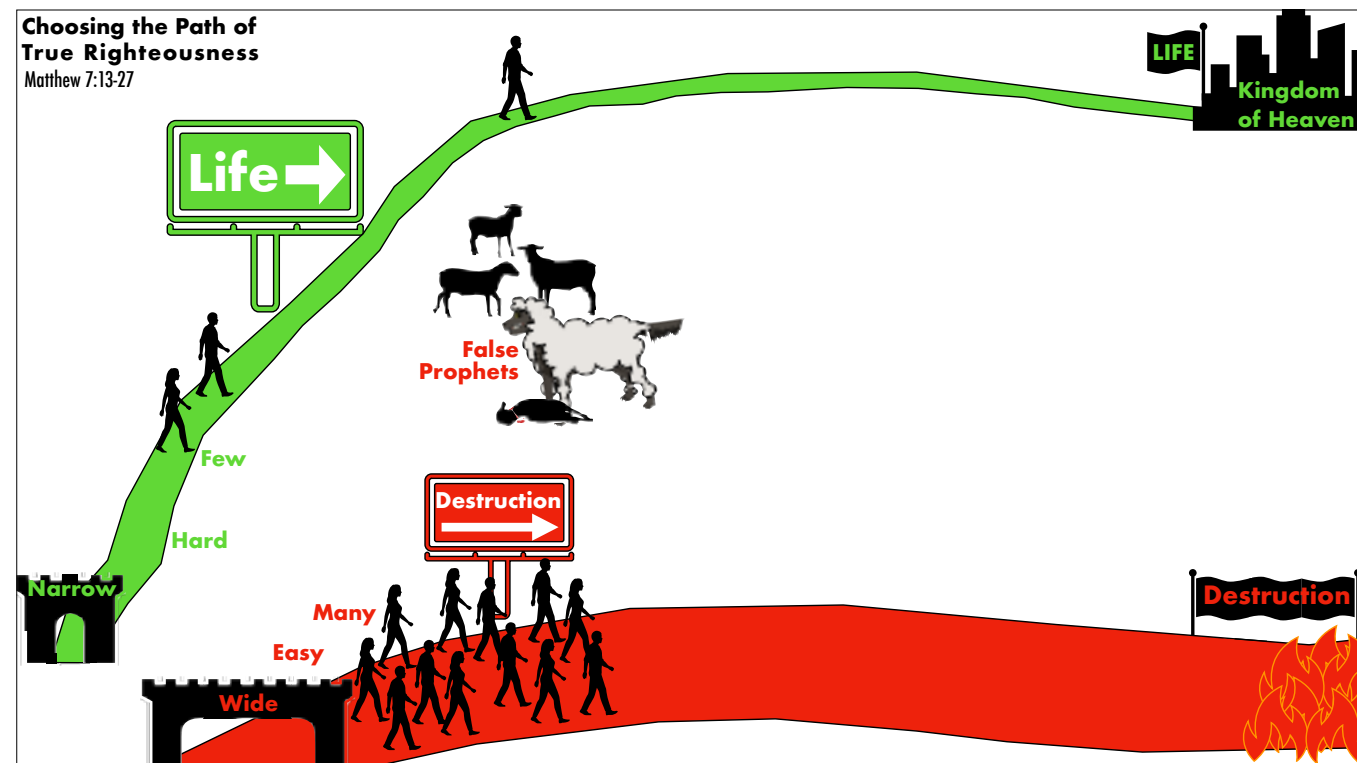
- Matthew 7:15-20 (ESV) 15 “Beware of false prophets, who come to you in sheep's clothing but inwardly are ravenous wolves. 16 You will recognize them by their fruits. Are grapes gathered from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? 17 So, every healthy tree bears good fruit, but the diseased tree bears bad fruit. 18 A healthy tree cannot bear bad fruit, nor can a diseased tree bear good fruit. 19 Every tree that does not bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire. 20 Thus you will recognize them by their fruits.



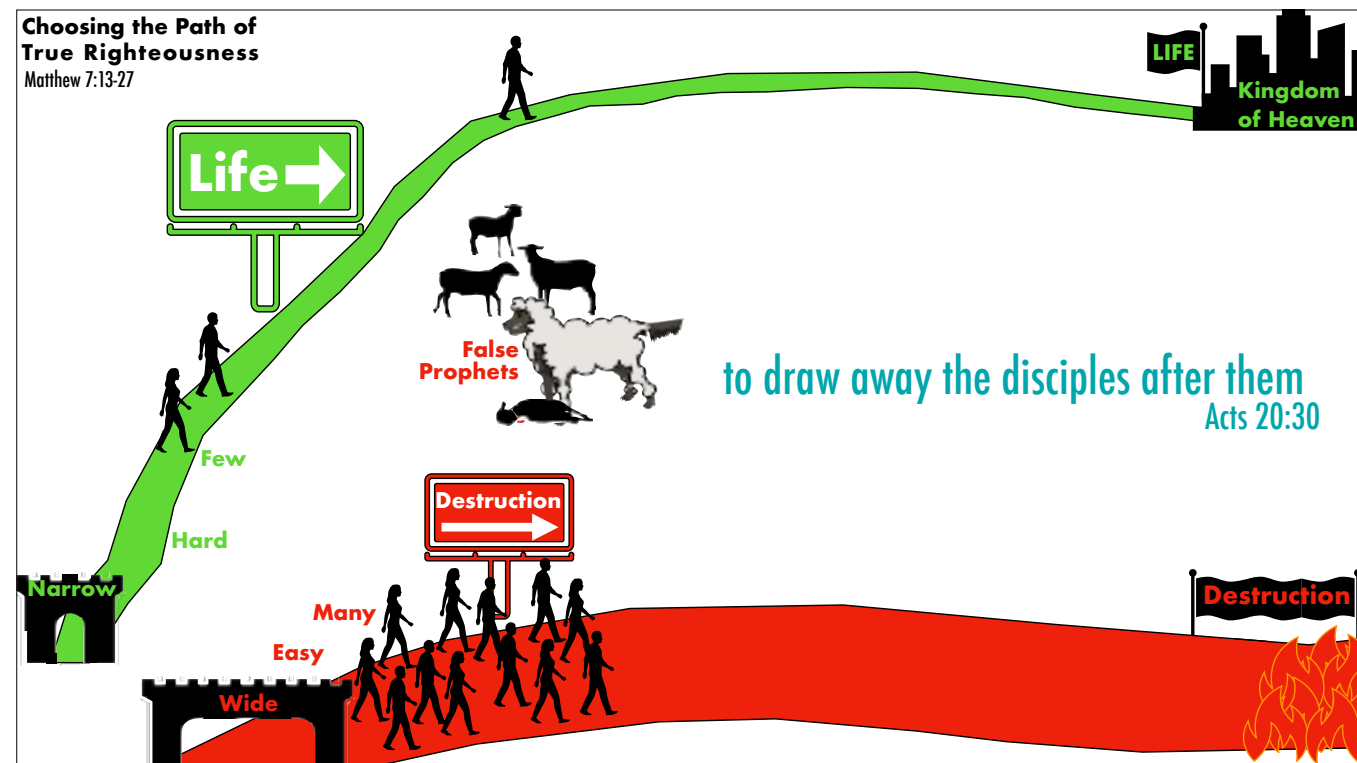
- What is a prophet? (CWSB Dictionary)
  - spoke under divine influence and inspiration.
    - Hence the prophet spoke not his own thoughts but what he received from God
  - included the foretelling future events
  - the exhorting, reproofing, and threatening of individuals or nations as the ambassador of God



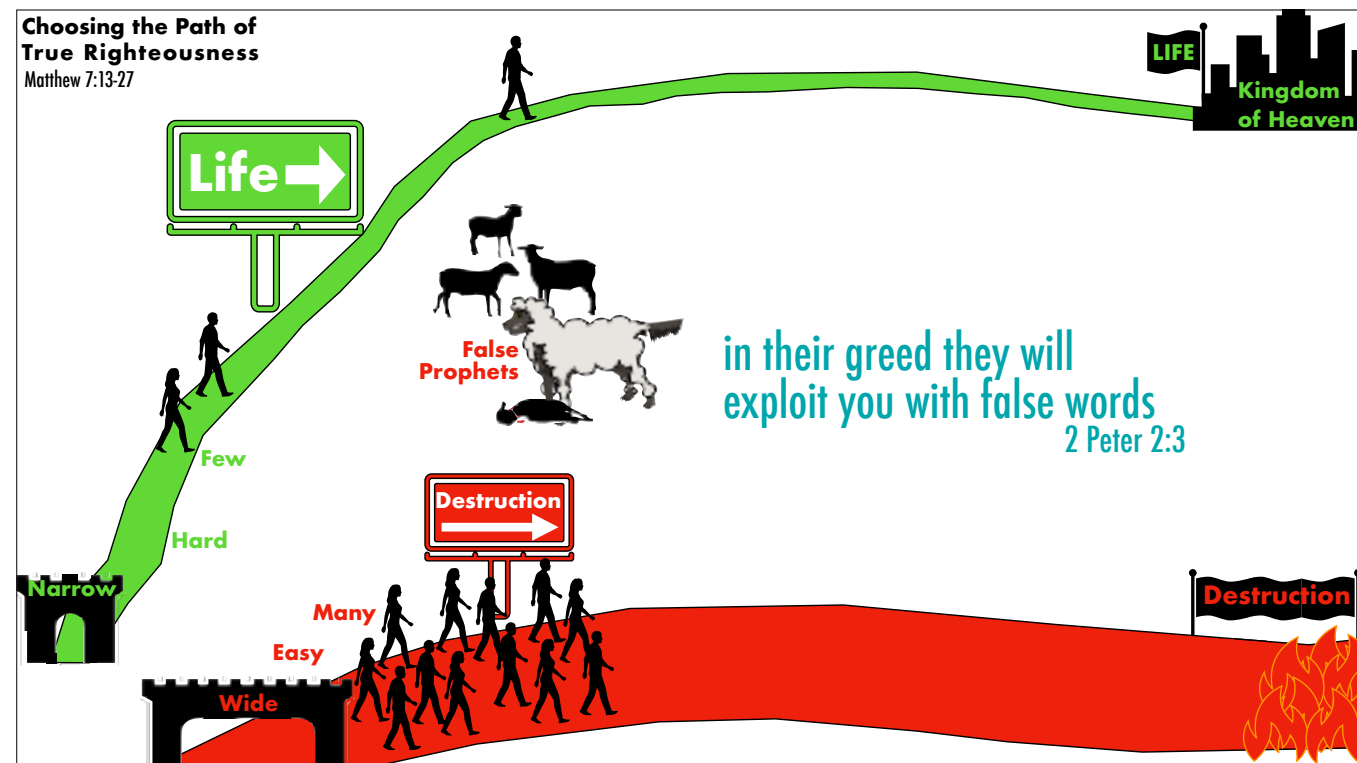
- What is a false prophet?
  - Anyone who speaks a message claiming to be from God, when it is not from God.



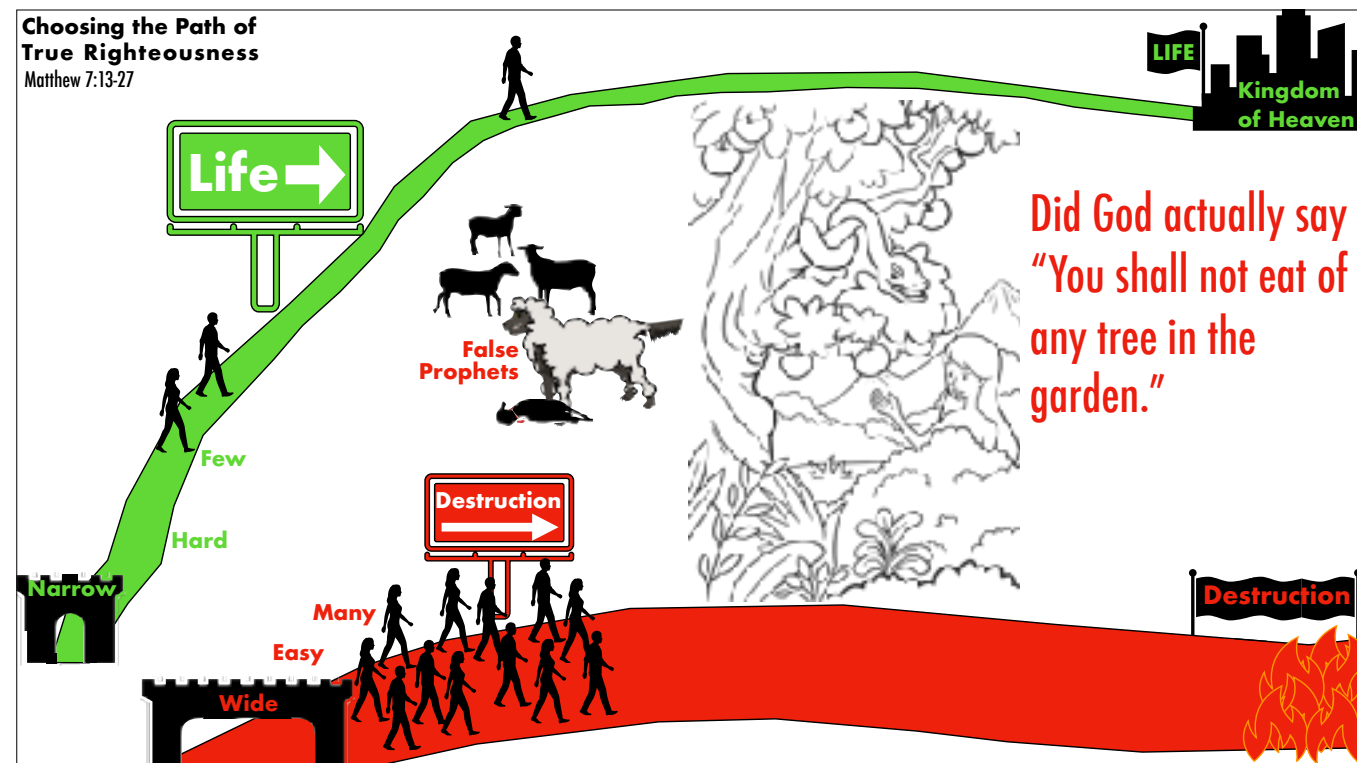
- False prophets are a **great danger** to us
  - Ravenous
  - Disguised (deceitful)



- Ravenous Wolves: KJV - ferocious
- Drawing you away from Jesus and Life
  - Acts 20:29-30 (ESV Strong's) 29 I know that after my departure fierce wolves will come in among you, not sparing the flock; 30 and from among your own selves will arise men speaking twisted things, **to draw away the disciples after them.**

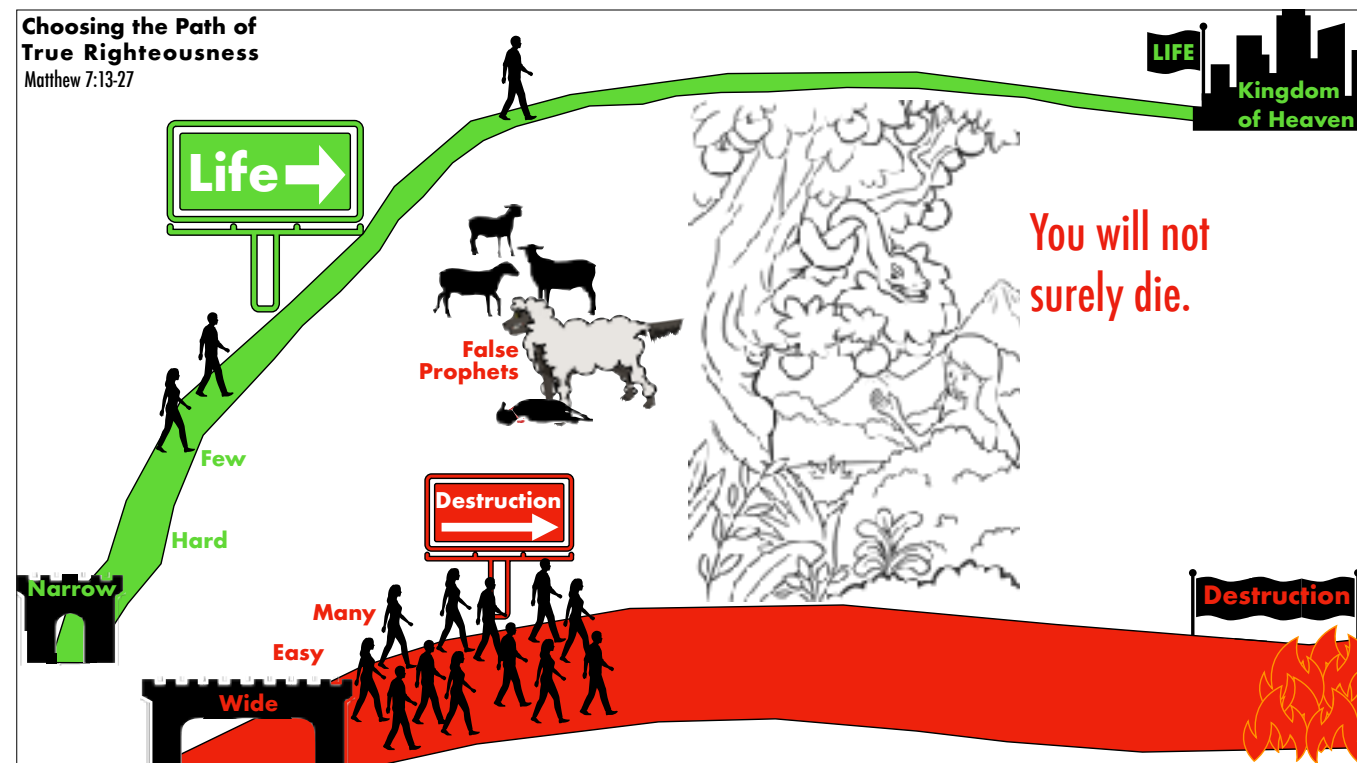


- 2 Peter 2:3 And in their **greed** they will exploit you with **false words**.
- False Words: the Sheep's clothing.
- not new... Satan

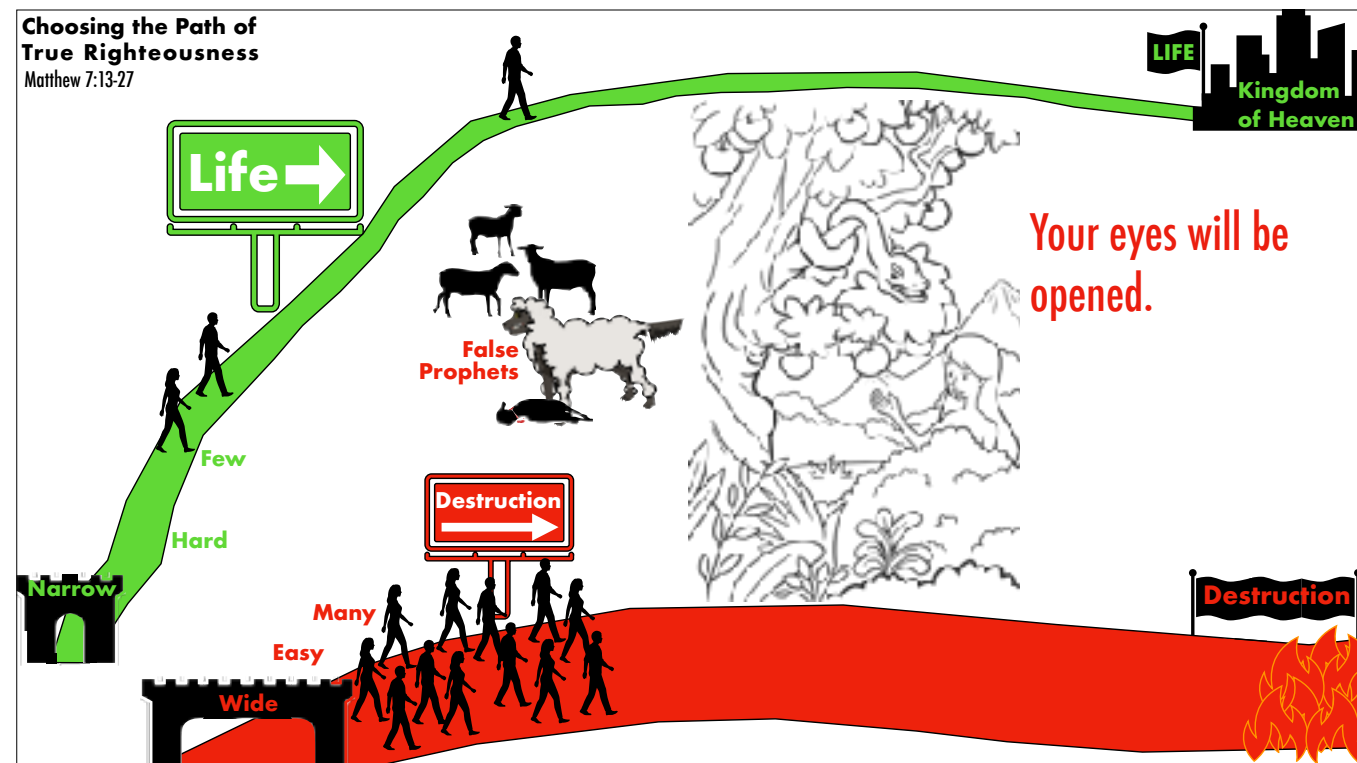


- Satan with Eve: Genesis 3:1-6
  - serpent was more crafty
  - He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" (twisting God's words)

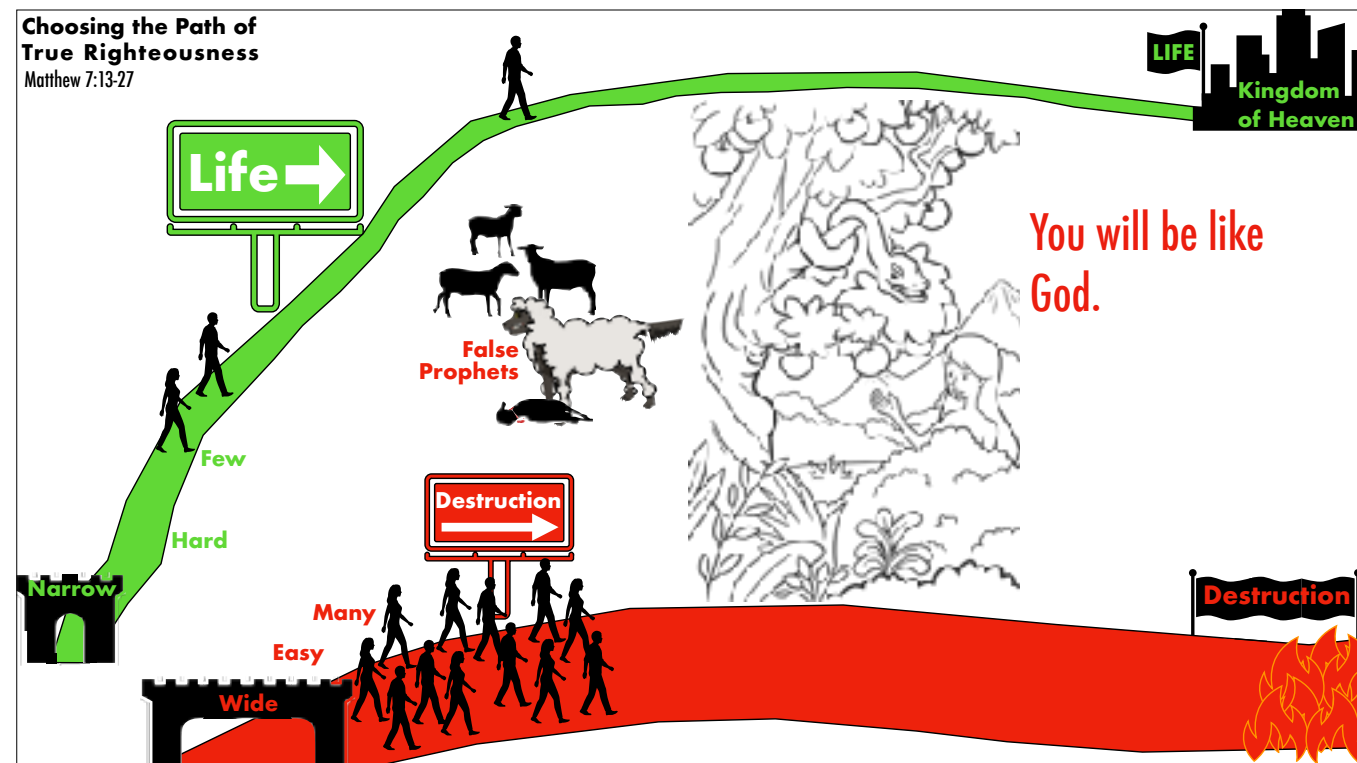




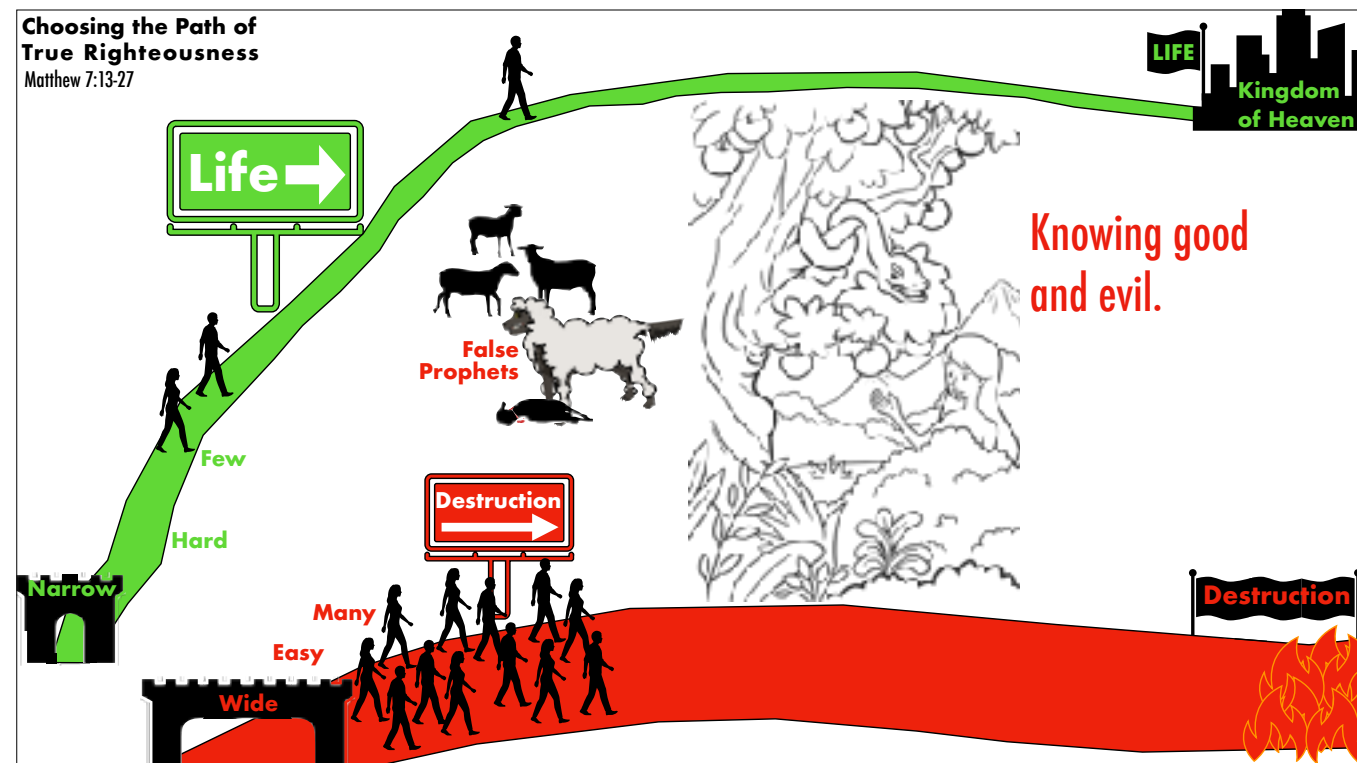
- 4 But the serpent said to the woman,
  - You will not surely die. (discrediting God, God is the liar, has his own agenda, not really helping you.)



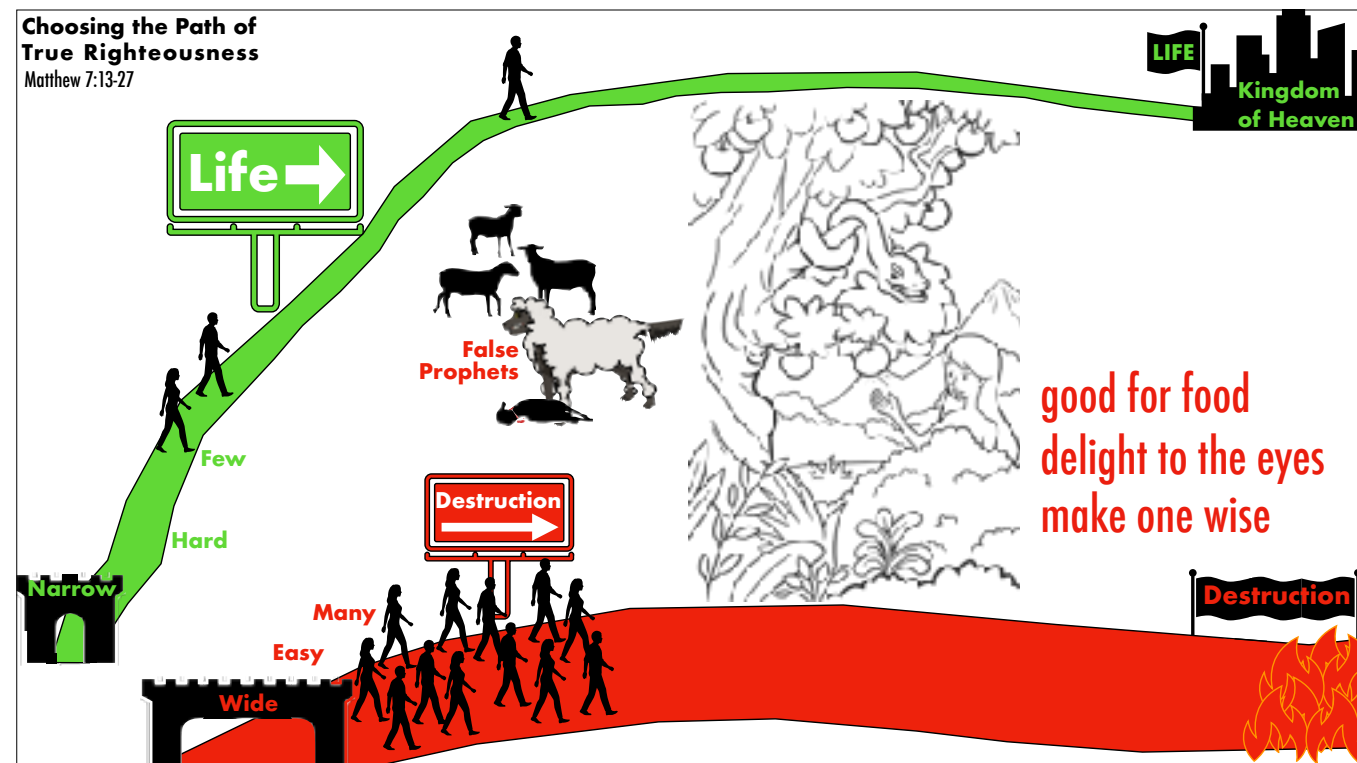
- 5 For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, (special knowledge that others don't have)



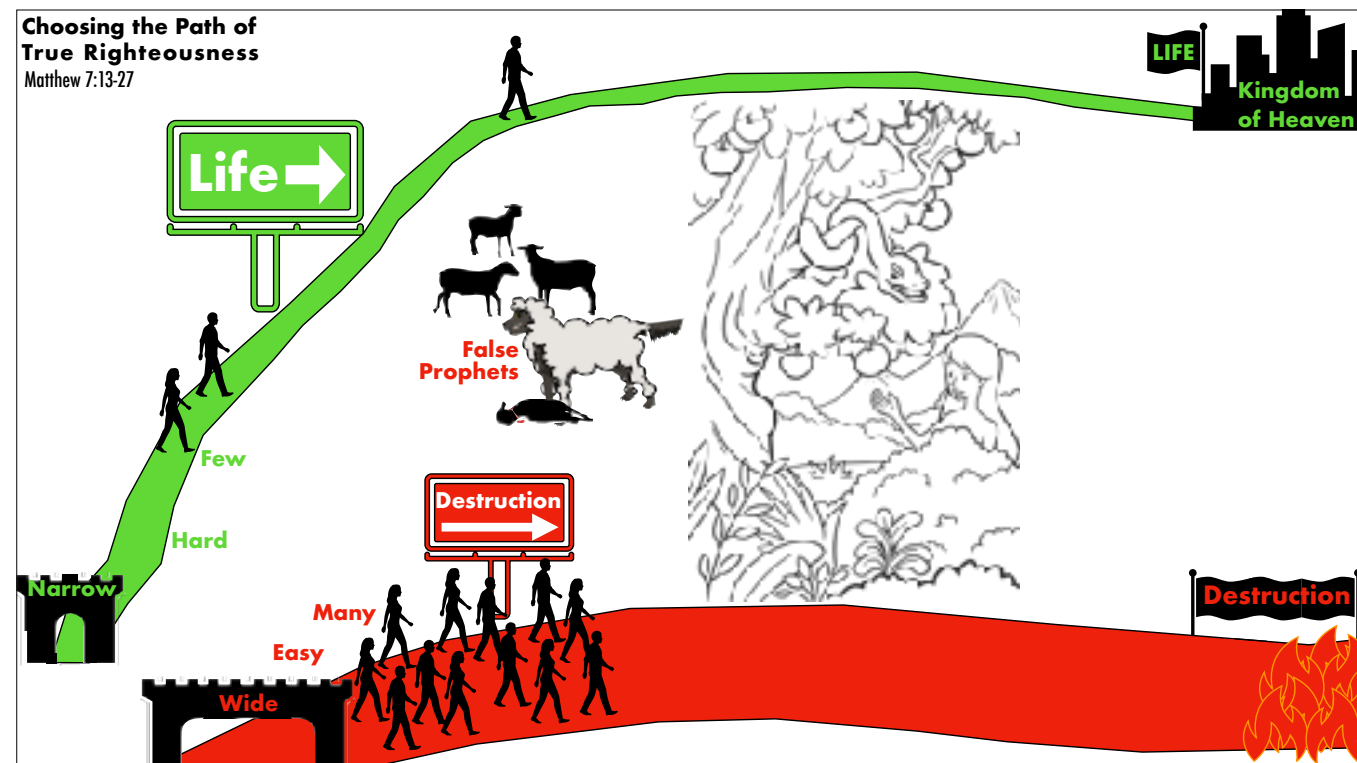
- and you will be like God (special power



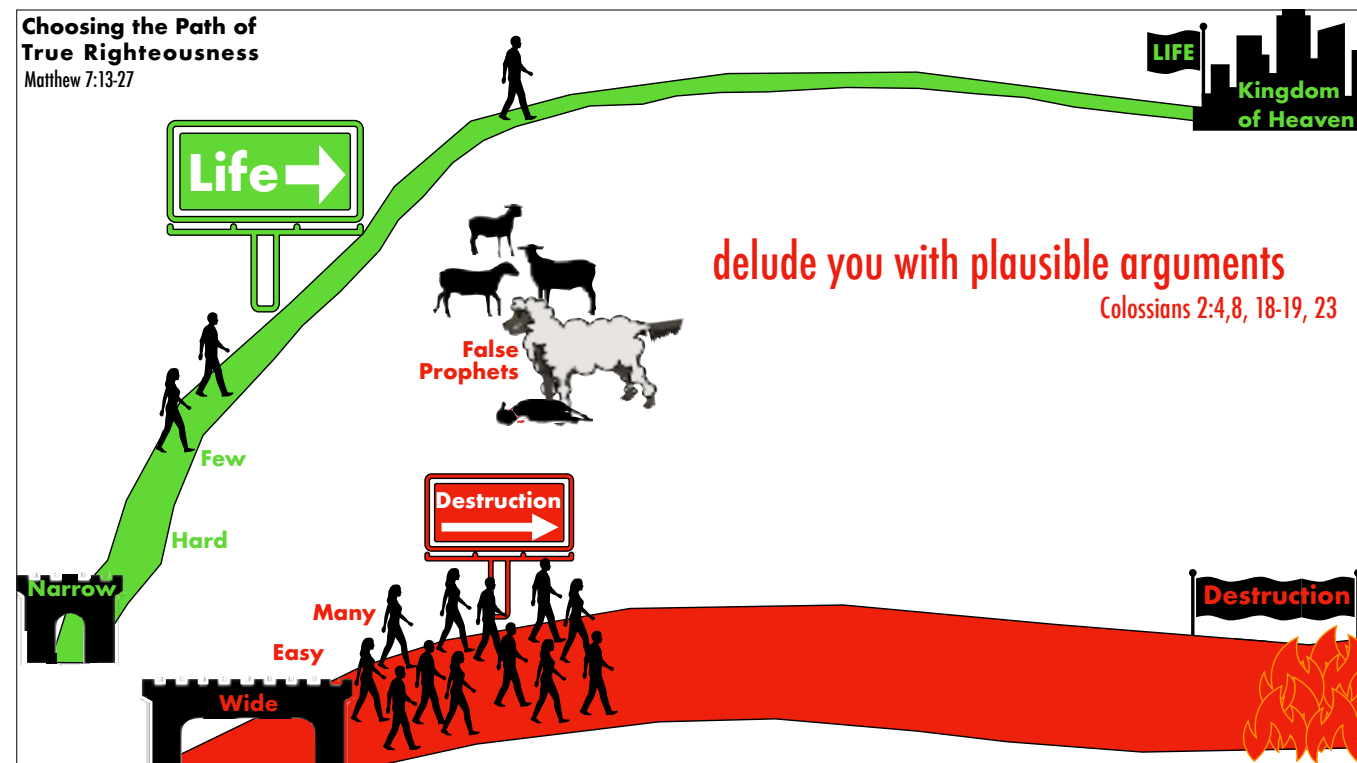
- knowing good and evil (discernment greater than others; wise in own eyes)



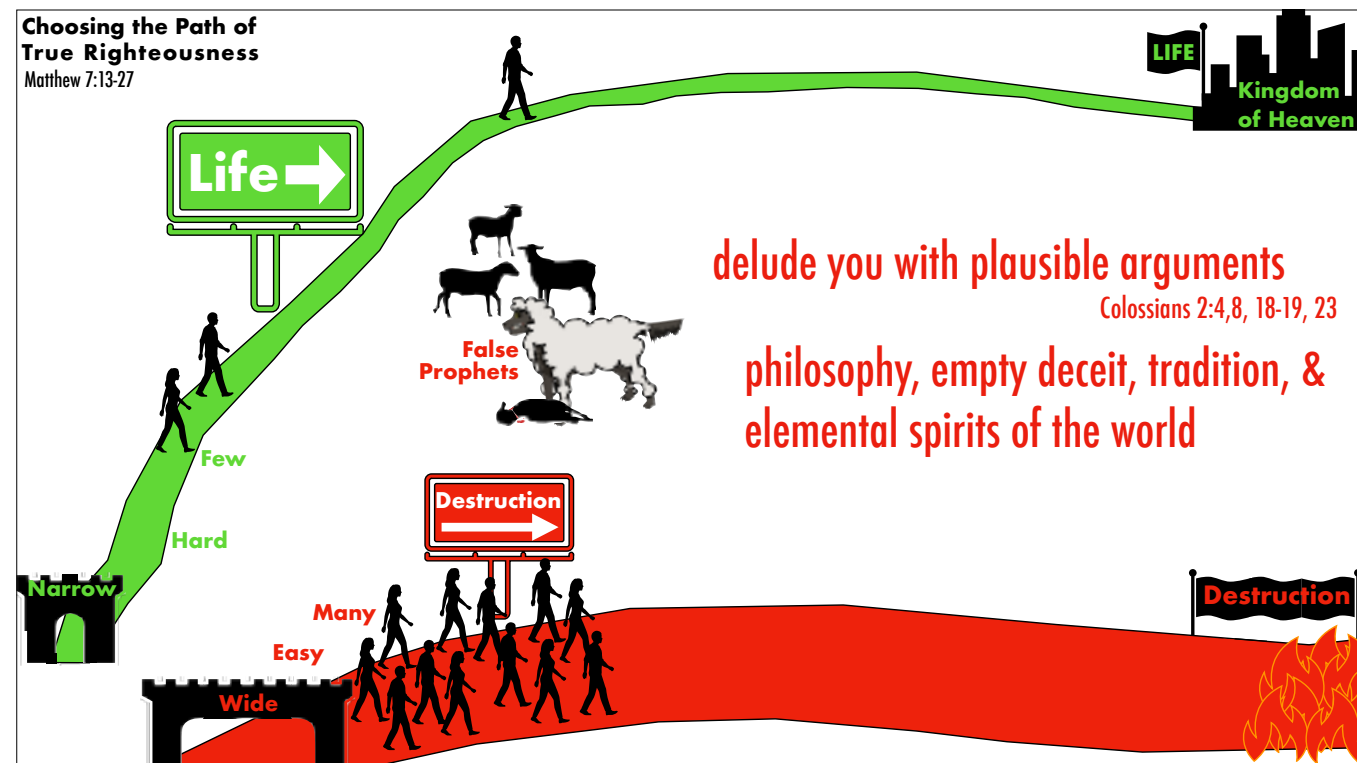
- 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.



- Satan
  - typical of false prophets and teachers
  - say the opposite of God
  - incite discontent
  - make what is good look bad
  - make what is bad look good

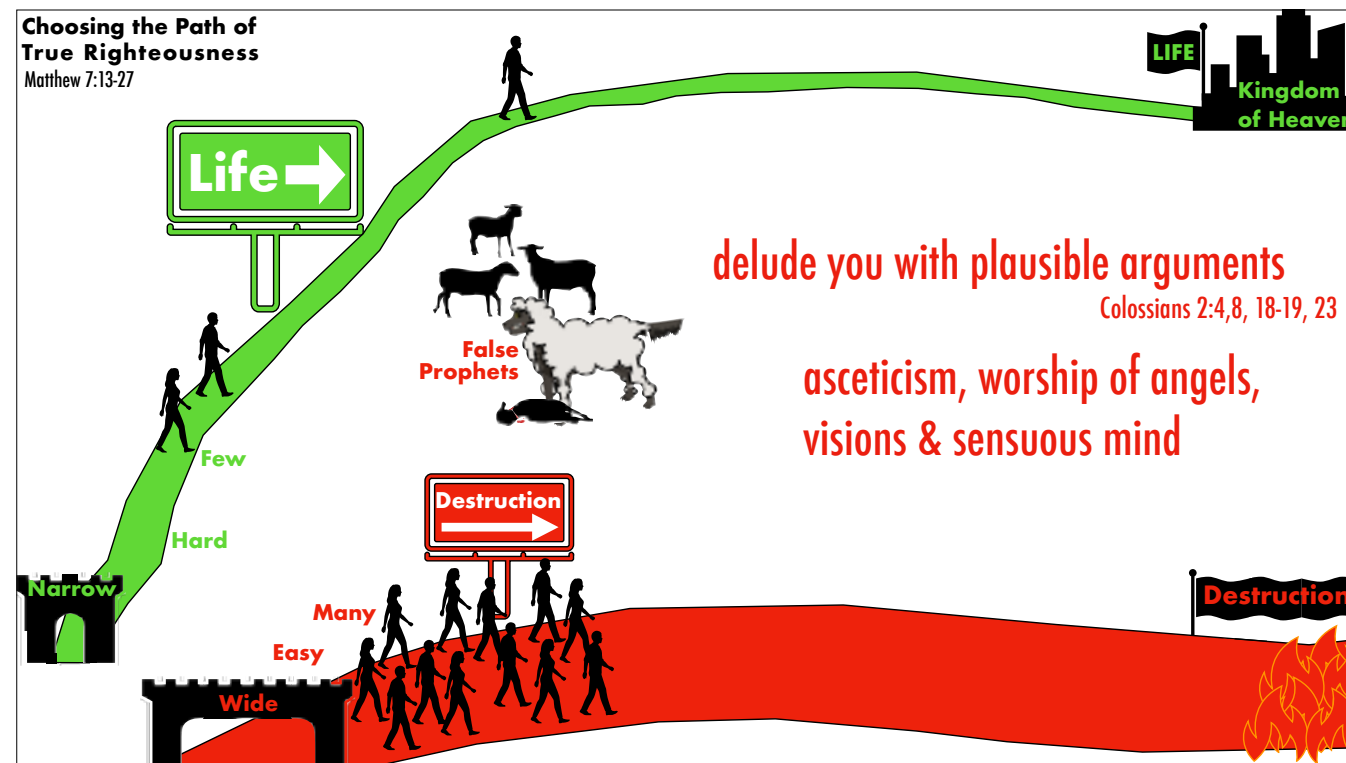


- Colossians 2:4 (ESV Strong's) I say this in order that no one may delude you with **plausible arguments**.

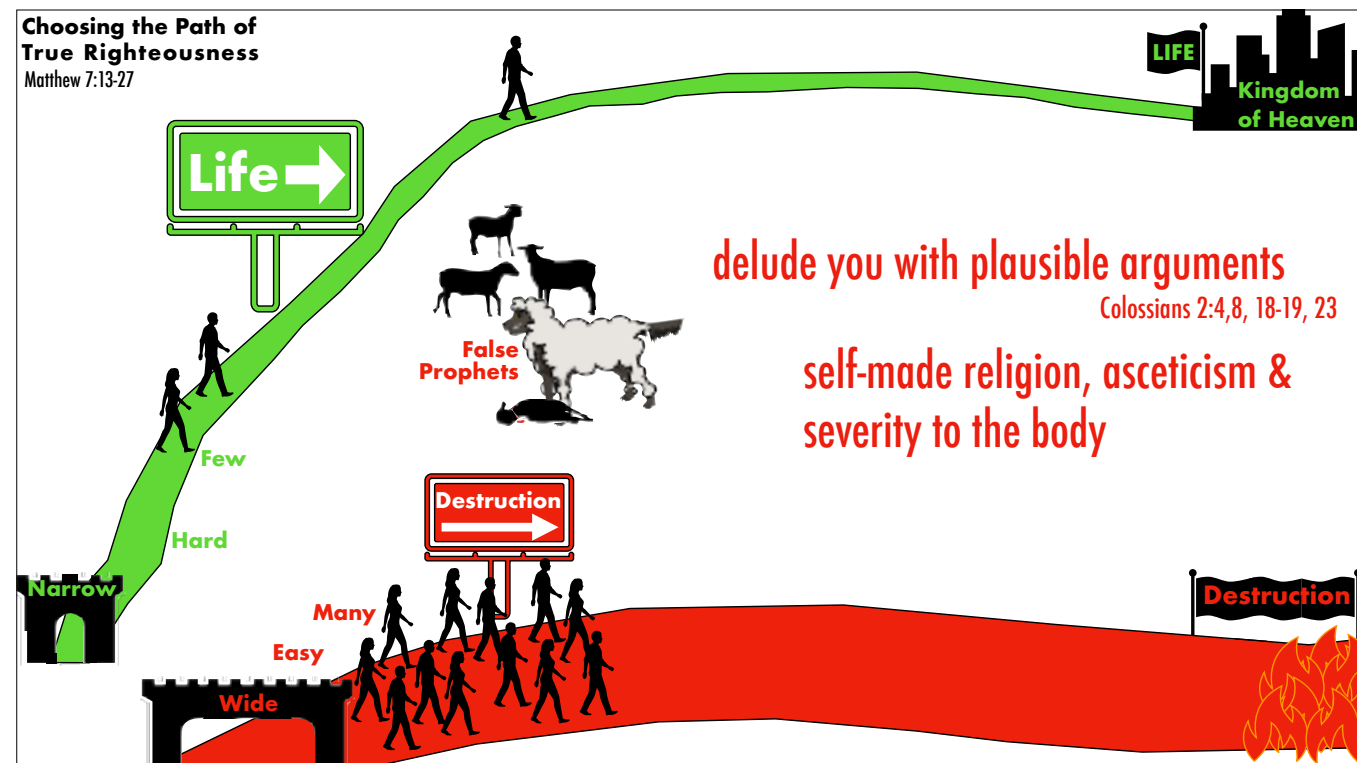


- Colossians 2:8 (ESV Strong's) See to it that no one takes you captive by **philosophy** and empty deceit, according to human **tradition**, according to the **elemental spirits** of the world, and not according to Christ.

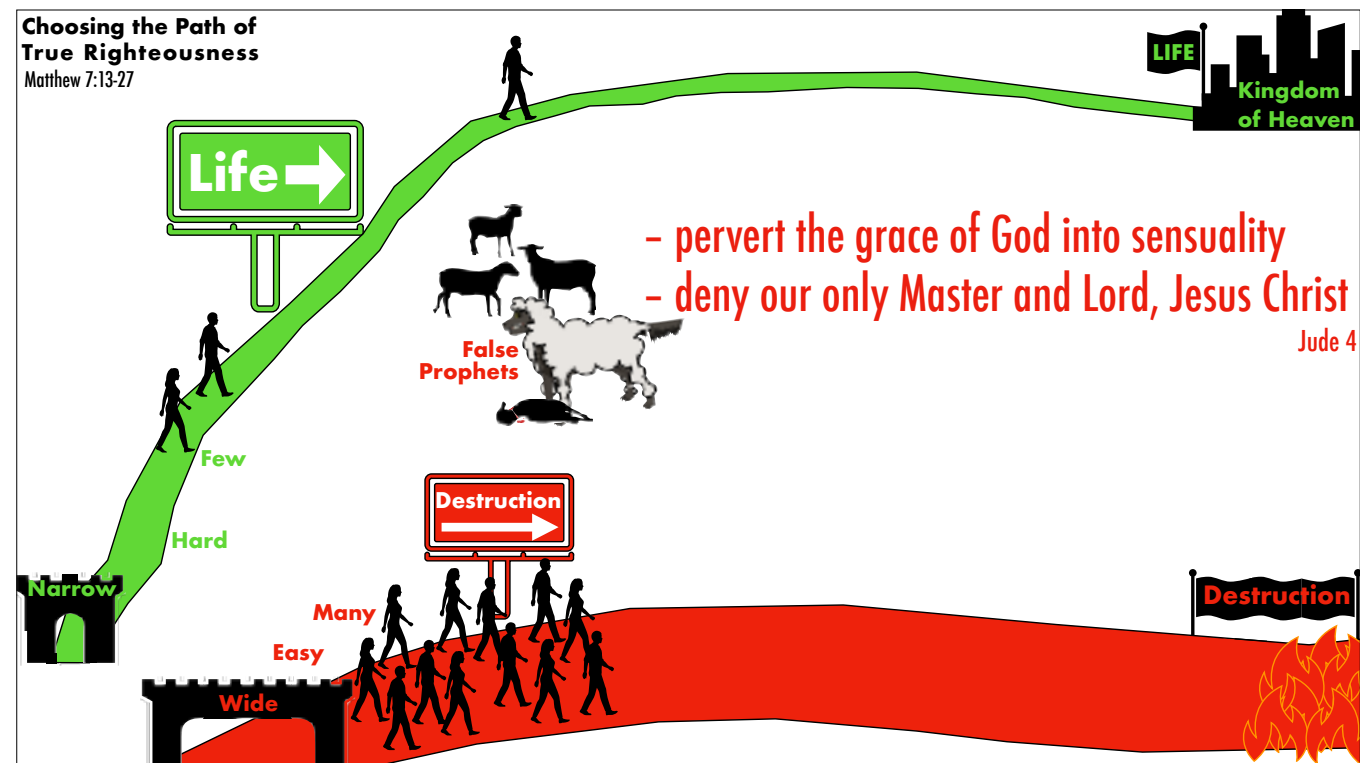




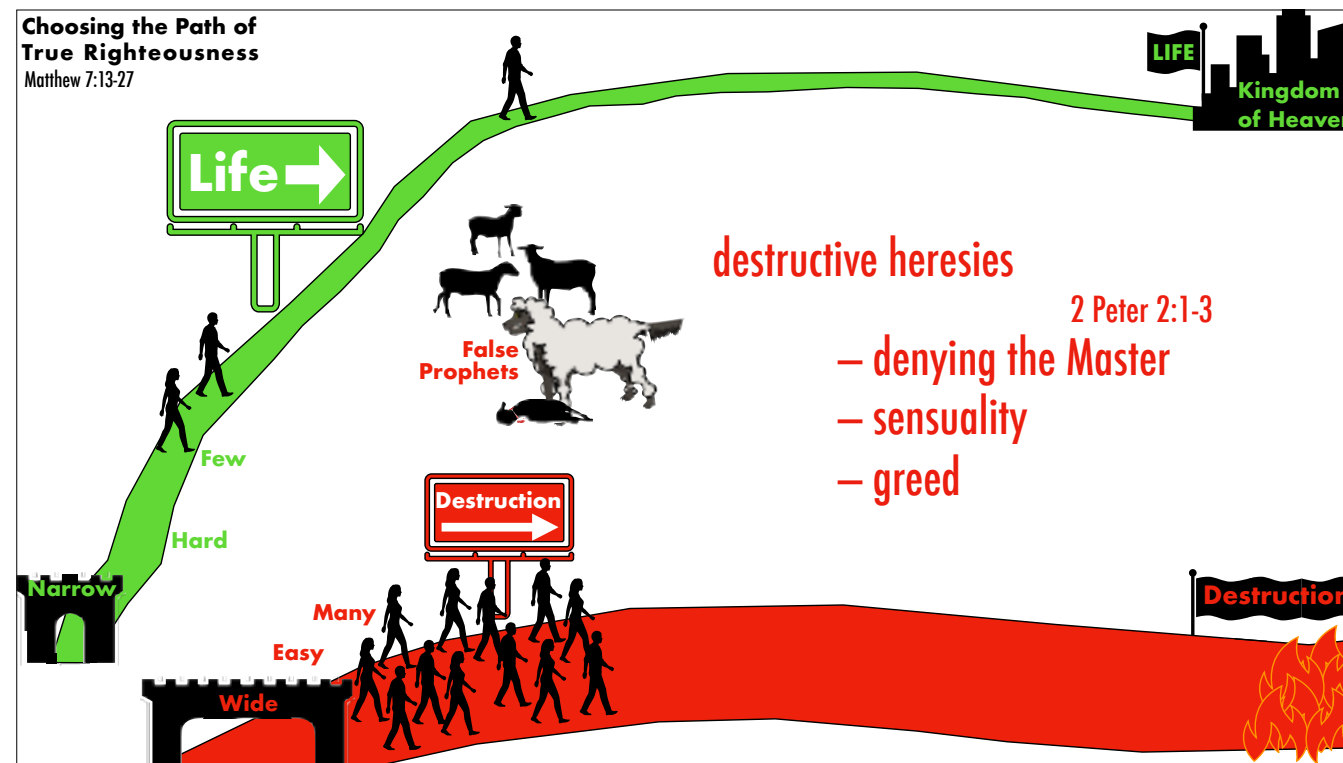
- Colossians 2:18-19 (ESV Strong's) 18 Let no one disqualify you, insisting on **asceticism** and **worship of angels**, going on in detail about **visions**, puffed up without reason by his **sensuous** mind, 19 and not holding fast to the Head, from whom the whole body, nourished and knit together through its joints and ligaments, grows with a growth that is from God.



- Colossians 2:23 (ESV Strong's) 23 These have indeed an appearance of wisdom in promoting **self-made religion** and **asceticism** and **severity to the body**, but they are of no value in stopping the indulgence of the flesh.

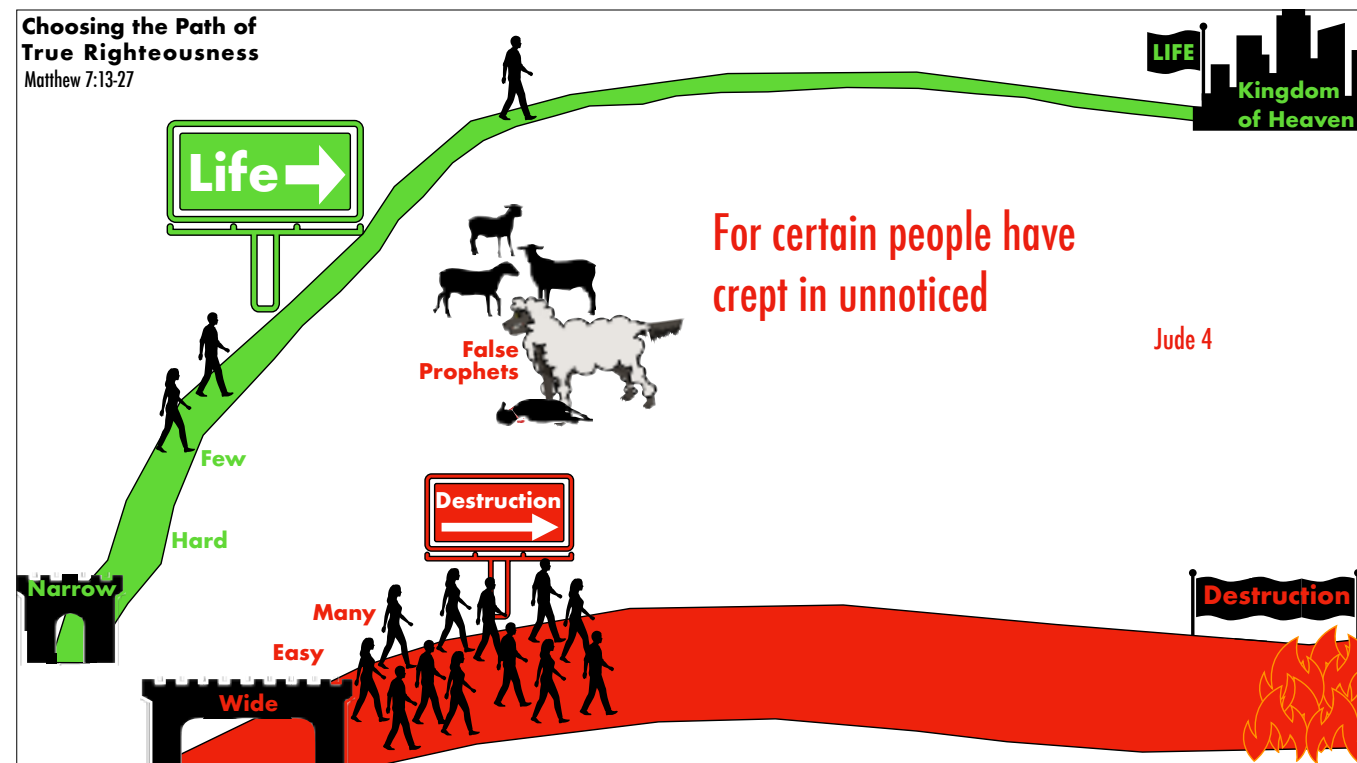


- Jude 1:4 (ESV Strong's) For certain people have crept in unnoticed who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.

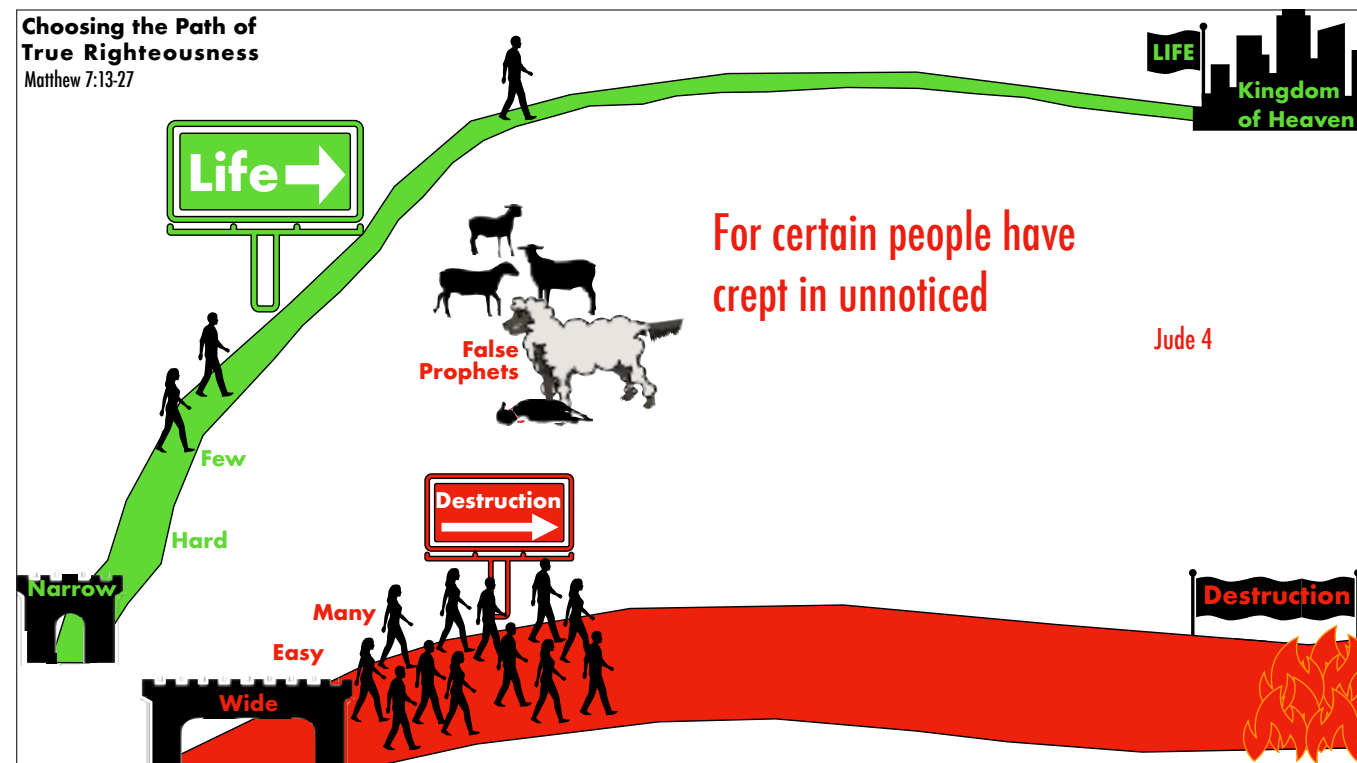


- 2 Peter 2:1-3 (ESV Strong's) 1 But false prophets also arose among the people, just as there will be false teachers among you, who will secretly bring in destructive heresies, even denying the Master who bought them, bringing upon themselves swift destruction. 2 And many will follow their sensuality, and because of them the way of truth will be blasphemed. 3 And in their greed they will exploit you with false words. Their condemnation from long ago is not idle, and their destruction is not asleep.

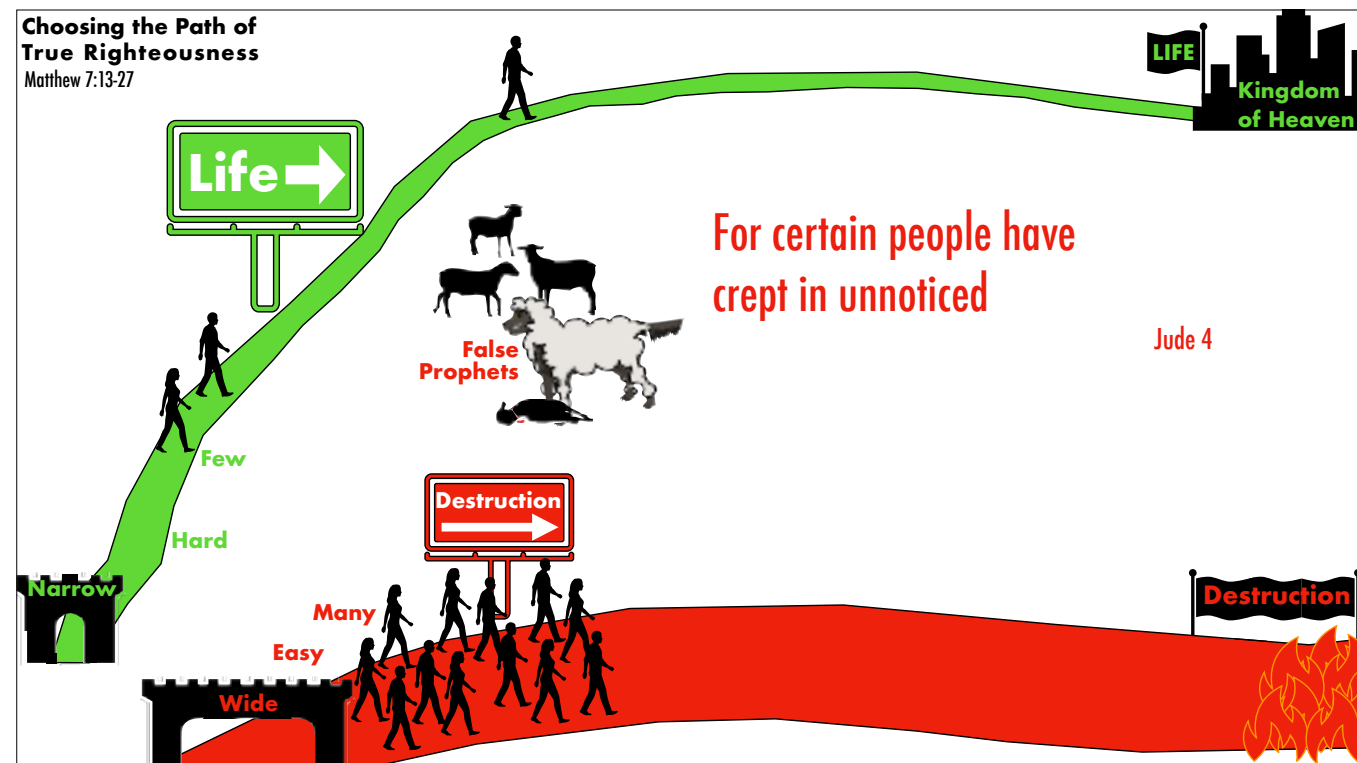




- Jude 1:4 (ESV Strong's) For certain people have **crept in unnoticed** who long ago were designated for this condemnation, ungodly people, who pervert the grace of our God into sensuality and deny our only Master and Lord, Jesus Christ.
  - It is his subtlety that really constitutes the danger
  - has appearance of everything that could be desired, nice, pleasing, pleasant

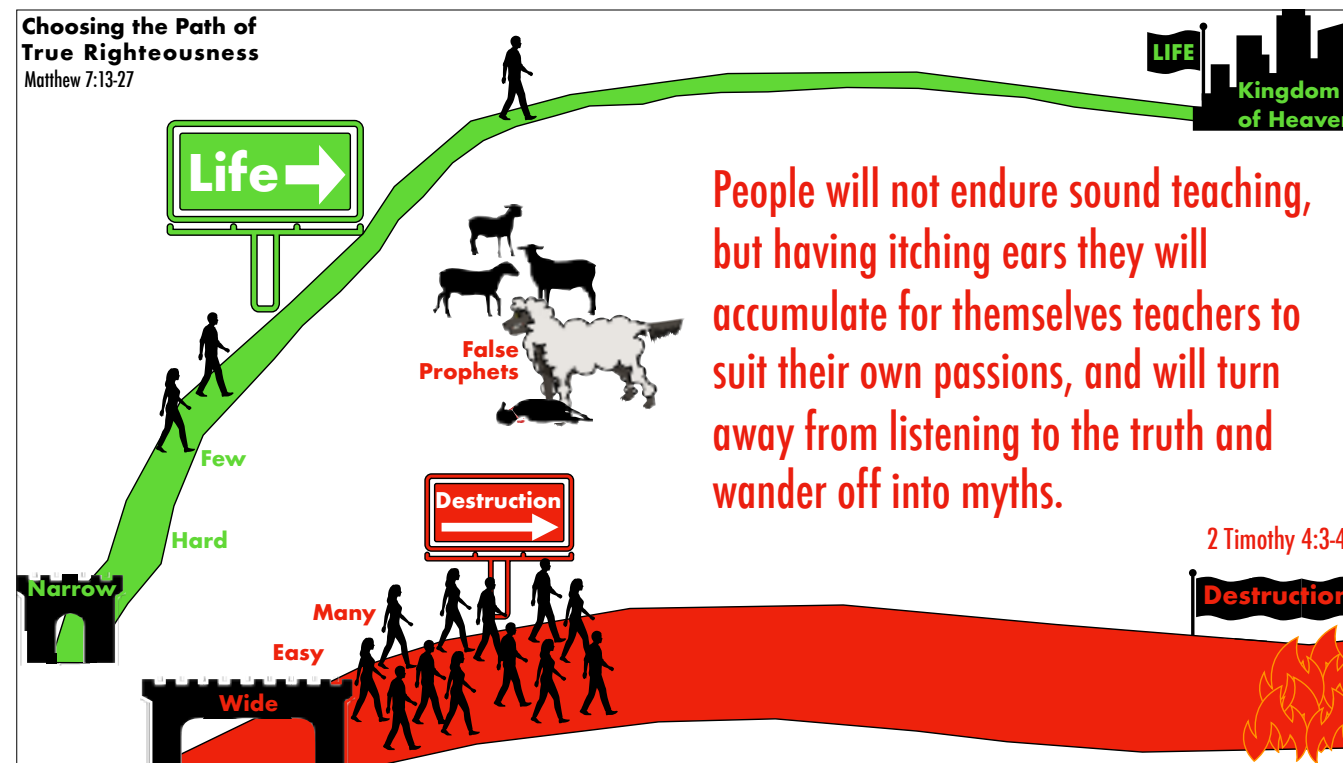


- says the “right things”; nothing that arouses suspicion, nothing glaringly wrong.
- seems pious, who prays, who at first glance seems to have all the marks of the Christian.
- He uses all the right religious cliches and the very dogmatism he exudes seems to testify to his orthodoxy.

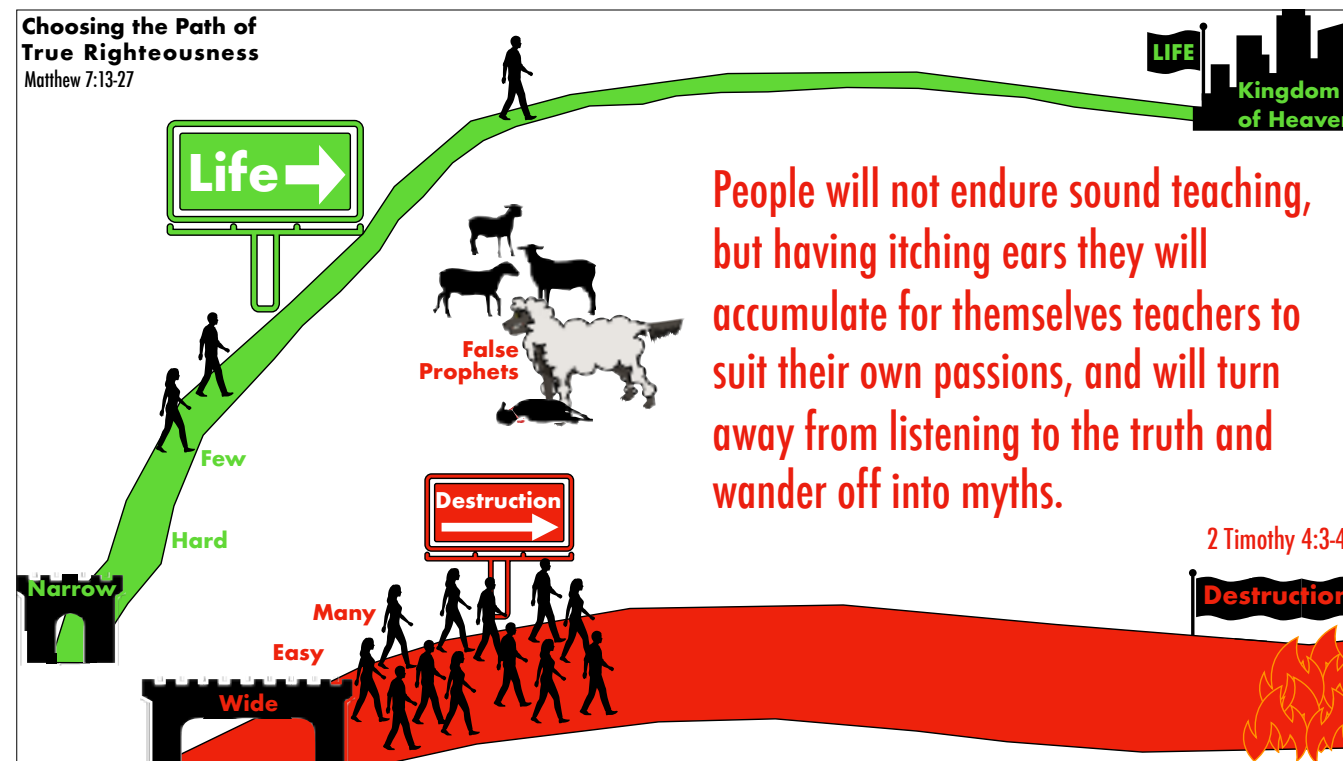


- He appears as one of the sheep in Christ's flock, and most of the genuine sheep fail to notice he is really a savage wolf..
- easy to detect what is outrageously wrong
- most dangerous is one who does not appear “bad”

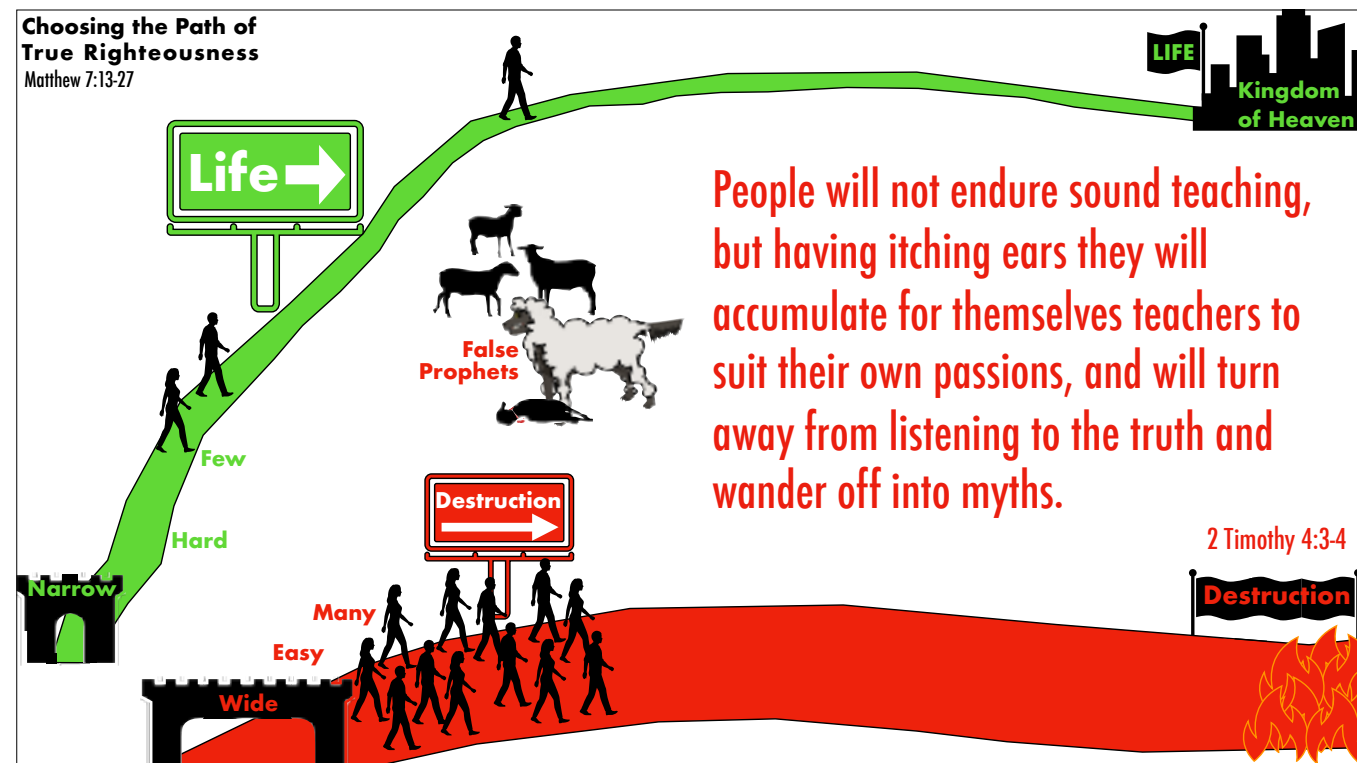




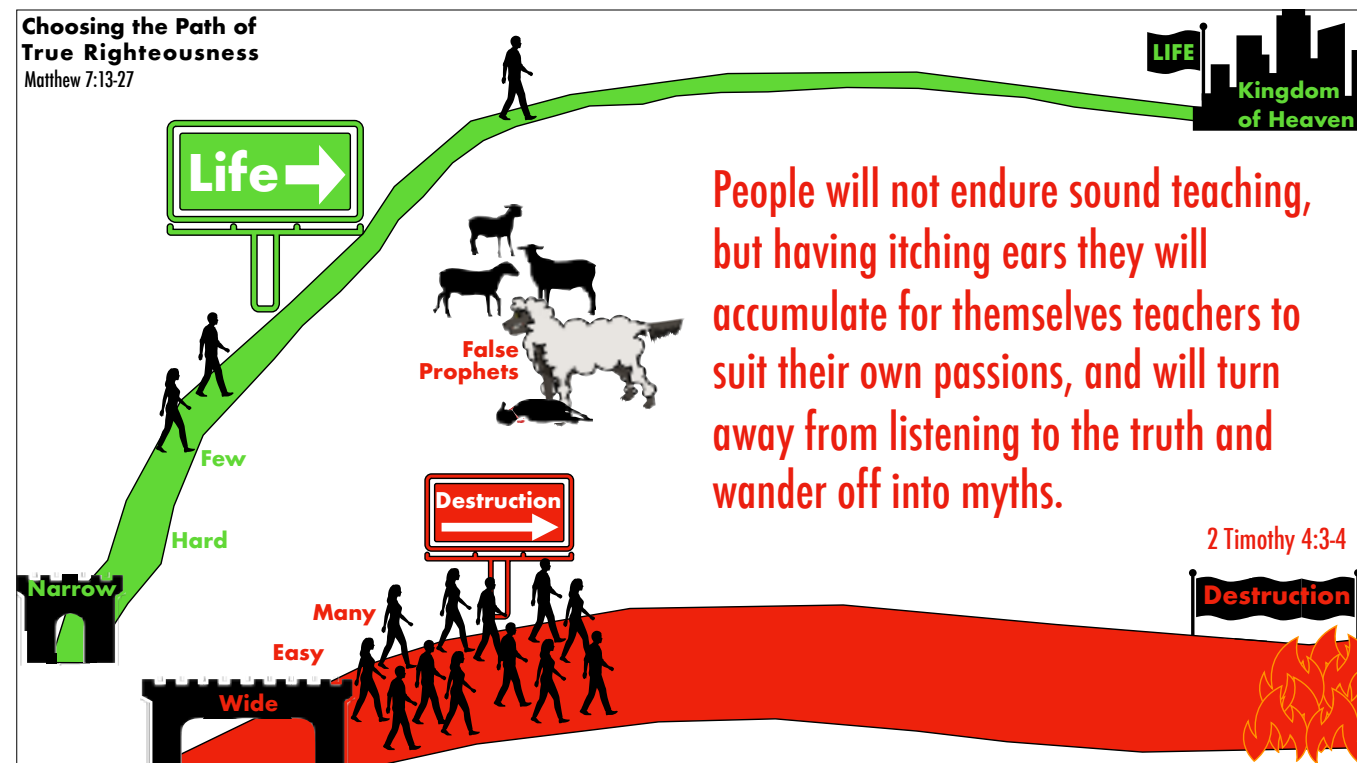
- 2 Timothy 4:3-5 (ESV Strong's) 3 For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching, but having itching ears they will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions, 4 and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. 5 As for you, always be sober-minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.



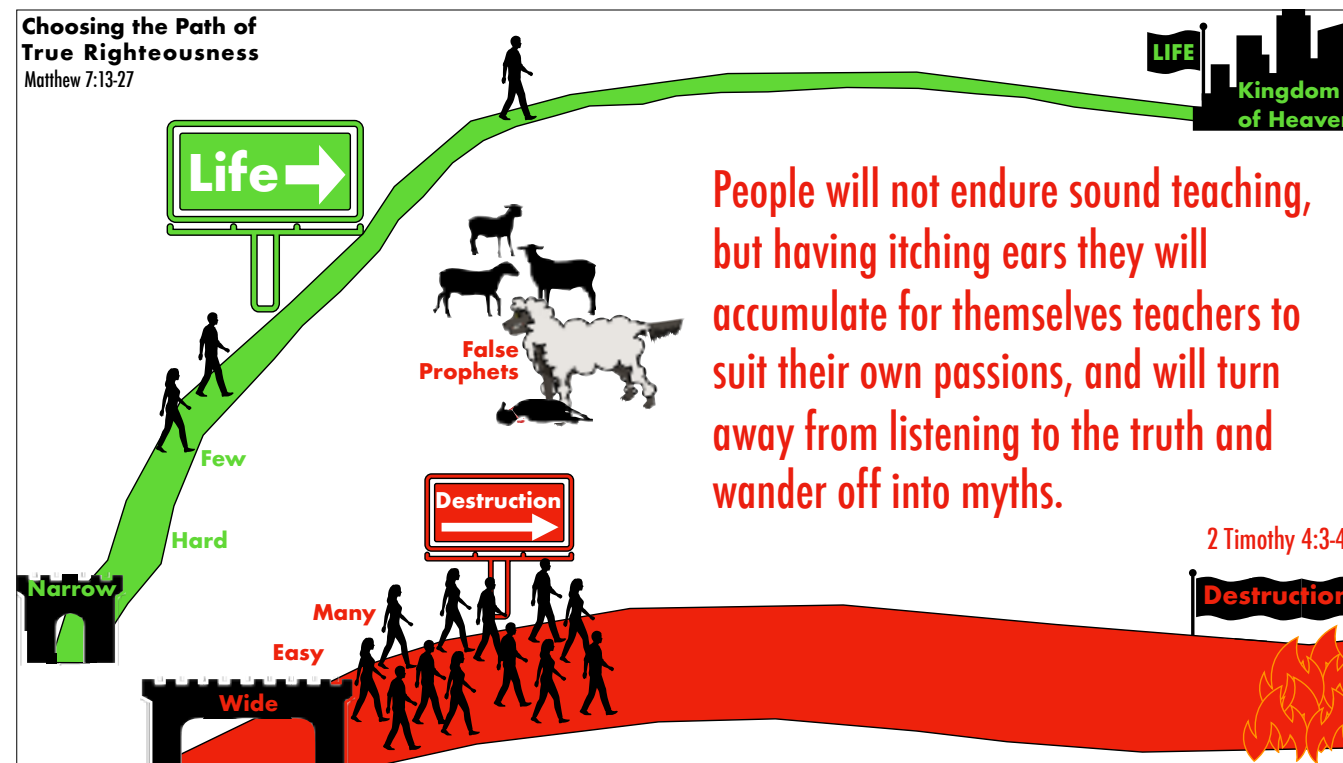
- itching ears
  - welcome, approve, long for, want to hear more.
- own passions
  - tell us what we want to hear, what we agree with
- turn away from listening to the truth
  - challenges, rebukes



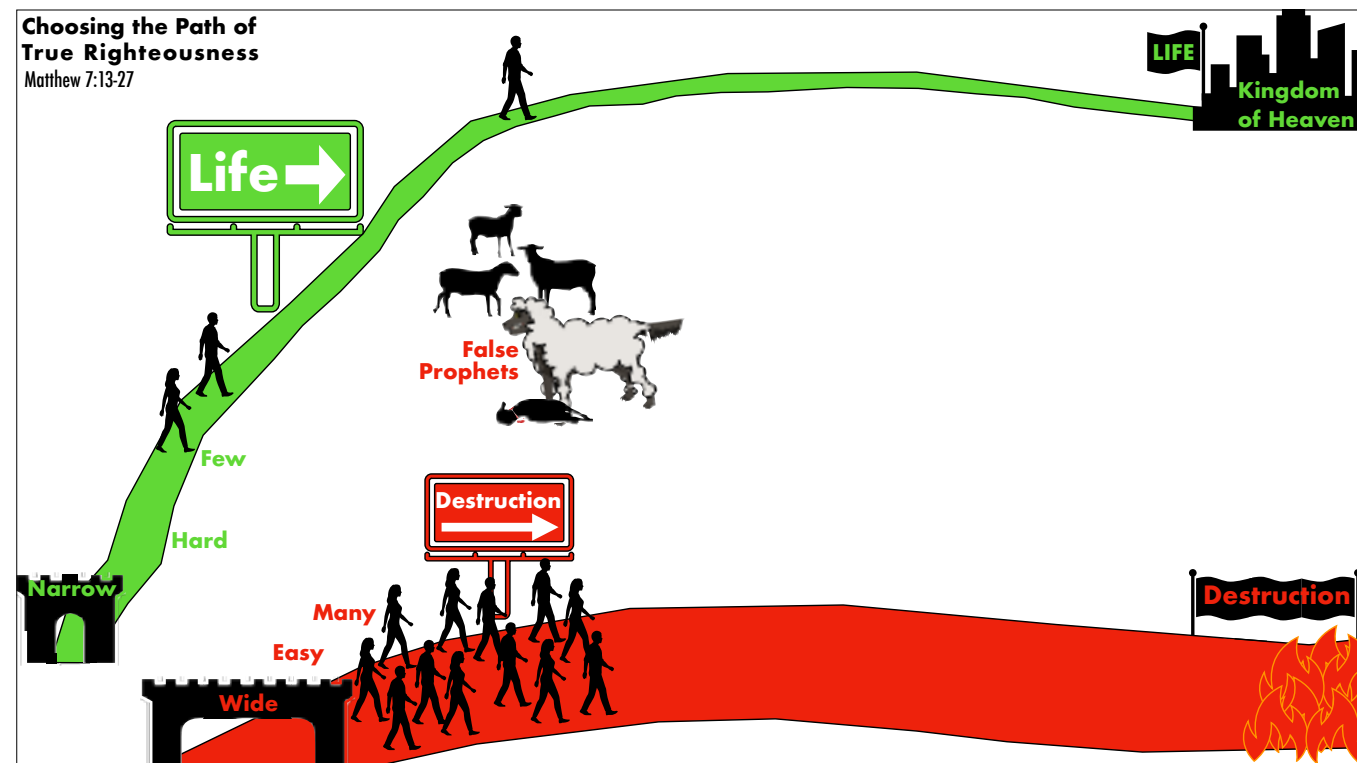
- wander off into myths
  - since not true, it's false.
  - But it's a myth that we like.
  - We don't allow ourselves to see the falseness



- Most dangerous false teacher?
  - The one you trust.
  - The one you agree with.
  - The one you know.
  - The one who makes you comfortable.
  - The one who never challenges you, rebukes you



- Me.
  - If you put your trust in a man, you will be disappointed.
  - If you put your trust in me, disappointed or will be disappointed.
- Trust in God, revealed himself in Bible
  - John 8:58: you shall know the truth, and the truth will set you free



- Why are there so many churches?
- Why so many different people teaching different things about Jesus and Bible?
- What about signs?
- What about visions?
- The confusion doesn't come from God, but from man.



- We want to think that all teachers are like puppies.
  - Enthusiastic, honest,
- Easy to love, and trust
- Visit with churches you'll find
  - Nice, good people; caring
  - Sincere
  - Tell you that they are telling you the truth

## False Prophets

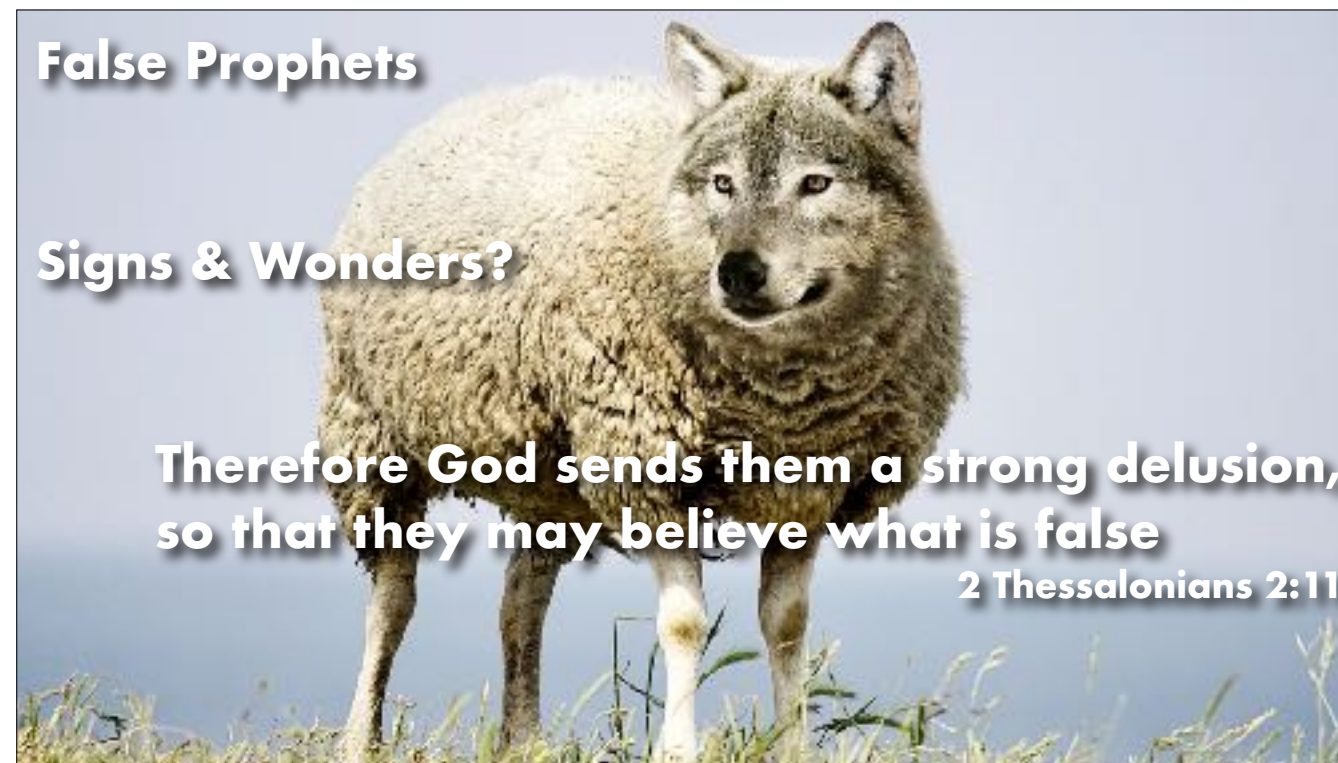


- But Jesus says there are false prophets, like wolves ready to devour and eat us
  - only in it for their own benefit





- What if they perform signs and wonders?
- Deuteronomy 13:1-4 (ESV) 1 "If a prophet or a dreamer of dreams arises among you and gives you a sign or a wonder, 2 and the sign or wonder that he tells you comes to pass, and if he says, 'Let us go after other gods,' which you have not known, 'and let us serve them,' 3 you shall not listen to the words of that prophet or that dreamer of dreams. For the Lord your God is testing you, to know whether you love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul. 4 You shall walk after the Lord your God and fear him and keep his commandments and obey his voice, and you shall serve him and hold fast to him.



- 2 Thessalonians 2:9-12 (ESV) 9 The coming of the lawless one is by the activity of Satan with all power and false signs and wonders, 10 and with all wicked deception for those who are perishing, because they refused to love the truth and so be saved. 11 Therefore God sends them a strong delusion, so that they may believe what is false, 12 in order that all may be condemned who did not believe the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness.



- What about visions and special messages?
  - Galatians 1:8: But even if we or an angel from heaven should preach to you a gospel contrary to the one we preached to you, let him be accursed.



**False Prophets**

**Visions & Special Messages?**

**But even if we or an angel from heaven  
should preach to you a gospel contrary to  
the one we preached to you, let him be  
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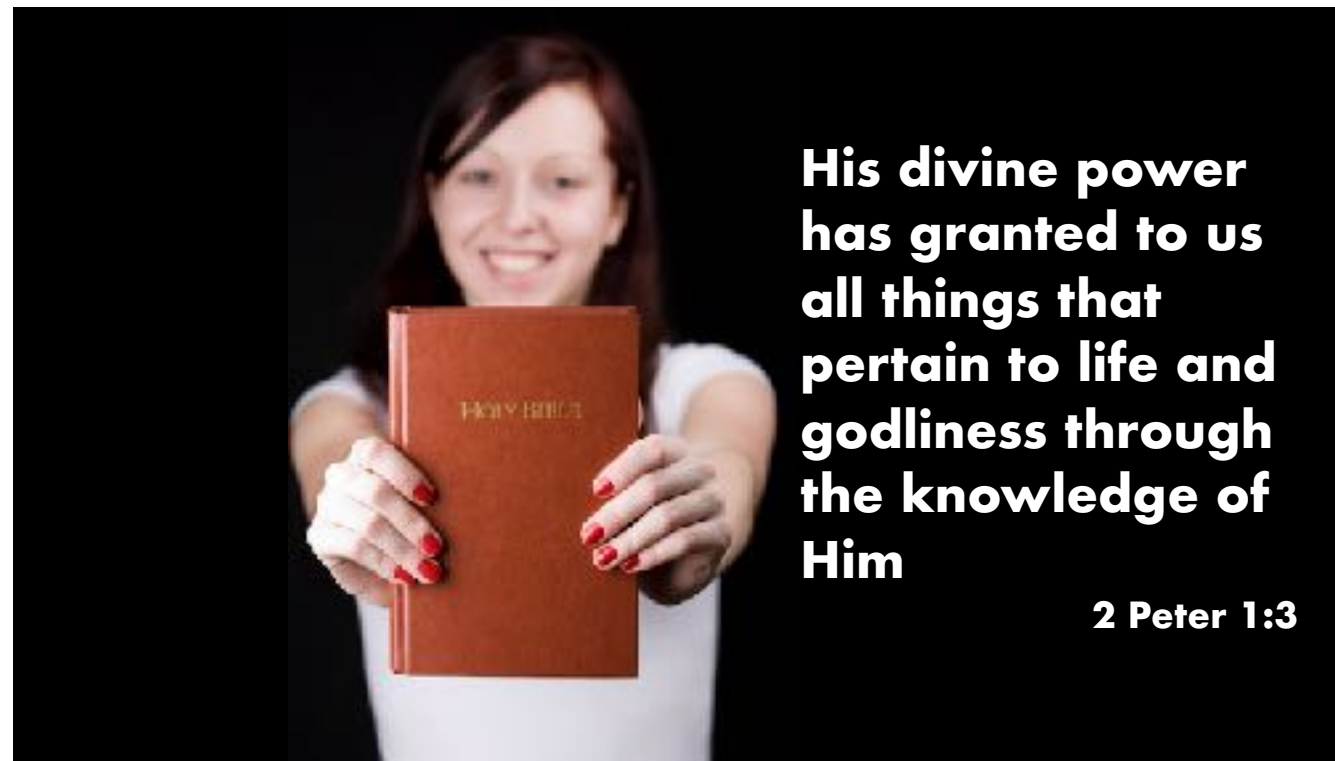
**Galatians 1:8**

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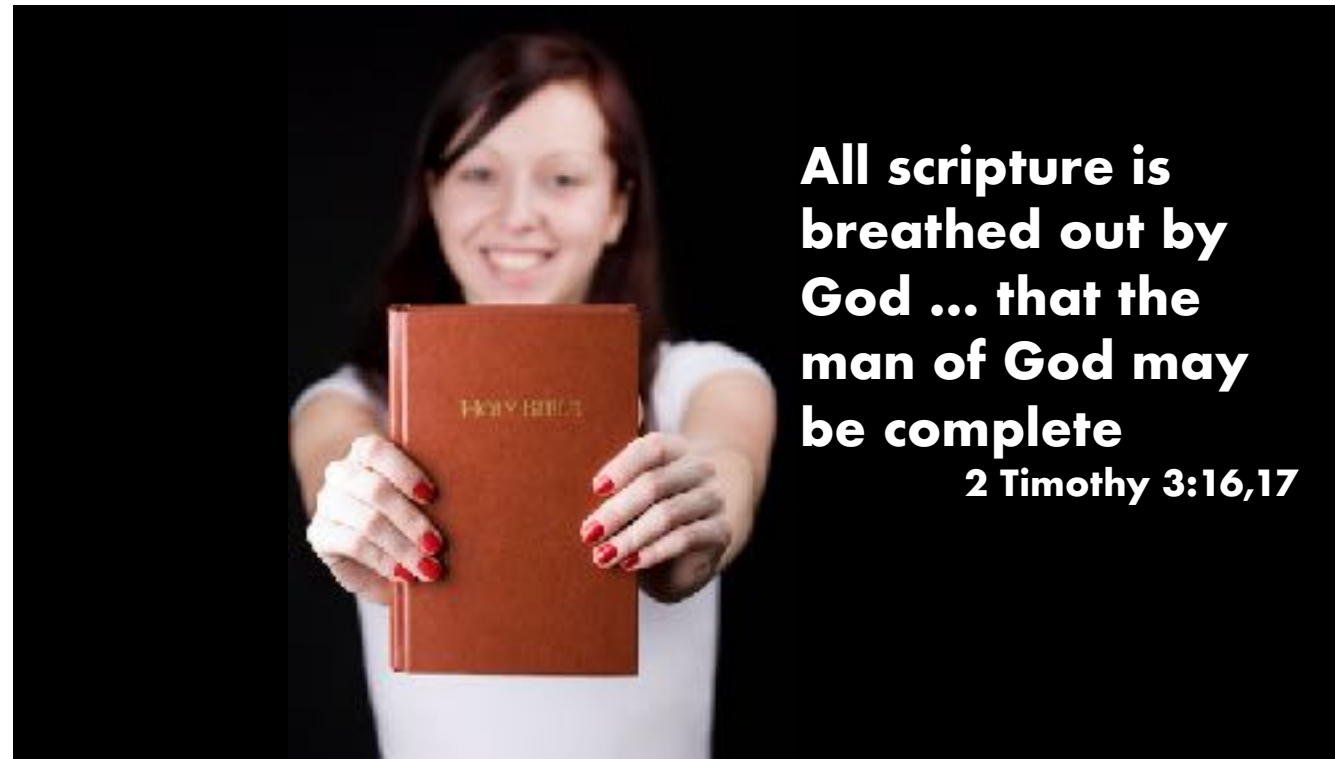




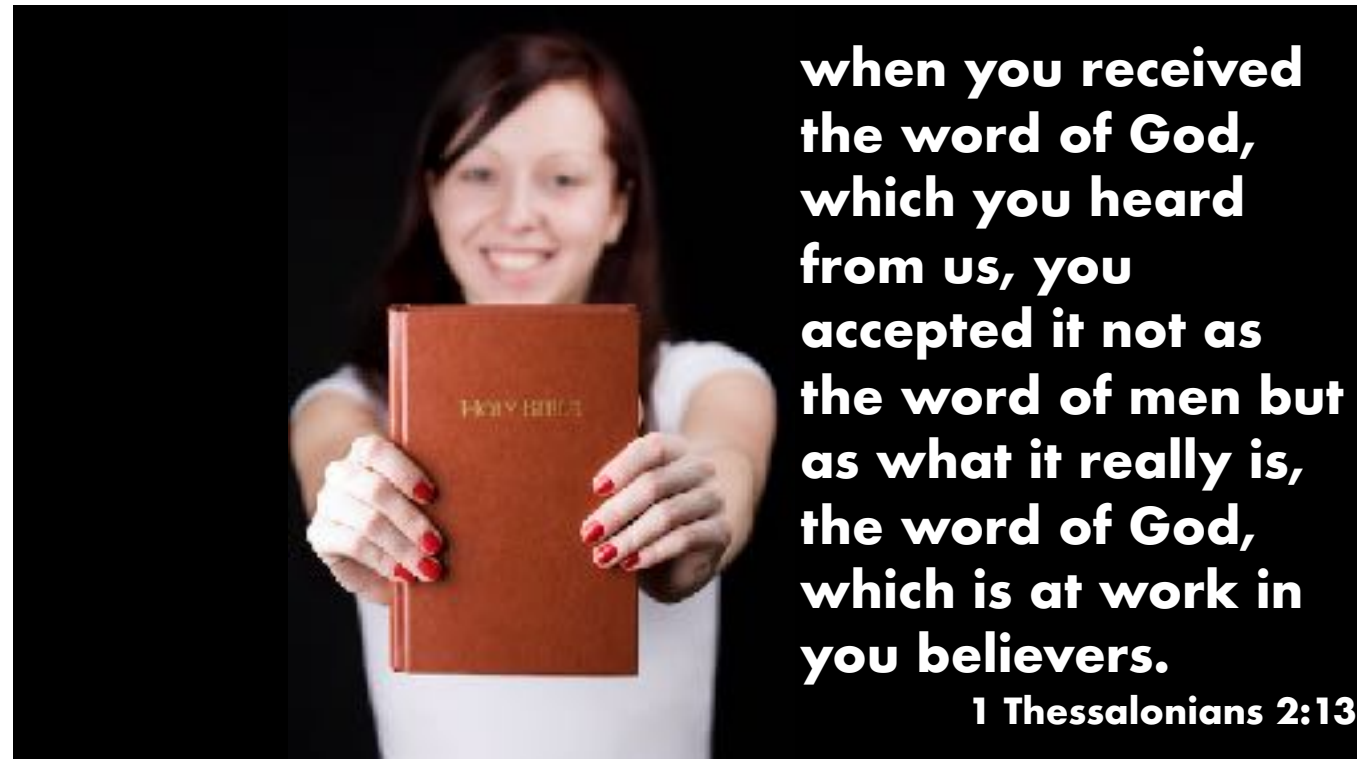
- Trust ONLY God, Jesus, Holy Spirit and revealed Words of God
  - 2 Peter 1:3-4 (ESV) 3 His divine power has granted to us all things that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, 4 by which he has granted to us his precious and very great promises, so that through them you may become partakers of the divine nature, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world because of sinful desire.
  - 2 Timothy 3:16-17 (ESV) 16 All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, 17 that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.
  - 1 Thessalonians 2:13 (ESV) And we also thank God constantly for this, that when you received the word of God, which you heard from us, you accepted it not as the word of men but as what it really is, the word of God, which is at work in you believers.



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"Wait a minute! Isn't anyone  
here a real sheep?"

- text

**We implore you on  
behalf of Christ,  
be reconciled to God.**

**2 Corinthians 5:20**

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## Beware of False Prophets

Matthew 7:15

Synopsis: Jesus warns us that on even on the path of life we must beware of false prophets, especially since they disguise themselves among us.

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**"Let all that you do be done with love."**