

# The Correspondent

SUNDAY

Bible Study 9:30 AM  
Worship 10:30 AM & 1:30 PM

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study (Adult) 1:30 PM  
Bible Study (All Ages) 7:00 PM  
[www.collinsville-troycoc.org](http://www.collinsville-troycoc.org)  
(618) 667-6708



*For from you the word of the Lord has sounded forth... in every place. (1 Thessalonians 1:8)*

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## Pass Fail -Renn Ferguson

With some college courses there is no final at the end of the class. Instead the teacher pulls in each student and has a discussion about the class. They call this taking the class pass-fail. Most people probably look at this as an advantage. All you have to do is talk about the class and based upon what you said the teacher decides whether or not you learned enough to pass the class. Nobody passes by the skin of their teeth or by sheer luck. It is simply pass-fail. When we think about it, that is exactly how life is as well. One day we are all going to face a test. That test is the day of judgment. Paul wrote of that in 2 Corinthians 5:10. There he makes it very obvious that ever person going to face this same test. Much like those college courses this test is pass-fail. There are not going to be people getting into heaven by the skin of their teeth. Either you will or you will not. So, the question then is who is going to fail? Who is going to pass?



In Matthew 7:13 Christ said, "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." Christ makes it very clear that many people will not pass the test of judgment day but of whom is Christ speaking? Well, there are several characteristics of people that will not pass. There are many lists that describe those characteristics (Revelation 21:8, 1 Corinthians 6:9-10, Galatians 5:19-21 etc.) These are those who practice what is evil in the eyes of God. There is another type of person that Christ describes in Matthew 7:21-23. In this passage Christ discusses the fact that not everyone who do things in His name will be saved. Not everyone who claims to be a Christian will be saved. Many people think they are doing things pleasing to God but in all reality they are not. They are not truly keeping the commandments of The Lord. These are those who will fail the test.

With all of these lists and different passages it can become discouraging but there is hope. God also tells us who is going to pass the test. Go back to Matthew 7 but notice verse 14, "For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few." Those who follow the narrow gate will pass the test. These are those who give themselves to God and live a life in humble obedience to His will. Again notice Matthew 7:21, "Not everyone who say to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven." We see very clearly that those who will enter the kingdom of heaven are those who obey the will of God. They will surely pass the test.

Ultimately, we all will be faced with the test of the judgment day. Fortunately, we can have confidence in the outcome. That confidence comes from our believing and obeying God (1 John 5:13). Let us live in a way so that we may pass the test!