

"STRIVE TO ENTER IN!"**Introduction**

1. A good subject referred to:
2. But not in the best spirit
3. Our Lord's correction

DOCTRINE: We should not speak about salvation in an abstract way but seriously.

1. YOU WILL NOT GET INTO HEAVEN WITHOUT EFFORT

- 1) Christ says: "Strive!" (Present: "Go on...!")

- (i) The non-Christian must do so
- (ii) The believer must do so: so Paul (Phil. 3)

APPLICATION: This should be true of us all, especially those who have not yet found peace with God.

- 2) Getting to heaven not said to be easy:

- (i) the gate is narrow ("strait"): v.24
- (ii) many will be disappointed: v.24
- (iii) the opportunity is only for a time: v.25
- (iv) a mere acquaintance not enough: v.26
- (v) to miss this is catastrophic: v.28
- (vi) the failure will be eternal: "thrust out":v.28
- (vii) all the more so when they see the crowd: v.29

APPLICATION: Christ tells you to strive + go on till you are safely home in heaven.

2. WHAT IS THIS GOSPEL-STRIVING?

- 1) It is a rejection of all fatalism of mind:
"If I am chosen / elect / good enough..." No!
- 2) It is an all-consuming desire for salvation:
 - (i) recall how precious is your soul
 - (ii) how short is your life
 - (iii) how guilty you are before God

- (iv) depending on God's gospel-promises

- (v) you must ask, seek and knock

ILLUSTRATION: Pilgrim's Progress

- 3) It requires these things:

- (i) knowledge of what Christ has done
- (ii) clear understanding of the gospel-way: - repentance and faith
– no works.
- (iii) It is worth losing all to get this: "Count the cost."

- 4) Mistakes that many make:

- (i) "the cost is too great" (loss of friends...)
- (ii) to put it off till later

ILLUSTRATION: see what Christ says: v.25

- (iii) failure to pray in secret for grace

3. WHAT A WELCOME AWAITS YOU OF YOU COME IN!

- 1) To get salvation in this life:

- (i) pardon of all sin
- (ii) peace of conscience
- (iii) assurance of God's love

- 2) Then, you have the hope of heaven:

- (i) inside, not outside with the lost
- (ii) the feast will begin at last: v.29
- (iii) loved by all the redeemed of all nations
- (iv) above all, loved by God Himself

CONCLUSION

1. God's offer is the best in the world
2. God Himself here wishes you to come
3. **Illustration:** the story of Harper

PSALM**122: 1 – 9****119: 116 – 120****116: 1 – 6**