

Refractory Disciples

The narrow gate is the only entrance into the Kingdom of God, because the Word of God said it (Mt 7:13-14). Narrow is the gate and difficult is the way — and *if you have found it* you know the way of YHWH (Gen 18:19). The way leads to life and there are *few* who find it. Dan 12:10 — There are few who understand. Pr 2 — Understanding — all need understanding, especially *shepherds*. Shepherds need understanding. Shepherds know and understand the things that try men's souls. They have *compassion*. They are wise. Only the wise can understand. The wise shall (?) 13:23-30. So why would anyone want to get out of the fire? Be wise! He knows our every alibi. Have understanding! Do not be deceived! understand. You are wise if you understand Acts 14:22. This is the way to be purified, refined, made white. Rev 3:4,5 — Endure through the *narrow way*, Lk 13:24.

In the middle of the purifying fire is the narrow gate to the Kingdom of Heaven (Rev 3:20,21; Mt 24:13). To depart from the narrow way is to be outside the witness of the Kingdom, Mt 24:14, the Kingdom that suffers violence (Mt 11:12).

Today is the day where He knocks for entrance into our hearts when we stray off the *path*. Rev 3:20 — The day is coming when the un-wise who stray off the path will stand outside and knock at the door for entrance (Lk 13:25).

We must let *Him* come into our hearts today (Rev 3:19).

We must not *run* from the *fire*.

Do not be *refractory*.

Our Father will judge all shepherds (Heb 13:17). Our job is to stay in the fire — on the narrow path, in the purifying of affliction, even like those who are under a cruel master and are commended (1 Pet 2:18-19,20). 1 Pet 2:21-3:1 — Like wives, who win their husbands "in the same way," or like servants to their harsh and unreasonable, fleshly masters (or household heads or crew heads).

1 Pet 2:24,25 — But He did not run off to get out of the fire, to cool down...

This is a characteristic of a *refractory* disciple. A refractory disciple puts on his asbestos suit when the heat turns up. A refractory disciple is difficult to heal — to treat. He is resistant to treatment, resistant to heat. To cure is difficult.

A refractory disciple resists authority, resists control, resists the hands that are molding him in the potter's image. They resist the thought of Him putting them into or back into the furnace. They become un-responsive to stimulus and fail to give a corresponding sacrifice (Mk 10:38; Lk 12:49). They dodge the cross.

In the midst of the fire is the narrow way into the Kingdom. There is plenty of room to run on the broad way. But those like "the few" in Sardis, refused to take the easy route. We won't be able to say we took the hard route if we leave the fire when the heat is turned up just for us. With Peter, our Master knew the right pressure would expose his unrock-like character. This happened so he would learn to rely upon the Rock, when tested and tried and assayed, Jer 6:27.

Lk 22:31-32

Jer 9:7 — I will *test* them. James 1:12 — Our Master (the Holy Spirit) is like a Master refiner seeking pure metal — because nothing worthwhile (worthy of Him) can be made from those who fail the test. Col 1:10 — is a corresponding sacrificial life of love — regardless of the overwhelming circumstances (Acts 14:22). Our circumstances are the "refiner's fire."

Just think of the few in Sardis among the many, natural-like people and even fleshly shepherds. Did they retreat? Were they *refractory*? All the rest were, only "the few" were not!

We have to take off our asbestos suit. We have to expose ourselves to the fierce heat of the purifying fire of, yes, His love, preparing us for the universe, and the universe for us. Rom 8:18,19 — Remember you are sons of God. Don't forget in the heat! The whole created universe waits for the Sons of God, the wife of the Lamb. The wife is "compatible, comparable," Rev 21:9; 19:8. How else can you be prepared except what you do in the Body — your deeds (Eph 2:10). Her sacrifice corresponded to the Lamb. That is how they walked (Col 1:10). 1 Pet 2:18 — They applied it in every circumstance, even of the leaders who are unwise. We must not forget, verses 8,9,10, that we will "suffer for a while."

Refractory means — sullen or perverse in opposition or disobedience, obstinate in non-compliance, as a refractory child, a refractory servant, unyielding. Applied to metals in the purifying process — they do not yield to the force of the heat (Jer 6:28-30).

God is not unjust, He will not forget our work and the love we have shown Him as we have helped His people, but stern discipline awaits him who leaves the *path*, the narrow path, the path of life.

Dan 11:35; Dan 12:3,10

Jer 3:15 — Understand. Hos 14:9; Jer 9:12; Isa 26:7; Ps 107:43 (Strong's 7919) To be wise, behave wisely, be instructed, to wisely consider, to be prudent and intelligent. *Sachal* is the word that describes the complex, intelligent thinking process that occurs when one observes, ponders, reasons, learns and reaches a conclusion. The word is sometimes used as *prosper*. 1 Kings 2:3 — David urged Solomon to be obedient to God's instructions so that he could prosper — literally "do wise" in everything he undertook. A derivative of *Sachal* is *Maschil* which means to give instruction — to make wise and skillful.

Jer 3:15 is a promise. Isa 49:17 is also a promise.

Be a builder and not a destroyer.

The day will come after the destroyers are destroyed when the "builders" will (surpass) make up for and restore the *damage* (Dan 11:32; Dan 11:33).

Mt 7:13-29 speaks of TWO WAYS

Mt 7:13,14 speaks of TWO PATHS

Mt 7:15-20 speaks of TWO TREES

Mt 7:21-23 speaks of TWO PROFESSIONS

Mt 7:24-29 speaks of TWO BUILDERS

Verse 29 — ONE teacher and Master who teaches only ONE WAY, ONE PATH.

It is the NARROW PATH. Few find it.

If you have found it, DO NOT get off it.

James 5:19,20