

Sermon: Obtaining Heaven by Force – or Discipleship, Sincere Earnestness Toward Heaven  
Scripture: Matthew 11:12; Luke 16:16

Introduction:

- agreeable to justification by faith
- needs to be appreciated by the Church
- “force,” “violence” – expending mental and physical energy toward one’s own sanctification – human responsibility by God’s grace in sanctification

I. Explanation and illustration in John the Baptizer’s converts to Christ (Luke 3:7-14):

II. Comments from various commentaries:

III. Sampling of Scripture supporting:

Matthew 5:3-12

Matthew 6:33

Romans 8:12,13

Romans 8:23

Romans 12:1,2

I Cor. 9:24

I Cor. 9:27

II Cor. 10:3-5

Eph. 6:10ff

Phil. 2:12,13

Phil. 3:10

Phil. 3:12-14

Heb. 4:9-11

Heb. 12:1,2,3

Heb. 12:14

I Peter 5:8-10

II Peter 1:10

Jude 3

IV. Conclusions which Christians affirm: