

HOW ARE THINGS NOW?

“Remember those earlier days after you had received the light.” (Heb.10:32 NIV) Sometimes is good to stop and remember when you first came to Christ. Remember how real that new relationship was? Your heart was wide open and hungry to learn and walk with God. Intensity and excitement were there. How are things now?

You may have taken some “flack” because of your reality with God. **Some may have said, “you got religion,” but actually you met Jesus in real way that changed your outlook and way of life.** How are things now? Money and “things” moved out of the forefront. Something greater and more lasting had taken their place. You realized your true possessions in Christ that could not be taken away. How are things now?

These Jewish Christians were under pressure for their testimony of Christ. They had and were suffering some real persecution for their faith. They had lost possessions because of their faith in Jesus. **Life was not looking very good, and they began to question their faith and what they had received from God.** The whole book of Hebrews is challenging them and encouraging them about the greatness of Christ and the better thing they had received.

Tests and trials of life come our way; no one is exempt from difficulties that try our faith. No wonder the apostle encourages us to “fight the good fight of faith.” **Keep trusting the one you first embraced; Jesus Christ, because he is also the finisher of your faith.** That “precious” faith will receive praise and honor with Jesus returns.(1 Pet.1:6-7)

The exhortation to us all is “...do not throw away your confidence; it will be richly rewarded. You need to persevere so that when you have done the will of God, you will receive what he has promised.” (Heb.10:35-36 NIV) **If we shrink back, God will not be pleased with us.**

It is good to look back and ask God to help us return to that “first love.” God will forgive and strengthen us to continue in faith, and finish the purpose he has for our lives. **We will be so glad at the end that we did not give up or compromise our Christian life. In fact, we will be glad through all eternity.**