

Good morning! Is Jesus enough for you? When I was young and I would complain that I was being treated unfairly, my Mom would often say, "Don't worry about it, Boo; you'll get your reward in heaven." That didn't seem to be enough for me then; is that enough for me now? I wonder. Christians in many parts of the world must face the loss of all things every day of their lives. I sometimes wonder how American Christians would do under those circumstances. I think God would help us to get through it---just like He helps them. This morning let's consider some of the challenges presented by faith as we read today's passage together:

But remember the former days, when, after being enlightened, you endured a great conflict of sufferings, partly by being made a public spectacle through reproaches and tribulations, and partly by becoming sharers with those who were so treated. For you showed sympathy to the prisoners and accepted joyfully the seizure of your property, knowing that you have for yourselves a better possession and a lasting one. Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward. For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.

Hebrews 10:32-36

As I read today's passage, I consider my own life. I also remember my own "former days" when, full of energy, inexperience, and the Holy Ghost, I was willing to risk it all. We all were willing to give up everything for Jesus--- when there wasn't so much at stake. It's not difficult to sing, "I surrender all," when you don't have much to surrender! When you don't have anything and you think you have your whole life ahead of you, you don't worry much about giving it up. Now I wonder---would I be willing to start over? Would ever be a circumstance now in which I would, as the readers of this letter did, "joyfully accept" the seizure of my property? Maybe. None of us really knows what we'd do until we're in it, right? The writer of Hebrews reminds his readers of their former days of abandonment to Jesus and then he says, "*Therefore, do not throw away your confidence, which has a great reward.*" We will make it if we will hang in there and don't just chicken out. Are you struggling this morning in your journey with Jesus? Have you recently experienced a great loss? Let me encourage you to hang in there. Don't throw your away confidence. You will learn endurance and God will help you to get through this difficult time. When you have gotten through it you'll have something to share with others who are experiencing loss. Instead of being a victim of your circumstances you'll be a life-giving resource for other hurting people. You'll help them to see how God will get them through it, too...and that's really good news!