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.