



Sunday, March 8, 2020
Pastor Keith Sova

Introduction to Habakkuk 2:4

Habakkuk is one of the most overlooked books in the Old Testament. Probably because it is short, hard to pronounce and in the Old Testament. However, this book is essential to our understanding of the Gospel. Paul quotes this book twice in his epistles and the author of Hebrews also quotes this book.

Habakkuk sees the coming judgment of God and declares that, “the righteous will live by faith.” Paul picks up on this and argues that it is by faith we avoid God’s wrath in the end times. The author of Hebrews argues that a life pleasing to God is lived by faith, in hope of things not seen.

Context

The book of Habakkuk was written towards the end of the existence of the nation of Israel. Before the Israelites entered into the Promised Land God warned them that if they were disobedient He would send other nations to destroy the people of Israel (Deuteronomy 28:49-50, 63-64). Once the people entered into the land this call to obedience was reiterated (Joshua 24:20). In his day Habakkuk complains that God is not a God of justice. In fact, “justice never prevails.” He worries that God simply does not care about evil. God reassures Habakkuk, He is sending the Babylonians to judge the wicked Israelites. The wickedness of the Israelites will be dealt with. Uncomforted by this Habakkuk again complains that God is not judging the Israelites appropriately. The Babylonians are even worse than the Israelites! How can God do such a thing. Fortunately for Habakkuk God answered. “The righteous shall live by faith.”

Read and Reflect *(Use this section to write down any thoughts you had on the sermon. Make sure to note any questions you had about something in the passage or in the sermon.)*

“The Righteous Will Live By Faith”

Read Habakkuk 2:1-4

Habakkuk 1:2-4 (1st Complaint)

- Injustice that God Tolerates
- Justice Never Prevails

Habakkuk 1:13 (2nd Complaint)

- How Will You Judge Us with a More Wicked People?

Habakkuk 2:2-4

- Who are the Righteous?
 - Contrasted with the Unrighteous (Puffed Up)
 - Violent/Greedy/Sexually Immoral/Arrogant (Romans 3:10)
 - People that God Approves
 - What does God Think
 - God Approves of Jesus
- What is their Faith Like?
 - Takes God at His Word (‘Amen’)
 - Waits Patiently for its Fulfillment (Hebrews 2:8)
- How Do they Live by Faith
 - Saved from Divine Wrath (Romans 1:16-18)
 - They Perseverance in Faithful Obedience (Hebrews 10:35-39)

The Righteous Will Live By Faith.

May that truth be inexpressibly sweet to you today.

Discuss

- 1) What does it mean to be righteous?
 - a. How do you live righteously/unrighteously?

- 2) What does it mean to live by faith?
 - a. What do you place your faith in?

- 3) Do you ever doubt God's righteousness like Habakkuk?
Why?

- 4) Why do you have faith in God?