

## THINGS WILL GET BETTER AND BETTER

Heb 8:1-12

### INTRODUCTION:

- A. The Hebrew writer said we have a better covenant, established on better promises.
- B. Ask yourself this important question, and be honest in your answer, after becoming a Christian, has your life gotten better or worse?
- C. If worse, you have not been growing as you should.
- D. If better, then you are growing as you should, because this "better" covenant is designed to make you better

### DISCUSSION:

#### I. WE ARE "TROUBLED ON EVERY SIDE - WITHOUT AND WITHIN 2Cor 7:4-7

- A. As we struggle, we often get things out of focus.
  - 1. Dwell on darkness until we see no light.
  - 2. Dwell on limitations until we see no potential.
  - 3. Dwell on obstacles until we see no opportunities.
  - 4. Dwell on conflicts until we see no peace.
- B. As we handle trouble, remember, things are already better.
  - 1. Were not a people, now people of God. 1Pet 2:9-10
  - 2. Were without mercy, now have mercy. 1Pet 2:10
  - 3. Sold under sin, now redeemed. 1Pet 1:18,19
  - 4. Polluted with sin, now purified. 1Pet 1:22
  - 5. Were dead in sin, now born again. 1Pet 1:23-25
- C. We can be confident things will get better and better.
  - 1. As faith increases we will see improvement "within"
  - 2. As we work and God's providence works we will see improvement "without"

#### II. THINGS THAT WILL GET BETTER AS OUR FAITH INCREASES.

- A. Ability to discern between good and evil. Heb 5:12-14
  - 1. Skill to judge good and evil things and situations,
  - 2. Often been frustrated by misjudging a matter?
- B. Ability to resist temptation and trials. Jas 1: 2-12
  - 1. As we weather one storm the next becomes easier
  - 2. Faith strengthen each time it is tested. 1Pet 1:7; Jas 1:3
    - a. We come to realize from experience the truth of what Paul said in 1Cor 10:13
    - b. We come to understand what true deliverance really means
- C. Ability to forgive. Lk 17:3-5
  - 1. Most want to forgives but find it hard at times.
  - 2. No wonder apostles said, "Increase our faith" right after being told to forgive seven times in a day!

- D. Ability to deal with one opposing the faith. Acts 9:20-22
  - 1. Many become discouraged because they cannot refute error as well as other.
  - 2. Need to understand that this too, is a growing process - as you study you will get better and better
- E. Ability to cope with declining physical strength 2Cor 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. Ability to face the prospect of death. Phil 1:21-26
  - 1. As our faith grows, our hope of resurrection and heaven becomes more firm
  - 2. As our faith grows, we see death less of a threat and more of an opportunity

#### III. OBSERVATIONS ABOUT THINGS GETTING BETTER AS WE VIEW PRESENT TRENDS

- A. Besides many disturbing trends, such as: controversy over Rom 14, marriage and divorce, Diety question and liberalism in general (involving the way the churches use the Lord's money in support of human institutions as well as in recreation and entertainment) we do see some encouraging trends among churches
  - 1. If these continue things will get better
  - 2. Observations and conclusions on these matters are somewhat subjective based on personal experience
- B. I think I see a trend for the better in many areas
  - 1. Better preacher training by Congregations - more and more sound conservative congregations are making efforts to train young men to preach
  - 2. Seems to be more efforts by congregations to appoint overseers
  - 3. Better teaching programs in Bible classes
  - 4. Better attitudes regarding personal convictions.
  - 5. Better efforts to reach the lost
  - 6. Better general awareness of what is being taught and practiced in brotherhood. (not that that is necessary)

### CONCLUSION:

- A. 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 we will reach that "better country" Heb 10:32-36.
- B. We must continue to look and work for the better things in this life so that we will have the better things in eternity.