

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

Matthew 7:13,14



THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

Matthew 7:13,14 (NKJV)

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it. ¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life, and there are few who find it.

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

Righteousness of the Kingdom Can Be Found By All Who Truly Desire It - “Ask, Seek, & Knock” - (7-8)



Ask

Faith / Trust

Seek

Diligently Pursue

Knock

Submission / Obedience

Hebrews 11:6 (NKJV)

But without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE



The choice may be difficult, but it is not complex

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

There have always been but two choices



Deuteronomy 30:19

19 “I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing; therefore choose life, that both you and your descendants may live;

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Joshua 24:15 (NKJV)

¹⁵ And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”

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1 Kings 18:21

And Elijah came to all the people, and said, “How long will you falter between two opinions? If the Lord is God, follow Him; but if Baal, follow him.” But the people answered him not a word.

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Matthew 6:24 (NKJV)

"No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

The Choice Is Ours!

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate

And It Is A Choice We Will & MUST Make

The way of Trust
and Submission

The way of
rejection and
rebellion.

Jeremiah 6:16 (NKJV)

Thus says the Lord: "Stand in the ways and see, And ask for the old paths, where the good way is, And walk in it; Then you will find rest for your souls. But they said, 'We will not walk in it.'

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And It Is A Choice We Will & MUST Make

The way of Trust
and Submission

The way of
rejection and
rebellion.

The need to learn of the way & yield to it's requirements

You CHOOSE YOUR DESTINY

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

Only One “Gate” Leads To Life

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate ... ¹⁴ ... which leads to life



Singular In Number

- ~ Jesus is the only “door” (John 10:7-16)
- ~ “I am the way, the truth and the life” (John 14:6)
- ~ No other name (Acts 4:12)
- ~ Only one body (Eph 1:22,23; 2:16; 4:4-6; 5:23,24; 1 Cor 12:13)

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

Narrow, i.e., The Way Is Restricted

¹³ "Enter by the narrow gate ... ¹⁴ ... which leads to life



Requires Effort

Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"

Entered Only By To Those Who

- ~ Deny self / surrender - Luke 9:23; 14:33
- ~ Commit wholly to the Lord - 1 Pet 4:19
- ~ Repent - Luke 13:3; Acts 17:30
- ~ Are converted - Mat 18:2-4; Acts 2:38; 3:19; 1 Pet 1:22,23
- ~ Obey the Lord - 7:21-23; Luke 6:46; Acts 10:47,48; Heb 5:8,9

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Traveled Only By To Those Who

- ~ Develop the character of the Kingdom Citizen (5:3-16)
- ~ Live godly lives (5:20-48)
- ~ Sincerely worship (6:1-18)
- ~ Seek spiritual treasure (6:19-24)
- ~ Trust God (6:25-34)
- ~ Are merciful to Others (7:1-12)

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~ **No Room For**

✦ Sin (Rom 6:23; 1 Cor. 6:9-11; 1 Jn 1:5-10)

✦ Pride (James 4:6)

✦ Stubbornness (Rom 2:5)

✦ Worldly Lust (1 Jn 2:15-17)

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Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"

~ Must Lay Aside

- * Pride, self righteousness, selfishness, dishonesty, hypocrisy (Mt 5:3-6:18)
- * The "love" of the world & divided heart (Mt 6:19-24)
- * Worry, fear, & doubt (Mt 6:25-34)
- * A judgmental, unmerciful heart (Mt 7:1-6)

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE



HELL
All Lanes



Wide gate entered without ANY EFFORT AT ALL -
No Planning – No Commitment – No seeking – No sacrifice –
No requirements – No restrictions - No effort - EASY ...

Jesus Warns of The Alternative

¹³ "for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction"

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- ~ This Wide, Easy Road Leads To Destruction (Mat 25:46; Mk 9:48; 2 Thes 1:9; Rev 20:15; 21:8)
- ~ There Are Many Who Go In By It (Mat 7:13; 1 John 5:19)

THE CHALLENGE TO CHOOSE

The "Way" to Life Is "Difficult" (14)

¹⁴ Because narrow is the gate and difficult is the way which leads to life



Requires Effort

Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"

- ~ We live in a world of shortcuts
- ~ No Shortcuts To:
 - * Spiritual Growth!
 - * Developing Spiritual Character!
 - * Acceptable obedience!
 - * Spreading the gospel!
 - * Enduring Persecution & Temptation!

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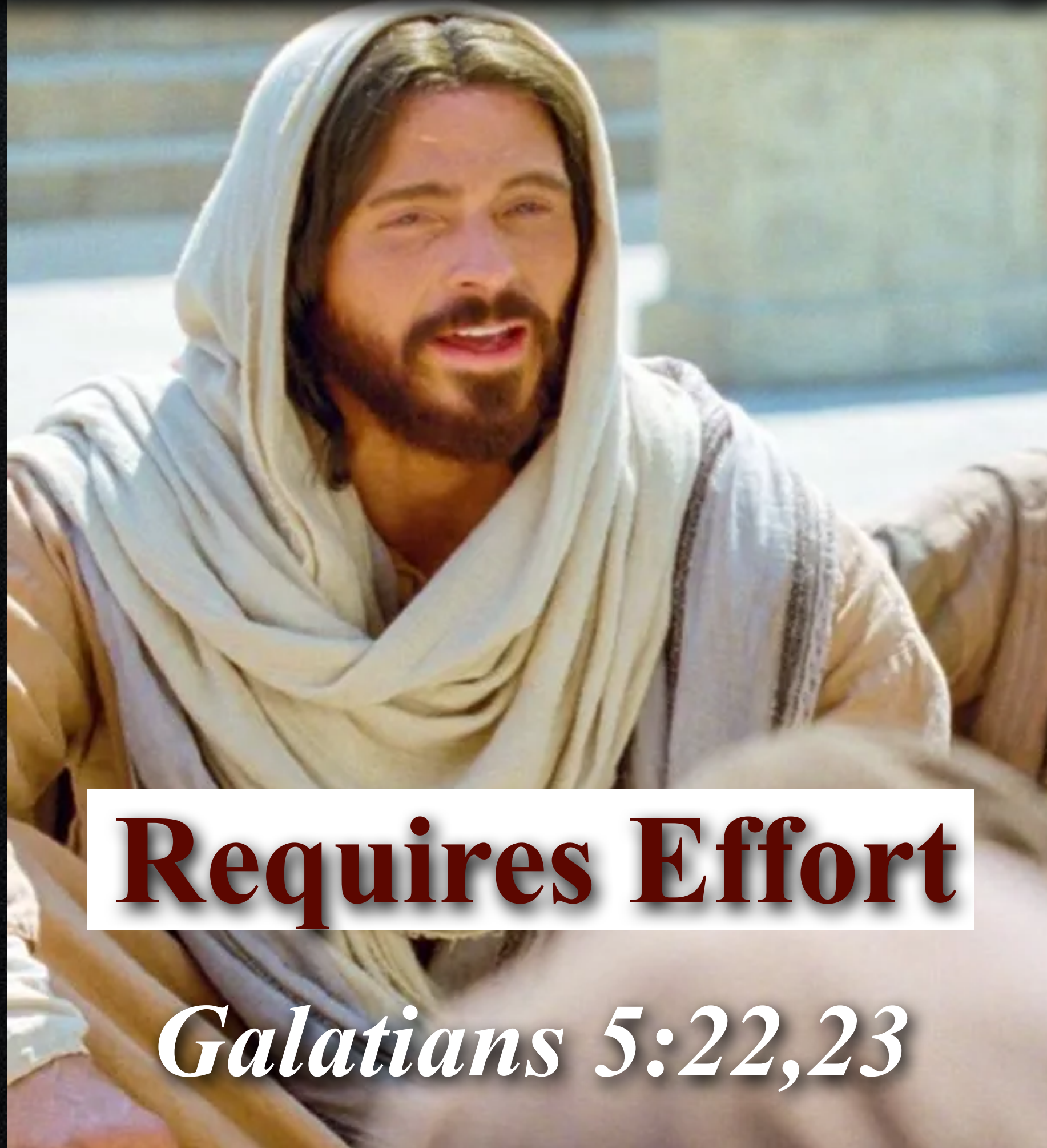
Luke 13:24 "Strive to enter through the narrow gate,"

- ~ Things must be left behind when one enters the narrow gate and travels the difficult way (1 Cor. 6:9-11; Gal 5:19-21)
- ~ The wickedness which poisons and destroys us is stripped away.

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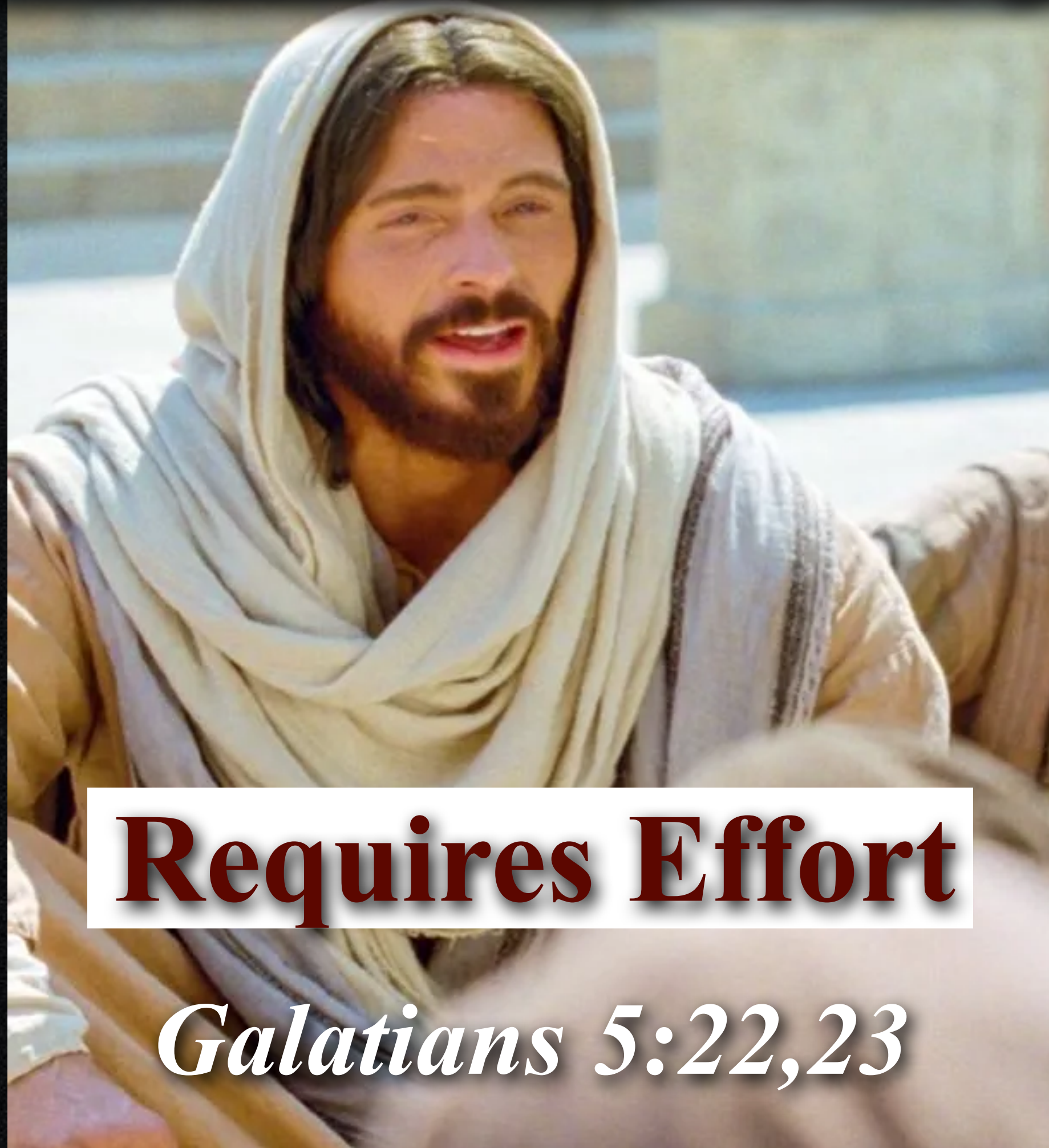
Galatians 5:22,23

- ~ Things that abound on the narrow road
 - ▶ love (Phil 1:9; Ep 3:17-19)
 - ▶ Peace (Phili 4:7);
 - ▶ Joy (1 Peter 1:8);
 - ▶ Mercy (Ep 2:4);
 - ▶ Goodness (2 Cor 9:8);
 - ▶ Self control (1 Cor. 9:24-27)
 - ▶ Hope (Rom 15:13).

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Galatians 5:22,23

- ~ The narrow & difficult way will cause one who loves self, sin and the world, to feel constricted
- ~ But, for one who loves God - keeping His commandments is not burdensome - 1 John 5:1-3; Deut 10:12,13

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The "Way" to Life Is "Difficult" (14)

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Luke 13:24 (NKJV)

²⁴ “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able.

- ~ The High Price Of Our Redemption (1 Peter 1:18)
- ~ The price we must pay (Mat. 16:24,25)
- ~ The value of every soul (Mat. 16:24-27)
- ~ Few find the way. – Why? Most do not desire it / Do not seek it / Do not like it /
- ~ Most are **NOT WILLING** to **HUMBLE THEMSELVES & SUBMIT** to **CHRIST!**

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**Many might despair
before the lofty demands
of the gospel - BUT . . .**

God & His blessings are available to
all who sincerely SEEK His way -

God & His blessings are obtained by
all who continue in the difficult way-

The demands of the kingdom citizen
are NOT too hard for the willing!

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Matthew 6:19–24 (NKJV)

¹⁹ “Do not lay up for yourselves treasures on earth, where moth and rust destroy and where thieves break in and steal; ²⁰ but lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust destroys and where thieves do not break in and steal. ²¹ For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. ²² “The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. ²³ But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great *is* that darkness! ²⁴ “No one can serve two masters; for either he will hate the one and love the other, or else he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and mammon.