

The Work of Faith Pt. 8

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, Wednesday, May 22, 2024

The Work of Faith Pt. 8

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

God's Astonishing Answer:

- I. Pay attention and you will see my work.
- II. Study the object of My work to learn more of My ways.
- III. Trust My Word to bring justice to all.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

- I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. Vv. 12-17**

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“Habakkuk has two alternatives now. ‘ He can allow his doubts to be either destructive or creative. **He can use his doubts, struggles, and agonizing questions to turn from God and to renounce his faith. Or he can keep his hold on God, trusting him for an answer.’”**

J. N. Boo Heflin in Waylon Bailey NAC Commentary

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

- I. Includes Examining the Object of Your Faith in Light of Current Circumstances. vv. 12-17
- II. Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Habakkuk “revealed a mature wisdom in his determination that this response be shaped by what God himself would say. **It is a wise man who takes his questions about God to God for the answers.**”

Carl E. Amerding *EBC*

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

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- II. Includes Preparation for a Response from God 2:1
- III. Includes Responding to His Word with Willing Obedience 2:2-3
 - A. Your obedience to God's Word affects other's faithfulness to God's Word both now and in the future.

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 - A. Your obedience to God's Word affects other's faithfulness to God's Word both now and in the future.
 - B. Your obedience includes waiting with expectancy and continued obedience.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“Behold, I am going to send My messenger, and he will clear the way before Me. **And the Lord, whom you seek, will suddenly come to His temple; and the messenger of the covenant, in whom you delight, behold, He is coming,**” says the LORD of hosts.

Malachi 3:1

FOR YET IN A VERY LITTLE WHILE, **HE WHO IS COMING WILL COME, AND WILL NOT DELAY.** 38 BUT MY RIGHTEOUS ONE SHALL LIVE BY FAITH; AND IF HE SHRINKS BACK, MY SOUL HAS NO PLEASURE IN HIM.

Hebrews 10:37–38

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

As to this salvation, **the prophets** who prophesied of the grace that would come to you **made careful searches and inquiries**, 11 seeking to know what person or time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He predicted the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow. 12 **It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you** through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven—things into which angels long to look.

1 Peter 1:10–12

The prophets had a clear assignment. What is our job in relationship to the work of preserving and heralding God's Word?

- Necessity to give gospel – don't mess with it
- 2 Cor. 5 – knowing fear of the Lord, we persuade men – 1 Cor. 1 – gospel goes against natural definition of life - think opposition from Jews (God – fearers) to Paul in Acts – we miss signs given to us of Gods mercy that cuts against our self sufficiency and pride
- Living life in way that shows impacted by the gospel
- Know words of gospel – and those beliefs are highly treasured because we live them
- Continue studying, living, giving word in face of opposition
- 2 Peter 1 - if these qualities not yours and increasing... useless and unfruitful – watch stale truth
- 1 Tim 3 – know how to conduct self in house of God... pillar of truth

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

You are our letter, written in our hearts, known and read by all men; 3 being manifested that **you are a letter of Christ, cared for by us, written not with ink but with the Spirit of the living God**, not on tablets of stone but **on tablets of human hearts**.

2 Corinthians 3:2–3

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For the **word of the Lord has sounded forth from you**, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything. 9 For they themselves report about us **what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God, 10 and to wait for His Son from heaven**, whom He raised from the dead, that is Jesus, who rescues us from the wrath to come.

1 Thessalonians 1:8–10

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- IV. Perseveres Based on the Gaze of the Soul. 2:4-5

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 - A. The Proud One

What bothers us about people we think are proud?

- They are neglecting the rest
- If they have something to be proud of, their pride overshadows their gift/ability
- Perhaps highlights pride in our life seen by jealousy or inferiority
- We/others have done similar without drawing attention to it
- Self-centered shows by lifting up areas to neglect of work in others
- Something “showy” often fool to get what they want
- Struggle with identity & worth when their pride lifts them above us
- So focused on self that not focused on others (suspicious when they do seem to noticed others)
- Walls in relationship because different agendas (definitely at least one not leading toward God)
- Psalm 12:15 by “knowing all” shows ignorance

Though we admit we need more humility, why is it easy to recoil at being called proud?

- Because we are proud & don't want to be humbled; darkness doesn't want exposure
John 3, Eph 5
- Because I already know & I'm fighting it and you obviously are not acknowledging my great fight to be humbled
- I have right to be proud this is what I'm good at
- Much of identity tied w/ our abilities so nothing left if that attacked
- Desire for some reward for effort & for beauty/accomplishment
- Because only certain ones can call us proud
- To re-orient from proud to humble feels like dying – pride do not want to be governed, now under scrutiny
- Because we think our freedom is being questioned or curtailed
- Because feels like it negates work of humility that preceded

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The Work of Faith Pt. 8 Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

If we would heed the message and continue with Habakkuk in the work of faith in God, **what subtle roots of “the proud one” must we identify, confess, and eradicate?**

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified. 3 I was with you in weakness and in fear and in much trembling, 4 and my message and my preaching were not in persuasive words of wisdom, but in demonstration of the Spirit and of power, 5 so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but on the power of God.

1 Corinthians 2:2–5

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

And He also told this parable **to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt:** 10 “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. 11 “The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, **I thank You that I am not like other people:** swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector. 12 **‘I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’** 13 “But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, **‘God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’** 14 **“I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other;** for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be exalted.” Luke 18:9–14

New American Standard Bible : 1995 update. 1995. LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation.

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“All, then, who indulge themselves in their own counsels, deserve to be forsaken by God, and to be left by him to be driven up and down, and here and there, by Satan; for the only unfailing security for the faithful is to acquiesce in God’s word.”

John Calvin

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A mature faith is one that both sees the issues at hand and yet remains steadfast, living in light of God’s providence.