

# Things That Will Get Better and Better

2 Cor. 7:4-7

## Introduction:

- A. Christians are indeed "troubled on every side" - from "without" and "within".
  - 1. As we struggle with these troubles, we often get things out of focus.
    - a. Dwell on darkness until we see no light.
    - b. Dwell on limitations until we see no potential.
    - c. Dwell on obstacles until we see no opportunities.
    - d. Dwell on weaknesses until we see no strengths.
    - e. Dwell on conflicts until we see no peace.
  - 2. As we deal with these troubles, remember that things are already better.
    - a. Were not a people, now the people of God. (1 Pet. 2:9-10)
    - b. Were without mercy, now have mercy. (1 Pet. 2:10).
    - c. Were sold under sin, now redeemed. (1 Pet. 1:18,19).
    - d. Were polluted with sin, now purified. (1 Pet. 1:22)
    - e. Were dead in sin, now born again. (1 Pet. 1:23-25).
- B. Christians can be confident that things will get better -- and better.
  - 1. As our faith increases we will see improvement "within".
  - 2. As we work and God's providence works we will see improvement "without."

## Discussion:

### I. Things That Will Get Better And Better As Our Faith Increases.

- A. Our ability to discern between good and evil. (Heb. 5:12-14).
  - 1. This is the skill to judge between good and evil things or situations, based on "the word of righteousness" (v. 13)
    - a. It takes time (v. 12) and effort to develop this skill.
    - b. It improves with study, time, and practice.
  - 2. How often have we been frustrated by having misjudged a matter!
- B. Our ability to resist temptation and withstand trials. (Jas. 1:2-12).
  - 1. A we weather one storm, the next becomes easier.
  - 2. Our faith is strengthened each time it is tested (1 Pet. 1:17).
    - a. We come to realize from experience the truth of 1 Cor. 10:13.
    - b. We come to understand what true deliverance means.
- C. Our ability to forgive. (Luke 17:3-5)
  - 1. Most of us want to forgive, but find it very hard at times.
  - 2. No wonder the apostles said, "Increase our faith" right after being told to forgive seven times in a day!
- D. Our ability to deal with those who oppose the faith. (Acts 9:22).
  - 1. Many become discouraged because cannot refute error as well as others.
  - 2. Need to understand that this too, is a growing process - will get better.
- E. Our ability to cope with declining physical strength. (2 Cor. 4:16-5:8)
  - 1. Age, disease, persecution and other stresses take a toll on our bodies.
  - 2. By daily spiritual renewing we put things into a better perspective.
- F. Our ability to face the prospect of death. (Phil. 1:21-26).
  - 1. As faith grows, our hope of resurrection and heaven becomes more firm.
  - 2. As faith grows, we see death less of a threat and more of an opportunity.

### II. Things We Will See Getting Better And Better As We View Present Trends.

- A. Besides many disturbing trends, I see some encouraging trends among churches.

1. If these continue things will get better and better.
  2. Our observations and conclusions on these matters are, admittedly, somewhat subjective based on personal experience.
- B. We think we see a trend for the better in the following areas:
1. Better preacher training by congregations.
  2. Better teaching programs in congregations' Bible classes.
  3. Better attitudes between brethren over personal convictions.
  4. Better general awareness of what is being taught in the brotherhood.

Conclusion:

We will always have problems, but if we continue to faithfully serve the Lord, things will continue to get better and better for us and finally will reach that "better country".