

**“Why God’s Path Is Narrow”**  
**November 1, 2009 \* Hebrews 10:32-39**

*I. The Questions We’ve Asked This Past Month*

*A. Is there a path to God? (Heb.10:22)*

*B. How do I grow close to God? (Heb.10:23)*

*C. How do I stay close to God? (Heb.10:24-25)*

*D. Do all paths lead to God? (Heb.1-5)*

“Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” ~  
Matthew 7:14

*II. Why is God’s path narrow?*

**Reason #1 – Because God calls us to fight our \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_,  
and few want to be bothered by this. (Heb.10:26-31)**

*A. Christianity is a profoundly moral religion. Why does how  
I choose to live matter?*

*B. What’s the problem, according to Christianity?*

*C. What good news is imbedded in our faith?*

*D. When I accept Christ’s offer of forgiveness, what does Jesus  
now expect of me?*

*E. If I do not try to fight my sin nature and become holy, what  
am I actually doing to Jesus? (verse 29)*

**Reason #2 – The path to God is narrow because God calls us to  
suffer \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_ for bearing the  
name of Jesus. (Heb.10:32-39)**

“The wife, now chaste, the husband, now no longer jealous, casts out of his house;  
the son, now obedient, the father, who used to be so patient, disinherits; the servant,  
now faithful, the master, once so mild, commands away from his presence; it is a  
high offence for anyone to be reformed by the detested name.” ~ Tertullian

A report on the suffering Church:

*III. What should I do in response to this teaching? (Vss.35-39)*

**“Why God’s Path Is Narrow”**  
**November 1, 2009 \* Hebrews 10:32-39**

*I. The Questions We’ve Asked This Past Month*

*A. Is there a path to God? (Heb.10:22)*

**Verse 22: “Let us draw near to God with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.” You can know God, walk with God, have a real relationship with God in this life.**

*B. How do I grow close to God? (Heb.10:23)*

**Can this relationship get deeper, stronger? Yes it can. But you need to know up front that there are going to be things out there that are going to try to pry you away from God. We identified three of those threats. The Tempter. Tests. And the Treasures and Pleasures of life. And so we need to learn how to take hold of Jesus and not let go, the way we would grab hold of a rope in a tug of war. Verse 23: “Let us hold unwaveringly to the hope we profess, for he who promised is faithful.”**

*C. How do I stay close to God? (Heb.10:24-25)*

**It’s easy to play at Christianity for a couple years, dabble in it. But Jesus said, “He who puts his hand to the plow and looks back is not fit for the Kingdom of God.” If you’re not into Jesus for the long haul, better not to be into him at all. How do I stay close to God for a lifetime? Here God gives us a tremendous gift to help us stay on the path. He gives us each other, the Church, brothers and sisters in Christ. We are to help each other on this path. Verse 24 – “And let us consider how we may spur one another toward love and good deeds. Let us not give up meeting together as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another – and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”**

*D. Do all paths lead to God? (Heb.1-5)*

**We spelled out from the first half of the book of Hebrews five reasons why Jesus Christ is the way, the truth and the life to God. He’s the only human who can rightfully claim to be God. He’s the only human who has personally died for you. He’s the greatest human that ever lived. He’s the only perfect human who has ever**

**lived. And he is the only one who can save you for eternity. So no: all paths do not lead to God.**

“Small is the gate and narrow the road that leads to life, and only a few find it.” ~  
Matthew 7:14

*II. Why is God’s path narrow?*

**Reason #1 – Because God calls us to fight our sin nature, and few want to be bothered by this. (Heb.10:26-31)**

*A. Christianity is a profoundly moral religion. Why does how I choose to live matter?*

**The right ways of living are not random and arbitrary – they are all rooted in the very nature and character of God. The reason honesty is the right way to live and being dishonest and deceitful is the wrong way to live is because God is perfect truth. There is no capacity to lie within him. And so if you are a liar, you cannot hang out with God. Can’t be in his presence. The reason giving and sharing is the right way to live and stealing and being selfish is the wrong way to live is because God serves and generous. Jesus served his disciples by washing their feet to show us what God is like. And so if you are selfish, always looking out for yourself first, if you wouldn’t think twice of taking something that isn’t yours, then how are you and God ever going to get along together? Won’t happen.**

*B. What’s the problem, according to Christianity?*

**Not one of us is good enough morally to be with God. He is holy. We are not. We’ve fallen short of God by our behavior. The path to God is blocked by sin.**

*C. What good news is imbedded in our faith?*

**Jesus Christ came to earth, God took on human flesh and came to earth, why? To clear the path to God of the obstacle of our sin. To make it morally permissible and morally possible to come back into God’s presence.**

III. What should I do in response to this teaching? (Vss.35-39)

*D. When I accept Christ's offer of forgiveness, what does Jesus now expect of me?*

**If you become a follower of Jesus Christ, you accept his offer of forgiveness for all your sinning, and lawbreaking, and selfishness and immorality, you come now into the presence of God adopted as his child, cleansed, restored, filled for the first time with his own Spirit, and you immediately go back to living your life the way you did before, what possible good did any of this do for you? Jesus expects something different of us. The idea in becoming a follower of Jesus is that you will now fight your sin, tooth and nail, with Jesus standing beside as your Savior, your Lord, your advocate, your big brother. You'll now push back.**

*E. If I do not try to fight my sin nature and become holy, what am I actually doing to Jesus? (verse 29)*

**“How much more severely do you think a person deserves to be punished who has trampled the Son of God under foot, who has treated as an unholy thing the blood of the covenant that sanctified him, and who has insulted the Spirit of grace.” Call yourself a Christian but don't fight your sin, you are kicking dirt in Jesus' face, you're spitting on his shed blood and your mocking the Holy Spirit to his face.**

**Reason #2 – The path to God is narrow because God calls us to suffer insults and persecution for bearing the name of Jesus. (Heb.10:32-39)**

"The wife, now chaste, the husband, now no longer jealous, casts out of his house; the son, now obedient, the father, who used to be so patient, disinherits; the servant, now faithful, the master, once so mild, commands away from his presence; it is a high offence for anyone to be reformed by the detested name." ~ Tertullian

A report on the suffering Church: