

# WHY?

Hebrews 11:13-16

DR. JOE K. TAYLOR, SENIOR PASTOR, SOUTH RENO BAPTIST CHURCH, RENO, NV • 2020 NEW YEARS' MESSAGE • JANUARY 5, 2020.  
All Scriptures are printed verbatim with translations noted. • This passage is located in your pew bible on page 175 in the NT section.

## A: A Reflection on the Early Church – Hebrews 10:32–34

### Warning

**Hebrews 10:32–34, NLT** -<sup>32</sup> *Think back on those early days when you first learned about Christ. Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering.* <sup>33</sup> *Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule and were beaten, and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things.* <sup>34</sup> *You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail, and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.*

#### 1. The Early Church remained faithful despite terrible suffering.

*“Remember how you remained faithful even though it meant terrible suffering...” -v 32*

#### 2. The Early Church was exposed to public ridicule.

*“Sometimes you were exposed to public ridicule...” -v 33a*

#### 3. The Early Church was persecuted.

*“...and were beaten...” -v 33b*

#### 4. The Early Church helped others who suffered the same way.

*“...and sometimes you helped others who were suffering the same things.” – 33c*

#### 5. The Early Church showed sympathy to those thrown in jail.

*You suffered along with those who were thrown into jail...” – v. 34a*

#### 6. The Early Church lost all they had because of the stance they took.

*“...all you owned was taken from you...” -v 34b*

#### 7. The Early Church accepted it with joy.

*“...and when all you owned was taken from you, you accepted it with joy. You knew there were better things waiting for you that will last forever.” -v. 34c*

*“For you knew you had a much more solid and lasting treasure in heaven” -Phillips*

*“...a better and enduring possession” - NKJV*

*“...because you knew you had something better, something that would last forever.” -CEV*

## B: Reasons “Why” from the Early Church – Hebrews 11:13-16

### Why Believe?

#### 1. They lived by a different standard.

**Hebrews 11:13, NIV** -<sup>13</sup> *All these people were still living by faith when they died. They did not receive the things promised; they only saw them and welcomed them from a distance. And they admitted that they were aliens and strangers on earth.*

#### 2. They died with a different hope.

**Hebrews 11:14–16, NLT** -<sup>14</sup> *Obviously people who say such things are looking forward to a country they can call their own.* <sup>15</sup> *If they had longed for the country they came from, they could have gone back.* <sup>16</sup> *But they were looking for a better place, a heavenly homeland.*

#### 3. They longed for a different reward.

**Hebrews 11:16, NASB** - *Therefore God is not ashamed to be called their God; for He has prepared a city for them.*