

My friends, it is not thus that the battle is to be fought, the race to be run, the prize to be gained. No half-heartedness of this sort will win it for us. If wishing would get us to heaven, who would not be there? But more, far more than that is needed. "The kingdom of heaven suffereth violence, and the violent take it by force." Along the road which leads to it there is no room for mere idle "wishers" and loiterers; all are striving, all are fighting, all are pressing on. The gate is strait, the way is narrow—we cannot even enter on it without a struggle.

And there are but the two roads, the broad and the narrow, the right and the wrong. If you are not pressing earnestly along the one, you are as surely advancing along the other. There is no comfortable middle road, along which you can wander at your leisure, loitering on, until you can decide which of the roads you will take—keeping God waiting until you make up your mind whether you will serve Him or not. No. I will speak the truth. If you are only almost a Christian, you are no Christian at all.

And what is the alternative? To be altogether a Christian. That is, to give ourselves up altogether to Christ, to be saved by Him, renouncing all trust in any merits or goodness of our own, esteeming all our righteousness as but filthy rags, and trusting only to His all-sufficient merits; coming as helpless sinners to an Almighty Saviour, able and willing to save each one who comes to Him as such.

It is, to give up our wills and affections entirely to Christ, to be renewed and sanctified by Him; every thought and desire of our heart being brought into subjection to Him; our one wish to be conformed daily more and more to His likeness, and to have His mind formed in us. It is, to give ourselves up to lead a consistent Christian life, walking carefully and circumspectly, lest we should bring reproach on the name of Christ; endeavouring to let our light so shine before men that they may glorify our Father in heaven. It is a daily taking up the cross, a steadfast "looking unto