

Keys Evangelistic Ministries

# Is God Narrow-Minded?



An easel presentation  
of the Gospel of  
Jesus Christ

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# About K.E.M.

By Ross Graham

This little booklet represents much of what Keys Evangelistic Ministries is all about. Our purpose is to assist the people of God to fulfill their responsibility to "go into the world and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15) by insuring that the gospel is preached clearly, consistently and regularly throughout the world and especially among the vacationers and temporary residents who frequent the city of Key West and the southern Florida Keys.

Taking the gospel outside the church and among the world's people has been a time-honored Biblical practice. In recent years men like Bill Welzien, the director of Keys Evangelistic Ministries, have demonstrated the astounding witness and power of street preaching.

Picture the scene that has unfolded within these pages. It could have been in New York's Central Park, or in the park in your own town. But tonight it was at a boat dock called Mallory Square in Key West, Florida, as the tourists from the cruise ships poured into the streets to eat and shop and stood side by side with the island's gay and lesbian residents to watch the sun set over the Gulf of Mexico with cheers and celebration. Amid the laughs and merriment some of them paused to listen to a thin bearded man who spoke the most important words they have ever heard.

That is why Keys Evangelistic Ministries exists! We want to do everything we can to be faithful to our Great Commission task and leave the results to God. We invite you to study the presentation, to consider its truth, and to share it with others. We want everyone to know that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. Through reading this booklet we hope you've learned more about what that means and how very important it is for your life.

Yours in Christ

Ross W. Graham

President, Keys Evangelistic Ministries

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# Introduction to Easel Evangelism

by Rev. Bill Welzien

For almost two decades now, I have been utilizing the unique method of evangelism presented in this booklet. This method has served me in my quest to be obedient to our Lord Jesus' command to bring His gospel to the world of sinners. "How," you ask?

Now, perhaps more than any other time in history, we are an audiovisual society. Movies, television, computers, video games, etc. all grab for our eyes and ears. Easel evangelism, properly executed, informs the mind by way of both the eye and ear gates.

The unintelligible background of colorful boxes and partially lettered words works on the curiosity of the potential participant. Participant? Indeed! As the message is being presented, the observer is trying to guess what will fill the next box. The messages are also peppered with rhetorical questions designed to cause the listener to think. It is also hoped that the participant will have key words as well as key Scriptures indelibly etched in his mind by the Holy Spirit.

This easel approach is of great benefit to the observer, but perhaps it is of even greater usefulness to you the presenter. Let me explain. Many of us feel self conscious to stand before a group without notes, or a pulpit on which to place those notes. Standing before a crowd of unknown individuals, possibly hostile to the gospel, can be even more unnerving. Rather than asking people to focus on you, you're continuously pointing their attention away from you and to the easel and the next word you are creating.

In addition to drawing the focus away from you, the background painted on the easel serves as your outline. When you know what word goes in each particular box, you have a sequence for an orderly presentation of the gospel. Since the gospel must affect the mind, emotions, and human will, if there is to be a true conversion our duty is to present it intelligently, systematically, creatively, and most importantly, with biblical soundness.

Since outdoor evangelism is usually practiced in urban areas with a good turn over of people, the same message can be repeated numerous times. I have preached some of my messages hundreds and hundreds of times. With each new presentation, my confidence in Christ grows. Not only do I experience His faithfulness to me, but I also know the presentation better, which frees me to focus on my rapport with the crowd and throw myself all the more into the presentation.

Another benefit from utilizing the easel is that you still have a presence after you

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*Continued from previous page.*

have finished. All faithful communication of God's truth will bring God's blessing, but with conventional communication, words disappear after they are spoken. In easel evangelism, your key words are still obvious until you take down your background. It is not uncommon for someone walking past my easel, after I've finished, and ask me, "What is that?" Of course, I am more than happy to answer their question as best as I can!

After each message I offer free literature and give the listener an opportunity to ask questions if they wish. Very often this leads to some very highly spirited discussions of God's Word. And every person we speak to provides another opportunity to plant and water the Word of God. And we must never forget that when God's Word goes out, it will never return void! (Isaiah 55:10, 11)

My heartfelt prayer is that the gospel presentation contained herein will prove a blessing to you and to those who see and hear you present it.

# Mallory Square: The Carnival of Fools

By Gregory M. Rowe & Christiana C. Welzien

Key West, a small island 120 miles out to sea, is one of the most famous tourist destinations in the world with over two million visitors each year. Key West is known for many things; sport fishing, scuba diving, key lime pie, and Jimmy Buffet to name a few, however, the most popular tourist attraction is the sunset.

Most people find out on arrival in Key West that the best place to see the sunset is Mallory Square; a brick faced pier that overlooks the Gulf of Mexico. On this pier the sunset is not the only attraction, though. Street performers, escape artists, food vendors and psychics help create a carnival-like atmosphere against the backdrop of God's exquisite handiwork. Each and every evening Mallory Square's "Sunset Celebration" attracts hundreds of people who want to catch a glimpse of the sun as it bids us farewell for yet another day.

On any given night you'll find people from all over the world with different cultural and religious backgrounds making Mallory Square a microcosm of the entire world. This also makes Mallory Square an excellent mission field. Among the performers who set up at the pier, there is Rev. Bill Welzien. Armed with the Gospel and known as "Bible Bill," he faithfully marches forward to preach the Good News to those who are lost and perishing.

Over recent years, Key West has become a haven for homosexual and other illicit behavior. In fact, special organized celebrations of the "alternative lifestyle" are held throughout the year. The official slogan of our island home is "One Human Family"; a catchphrase designed to reflect the tolerant attitudes of residents towards gays and lesbians. Yet, our experience at the pier has shown that this "tolerance" has its limits. For those who choose to live the "Christian" lifestyle, one often finds that those who preach tolerance have very little for us.

As the crowds gather to pay homage to the sun, we make known the Son who created it. Amongst the fire eaters and the jugglers, the psychics and the high wire walkers, stands a man with an easel and a message for all passersby, on the pier known as Mallory Square: The Carnival of Fools.

# How to use this guide

The following gospel presentation was developed over a period of time with the express purpose of being used for open-air easel evangelism, although it can be, and has been, used in various places and settings by clergy and laymen alike.

Each gospel presentation is broken down into several parts to aid in the memorization process. Each message contains the following:

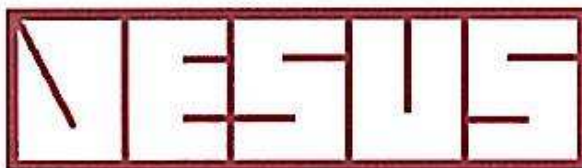
**Introduction.** The introduction given here has been specifically designed for the easel ministry at Mallory Square in Key West, Florida. A new introduction will need to be developed according to each particular time and place in which it is to be given. We have included the Mallory Square introduction as a guideline to aid you in developing yours.

**Transition points.** Transition points are the places in the message where a new thought or theme becomes the focus. Preaching in the open air comes with many challenges, among them, staying focused on the message amidst many visual and audible distractions. Knowing your transition points is extremely helpful in memorizing the message because it helps your mind stay on track even in the face of many distractions.

**Pull quotes.**

*"We have included some helpful hints to assist you along the way."*

**Box lettering.** Not only have we included "before and after" replicas of the easel message, but we have broken each step down and included it in the body of the message. Look for boxes like these ...

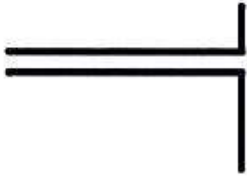
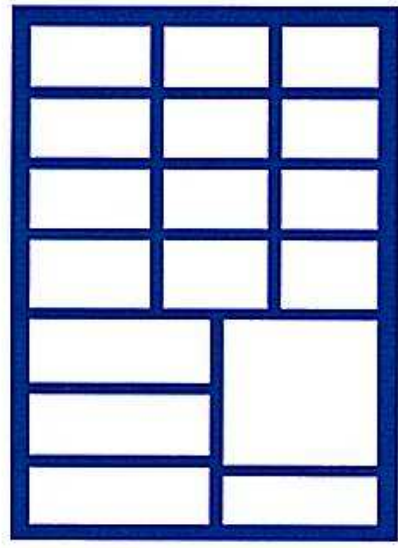


...throughout the guide.

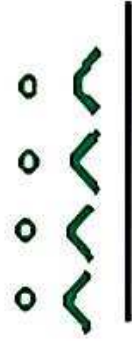
On the next page you will find a sample of what the easel should look like at set-up, before the Gospel presentation. At the back of the booklet you'll find a sample of what a completed easel message will look like.



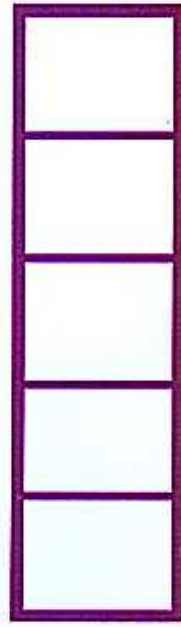
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## Easel Message : "Is God Narrow-Minded?"

### Introduction:

Good evening ladies and gentleman and welcome to Mallory Square and the Sunset Celebration. You may be looking at this fascinating easel behind me and wondering "what in the world is that?". Before I tell you what it is, let me tell you what it isn't. It's not a portable wheel of fortune, it is not a scoreboard, it is not a crossword puzzle, it is not the background for Pictionary® nor hangman. And no folks it is not a chart for mass marketing. You say "OK, that's well good and fine, so, what is it?" This is the background for a couple of styles of lettering I will be employing. By making dots and dashes on this easel behind me, mysteriously before your eye's letters will begin to appear and they will add up to words and I will make a noble attempt at communicating to you some very, very important information.

Before I begin, I'd like to introduce myself. My name is \_\_\_\_\_ and I want you to know up front that I will not be passing the basket nor the hat. Folks, out here that is really good news.

### Transition Point 1:

Now, as I begin, I will be taking my red paint but I want you to know that this is not a red letter day, it is a white letter day, so as I apply red paint you are going to look for....?

Thanks for paying attention folks, it makes me feel good. Here's the first word in our title, let's see if you can decipher it.



Excellent, now that I know that I am dealing with a literate crowd, I am honored to be in your presence. But hold on one moment, that's not the whole word, let's get the rest of the word up there.



*"When asking questions to the audience, always try to single out someone who seems to be interested and paying attention to what you are saying."*

Hold on, before you get too big headed, what's that last thing up there?

*"At this point, at least one member of the audience will shout out "Exclamation point" as an answer to this searching question"*

What an astute crowd, that's an excellent guess, a remarkable guess,



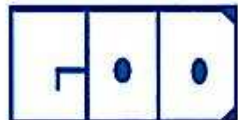
An incorrect guess, however, but a good one.

**Transition Point 2:**

Now would you folks agree with me that the greatest insult you can ever level against a fellow American is charging him or her with being "narrow minded"?

We Americans, we pride ourselves, do we not, on how open and broad minded we are? Don't we? Sure we do.

Well this next word that I put up her may prove to be the litmus test to see how truly open and broad minded you actually are. What do you think when you see this word right here?



I hope I haven't offended anybody at this point. If I were to ask you folks to tell me everything you absolutely know about God, how long would it take you? Two hours, twenty minutes, two minutes, two seconds. Really and truly, folks, what do you know about God? I can tell you this, many long years ago while in English class I learned that in order to have a full and complete sentence you must have one of these...

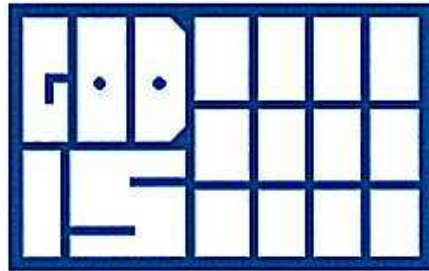


I call it a verb.

Now we have a very interesting question up there. Wouldn't you agree?

**Transition Point 3:**

Now in answering this question I am going to begin by putting up there two statements and I am very interested to know if you agree with these statements. The first statement is this, now tell me can you read this and do you believe this statement right here?



Do you believe that? God is? Or God exists? Folks, every so often I meet someone who comes up to me and says "Hey listen buddy, there is no evidence that there is a God". You know what I like to do with such an individual? I like to point them to a building. I say "Do you see that building over there?" They say "yeah" I say "You know it just popped into existence last night" And of course they look at me like I'm daffy and say "What are you talking about?" I say "Think about it friend, behind every building is a design and there's a designer. Now look at the world around you. You don't really expect me to believe the world just popped into existence, do you?" No the fact of creation tells us plainly and clearly that God is, that God exists.

That's my first statement and now here's my second statement. Again can you read this, and do you agree with this statement right here?



Do you believe that God says, or put another way, that God speaks? Or God communicates with us?

Certainly through the fact of creation He communicates His existence and His greatness.

**Transition point 4:**

But folks I'd like to tell you about a book.

And in the very first chapter of that book you'll find no less than ten times the expression "and God said". That book would be the Bible and did you know that if you looked only at the Old Testament you would find not less than 2000 times the words to the effect the word of God that came to this or that prophet. Folks, the Bible, both the Old and New Testaments claims to be the word of God. Now in the bible God tells us many things. And one of the most astounding things God tells us in all the bible is this statement right here. Let me translate it for you.

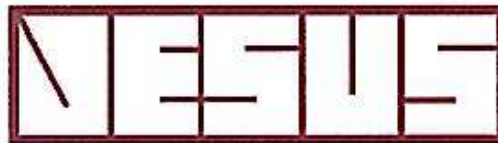
Folks, in the Bible, God tells us this.

## ONLY 1 WAY TO HEAVEN

How about that. Isn't that amazing?

You may be thinking to yourself, "if God in the Bible says "there's only one way to heaven" than God must be narrow-minded."

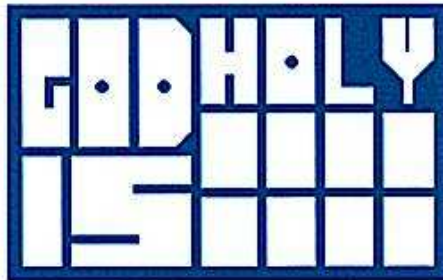
Not only does He tell us this, but He gets real specific. The Apostle Peter, while speaking to a group of well educated religious teachers said this statement. He said "There is no other name under heaven given among men where by we must be saved." And the name he gave was this name right here.



Now again you might be thinking to yourself, " If God in the bible says there's only one way to heaven and it's through Jesus, then God's obviously narrow-minded". Well let's come back here and let's learn some more facts about God. And I believe if you stick with me, in the end you'll agree that this makes absolutely perfect sense.

Transition point 5:

We know that God exists just by looking around us. It is a self-evident fact. But as we look into the pages of the bible, we begin to learn certain specifics about the character of God and among those specifics we learn that the God who is, is this right here.



Can you read that? The God who is, is the God who is holy. Now when the bible says that God is holy it means He is separate, distinct; He's different from us in the fact that He is absolutely perfect in all of His ways. We know that because God has given us His laws, His commandments that reflect His perfect character. Now to refresh your minds those commandments say things like-"Never, ever take God's holy name in vain. Always we should honor and respect mom and dad, never commit murder, never commit adultery never lie, steal cheat, never take advantage of one another." Now who amongst us this evening can say with all honesty that in your thought life, your speech and your actions, you have always complied with those standards and not broken a one?

*"Whenever asking the crowd for a response, always be prepared for one, although at this question, hardly anyone ever raises a hand."*

Please notice that I'm not raising my hand,  
but I notice that no one else is either.

The bible says that if we have ever broken or violated or failed to comply with any of God's holy laws we stand guilty before God of this right here. This little three letter word.



Folks, sin is the violating or failing to comply with God's holy standards. The bible teaches us that the God who is, is the God who is holy.

Transition point: 6

The bible also teaches us that this holy God is also in all of ways, perfectly and absolutely and totally...

That's right, "just."



Folks, if you've ever thought of God as the just judge of the universe, you are doing well; the Bible teaches that. The bible teaches us that one day, every one of us will, whether we are ready or not, we are going to have to stand before our maker and we'll have to give an account of all that we've done in this life. If you have ever violated any of God's holy laws you have committed sin and God being a God of justice, folks, He must condemn you. You might be surprised to know that the bible does actually teach of a very terrible place, a very awful place that is known as

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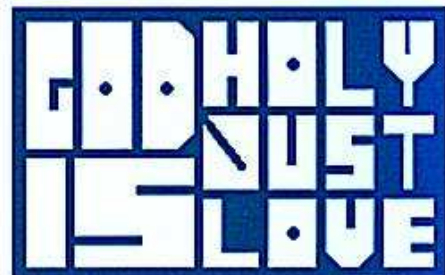
In fact, Jesus Christ spoke on that particular subject more than any other person in the whole bible.

The bible teaches us that the God who is, is a God who is holy, He is a God who is just, and because we are sinful people, that's not good news for us, is it?

Transition point: 7

But the bible goes on to teach us that this holy and just God is also a God of perfect, and absolute and infinite...

"Love"

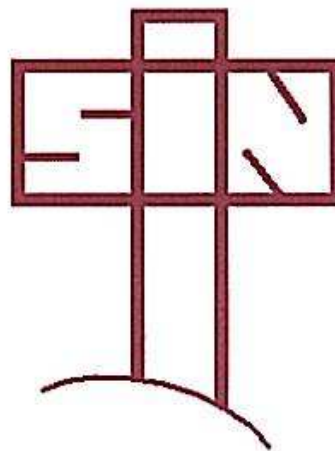


That's right, love. We know that God is a good God just by the fact that we are here right now. Think about this. There are many people who went to bed last night and never woke up this morning. But you're alive, you're able to enjoy the beauty of the evening and you're able to listen to what I'm saying. But friends, the ultimate demonstration of God's love was in the giving of His son Jesus Christ. You say "Man, what's the big deal about Jesus? I mean, What about Mohammad? What about Buddha? What about Confucius? Or any other of those religious guys? I mean, aren't they all the same? Let's think about it.

The bible tells us that Jesus Christ is the maker of heaven and earth. The bible also teaches us that Jesus was concerned about this problem of sin we have. So concerned that He did something about it. The bible tells us that Jesus Christ left the worship of angels, the glory of heaven and He was conceived to His humanity in the womb of a virgin by the Holy Spirit. The bible actually teaches us that God, our great and glorious maker, became a man. However, He didn't stop being God because God's eternal and God can't stop being, But he added to His divine nature a fully human nature. The bible actually teaches us that Jesus Christ is both, fully God and fully man. Two natures but one divine and glorious person. And in His human nature He was like us. Jesus hungered, He thirsted, He wept, He knew what it was like to experience pain, but folks, He was unlike us in the fact that He had no sin. Yes, the only perfect, flawless human being who ever walked on our planet was the son of God Jesus Christ.

Transition point: 8

Now you don't have to be bible scholars to know that the bible, very plainly, very clearly teaches that Jesus Christ died a hideous death, a horrendous death, upon a cross.





Now if you go back in history, you will find that crucifixion was the style of execution for the social scum of that day. You say "Buddy, I don't get it, just a brief moment ago you said that if Jesus was perfect and flawless, why would He die the death of a common criminal?"

Let's come back here.

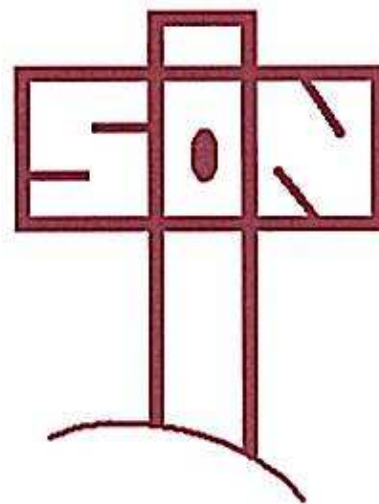
Remember the God who is, He is a God who is holy. He has given holy laws. We have broken those laws, and God being a God of justice, He must condemn us. But God demonstrates His own love towards us in this, that while we were yet sinners, Jesus Christ died, the righteous one, in the place of the unrighteous ones. Do you understand? Because God is a holy God and a just God he can't ignore sin or turn a blind eye to it. He can't just sweep it under the rug, he must judge it. But folks, that's what the cross is all about. The bible says that

God the Father made Him,

God the Son,

to be sin on behalf of sinners.

Jesus, who never knew any sin, so that God's righteousness could be put to the account of fallen humans. Jesus Christ died for sinners.



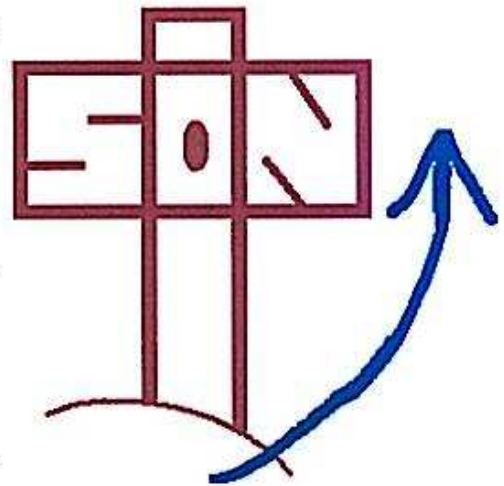
Transition point: 9

Now is that where the story ends? Listen to this, prior to His death, Jesus Christ predicted this, He predicted not only when, where and how he would die and who would put Him to death, He said this. Look for me three days later, Why? He said I will physically, bodily and literally resurrect from the dead. Now my question to you. Are those the words of a lunatic? Or did He actually do it?

Well, I want you to know that the bible emphatically states that He did. And I want you to know that it wasn't done in a corner.

The bible says that after Jesus Christ resurrected, He showed Himself alive for a period of 40 days appearing on at least 10 occasions. On one of those occasions we are told that He appeared to over 500 witnesses at one time. Think about that. Did you know that if you go into a courtroom in our country with two reputable witnesses you've got a pretty decent case. The bible doesn't say there were only two witnesses to the resurrection or merely two-hundred but over 500 witnesses at one time all agree that Jesus Christ, who was dead days before, was now physically alive.

Do you realize what that means? It means the bible is not a book of myth or legend but a book of historical fact. But I've noticed something about us broad, liberal minded humans, we tend to have an innate prejudice in our minds against the bible. How many people have you met in your life that will swear there are contradictions in the bible but when pressed will admit that they never even read the book? Or how many people do you know say nice things about the bible daily but won't go near it with a barge pole? I suggest to you the reason that we flee from the bible as we do is because it's absolutely true and we humans sure have a hang up about absolute truth, don't we? The facts remain. Jesus Christ died for sinners and resurrected on the third day. That's called the gospel or the good news. I don't care how long you live, you'll never hear any better news.



Transition point: 10

But you'll never experience forgiveness of sin nor will you ever come to know the fullness of

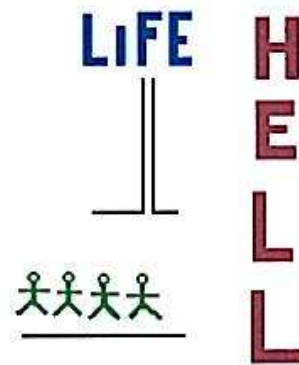
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just by hearing this message.  
God demands a response.

So I am going to put up two important bible words. Here's the first. The reason I say that this is an important bible word because it is stated in the bible that God commands all people everywhere to

# REPENT

You say, "Man, I'm no theologian and I don't even know what it means." Let me explain repentance. Jesus Christ told us that there is a broad road that leads to destruction. Jesus also told us that on broad road there is an awful lot of us.



Now unfortunately with every step you take and with every breath you breathe you are another step and breath closer to death. We can't change that fact, can we? The bible says with death comes judgment not reincarnation. If you die in your sins you will end up in a very terrible place called Hell. And as you follow the herd down the broad road Jesus says this "I am the way, I am the truth, I am the Life, No man or woman will ever come to the Father in Heaven except through me. Please note well Jesus didn't say I am one of the ways, there are many, go on out and find a comfortable one. No, He said I am the way. You know what repentance is? Repentance is recognizing you're on the broad road; recognizing you deserve the wrath of God; you've merited nothing more.



But you're willing to turn from your own self-righteousness, your own self-will, your own self-styled religion and you're willing to come to God on His terms not your terms.

Transition point: 11

We turn from sin in repentance and we come to God in an act of biblical or saving

## FAITH

Now folks, I am going to give you a very simple definition for biblical faith. Are you ready?

Look at every letter of the word, here we go.

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All

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Trust

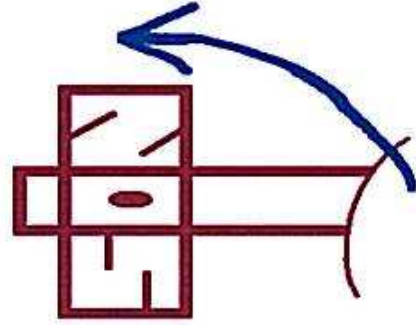
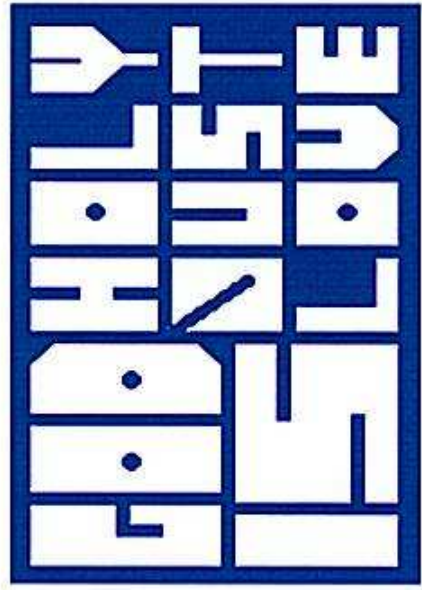
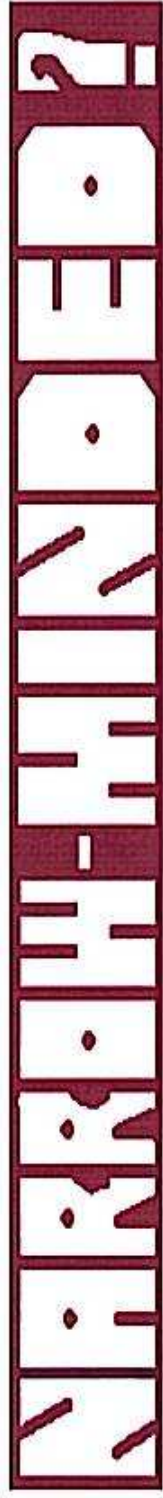
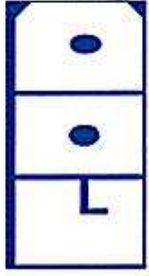
Him.

Biblical faith isn't Jesus plus your religion, or Jesus plus your system of self effort. No, biblical faith is admitting "Lord, I am a bankrupt sinner, and I come to you with a broken heart, I come to you with a contrite spirit and I embrace your son Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ alone as my Lord and my savior from sin"

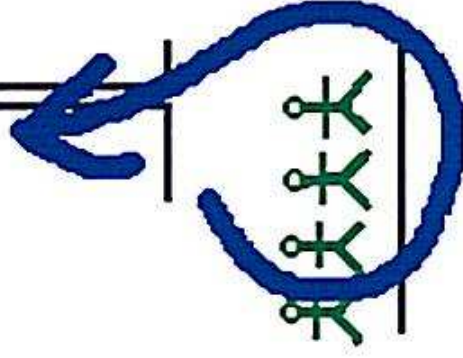
Conclusion:

Let's come back here to our original question, "Is God Narrow-Minded?"

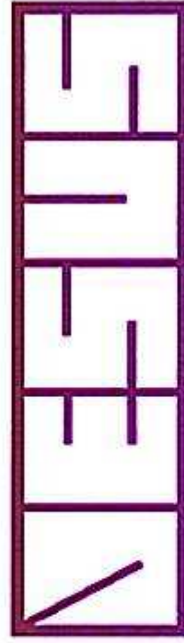
Folks, I meet people who come up to me and they say this, they say, "You know buddy, I am real happy you found a truth that works for you, but the problem is this, your truth isn't my truth." Folks, let me tell you something, that's one of the most absurd, ridiculous, preposterous statements any rational, reasonable human being can make. You say "Why is that?" Because truth by nature is always constant, consistent, absolute and always narrow. Truth does not change from person to person nor from day to day. Nope, God is not a narrow minded God, He's a gracious God. He's calling sinners to Himself this very evening. Do you know what the real question is? The question is this "Are you narrow-minded?" Are you willing to open you mind and your heart to the son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ? The bible promises that if you believe, yes friend, even you, if you believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, you will be saved. Folks, that's God's promise and the living God does not lie. I urge you to take God at His word. Call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ and find out what life is really all about.



LIFE  
HELL



ONLY 1WAY  
TO HEAVEN



REPENT

FAITH