

Christianity Made Easier

Heb. 10:32-39

Introduction:

- A. Early Christians led a joyful life. (v. 34; Phil. 4:4).
 - 1. Yet, they had sadness, moments of grief, times of anxiety. (cf. 2 Cor. 2:13; 7:5; 11:28).
 - 2. Some talk as if Jesus was an apostle of gloom and his “gospel” meant sad tidings.
- B. Half-baked Christians lead a miserable and hard life.
 - 1. Know their duty - but do not really want to do it.
 - 2. Know hard choices they must make - but do want to make the choices.
 - 3. Know about future punishment - not enough faith in promises to avoid it.
 - 4. Know must be loyal to Christ - but begrudge the consequences. (John 12:42).
- C. Two kinds of professed Christians that seem to find Christianity easy or a joy.

Discussion:

I. Those With No Real Convictions.

- A. Members of church, but have no deep convictions.
 - 1. Easy to them because do not concern themselves with duty, only privileges.
 - 2. Easy to them because do not fear consequences here-will compromise for ease.
 - 3. Easy to them because no one thinks them strange - do as world does.
 - 4. Easy to them because they do not wrestle with hard choices - anything goes.
- B. Members of church, but are primarily concerned with this life - will receive reward now.

II. Those With Genuine Convictions.

- A. Happy to accept demands and sacrifices of Christianity.
 - 1. Gladly accept duties of their faith. (cf. 1 John 5:3; 2 Cor. 9:7).
 - a. Worship.
 - b. Work.
 - 2. Gladly accept consequences of their faith. (Heb. 10:34; Acts 5:41; 16:25; 2 Cor. 12:10; 1 Pet. 4:15,16; Matt. 5:10-12).
 - 3. Gladly forego “pleasures of sin” (Heb. 11:25-26) -- Social, business, egotistical benefits small compared to heaven.
 - 4. Gladly are “different”. (1 Pet. 4:3,4; Jas. 4:4; 1 John 2:15,16; Rom. 12:1,2).
 - a. In life.
 - b. In language.
 - c. In appearance if need be to protect principle.
 - 5. Gladly avoid doubtful conduct (Rom. 14:23). Do not flirt with sin.
- B. Happy because of their conviction in future reward.
 - 1. Know that labor is not in vain in the Lord. (1 Cor. 15:58).
 - 2. Know that hardships are only temporary. (2 Cor. 4:16-5:1).
 - 3. Know that present pain nothing compared with future punishment.

Conclusion:

- A. Those with no conviction find Christianity easy.
- B. Those with real convictions find Christianity easy.
- C. Those who try to live in both worlds are torn by the conflict.