

# The Work of Faith Pt. 13

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5, Wednesday, July 3, 2024

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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
- III. Includes Responding to His Word with Willing Obedience 2:2-3

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- IV. Perseveres Based on the Gaze of the Soul. 2:4-5
  - A. The Proud One

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“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. The Proud One
  - B. The Righteous One
    1. Lives by faith

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“...important part of the verse has only three words: “the justified man” (Who is he? What is justification?), ‘by his faith’ (What is faith? How does it function?), and ‘will live’ (What is the Christian life? How does one live before God?). **Romans is our commentary on the justified man. Hebrews is our commentary on faith. Galatians is our commentary on the Christian life.**” James Boice

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**For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God, you may receive what was promised.** 37 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.** 39 **But we are not of those who shrink back to destruction, but of those who have faith to the preserving of the soul.**

Hebrews 10:36–39

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**The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.**

**Psalm 145:17**

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**The LORD is righteous in all His ways And kind in all His deeds.**

Psalm 145:17

When you KNOW your SOUL is not righteous because what comes to the surface is not righteous, **you must look to the God of righteousness not only to continue but FOR the righteousness needed to continue.**

# The Work of Faith Pt. 13

Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, **“BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**

Romans 1:17

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

But now apart from the Law the righteousness of God has been manifested, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, 22 even the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all those who believe; for there is no distinction; 23 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, 24 being justified as a gift by His grace through the redemption which is in Christ Jesus; 25 whom God displayed publicly as a propitiation in His blood through faith. **This was to demonstrate His righteousness**, because in the forbearance of God He passed over the sins previously committed; 26 for the demonstration, I say, of His righteousness at the present time, **so that He would be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.**

Romans 3:21–26

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

What then shall we say that Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh, has found? **2 For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God.** 3 For what does the Scripture say? **“ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS CREDITED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS.”** 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not credited as a favor, but as what is due. 5 **But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness,**

Romans 4:1–5

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**“that faith which strips us of all arrogance, and leads us naked and needy to God, that we may seek salvation from him alone, which would otherwise be far removed from us”**

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

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**Man is very apt to rest and dote upon his own worth and to build all his acceptance with God upon it—to come to God and challenge him for a debt, as the Pharisee did.** It is very natural to rest in those duties and make them an excuse for other things.

Thomas Manton, A Practical Exposition of the Lord's Prayer



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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

**So then those who are of faith are blessed with Abraham, the believer.**

10 For as many as are of the works of the Law are under a curse; for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO DOES NOT ABIDE BY ALL THINGS WRITTEN IN THE BOOK OF THE LAW, TO PERFORM THEM.”

**11 Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, “THE RIGHTEOUS MAN SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”**

12 However, the Law is not of faith; on the contrary, “HE WHO PRACTICES THEM SHALL LIVE BY THEM.” 13 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us—for it is written, “CURSED IS EVERYONE WHO HANGS ON A TREE”—

**14 in order that in Christ Jesus the blessing of Abraham might come to the Gentiles, so that we would receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.**

Galatians 3:9–14

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## Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Then he **believed in the LORD**; and He reckoned it to him as **righteousness**.

Genesis 15:6

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Then he believed in the LORD; and He reckoned it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6

**Was not Abraham our father justified by works when he offered up Isaac his son on the altar? 22 You see that faith was working with his works, and as a result of the works, faith was perfected; 23** and the Scripture was fulfilled which says, **“AND ABRAHAM BELIEVED GOD, AND IT WAS RECKONED TO HIM AS RIGHTEOUSNESS,”** and he was called the friend of God. **24 You see that a man is justified by works and not by faith alone.**

James 2:21–24

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James 2:21–24

“Faith involves waiting for fulfillment and thus is always in danger of being shaken; therefore, steadiness and constancy are of its essence.”

Commentary on NT Use of OT

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“The righteous are also those whose lives correspond to God’s leadership. The righteous are not perfect, but they do live according to their relationship with God. To be righteous means to meet the demands of a relationship.” Waylon Bailey

## What does this mean? How does this change the focus of our faith in God? What hope does this give us?

- **“The righteous are also those whose lives correspond to God’s leadership. The righteous are not perfect, but they do live according to their relationship with God. To be righteous means to meet the demands of a relationship.” Waylon Bailey**
- Do what pleases because you believe/ love/ trust--this is a sign that you believe
- How you handle people shows how you are responding to His leadership, which shows how you view Him as your leader.
- Lifestyle of following/of belonging (Colossians 1: 20 – 22)
- Eternal relationship so grow in understanding what relationship with Him entails (i.e. In marriage)
- Hope in persevering in relationship with God if we just respond to the demands of a relationship with God.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

**Do this**, knowing the time, that it is already the hour for you to awaken from sleep; **for now salvation is nearer to us than when we believed.**

12 The night is almost gone, and the day is near. **Therefore let us lay aside the deeds of darkness and put on the armor of light.** 13 Let us behave properly as in the day, not in carousing and drunkenness, not in sexual promiscuity and sensuality, not in strife and jealousy. 14 **But put on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make no provision for the flesh in regard to its lusts.**

Romans 13:11–14

## Where do these passages focus our faith?

- Living (now) relationship with God.
- Hope is in the future; full deliverance is in the future – This brings hope NOW to live under demands of relationship with Him
- Stop focusing on who you “used to be”
- Don’t rest on fruits of resting on Christ with righteousness which gives us firm standing



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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

and **may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,**

Philippians 3:9

## How should this focus on faith in Habakkuk and its ramifications for understanding faith needed for salvation change our focus in evangelism—how we give the gospel?

- Make much of grace of God so that focus is God, not on our decision (i.e. I go to church because I love my grandpa; or I found help, friends)
- Treasure of Christ to believer
- Speaking against the centrality of works for approval - works are response to the greatness of God
- We all trust in something
- We must see the greatness of God behind the mundane
- Intentional life on display
- Content --- trust in more than you can see, leads to definite action/ response that continues regardless of circumstances
- Does our faith lived out included calling others to faith in the righteous God who justifies
- In order to make God attractive, often give Him as the source of meeting the “good things” they desire true faith in God will continue without those “good things”
- True biblical faith brings freedom because don't have to strive to be “good enough” for God
- Point them to One good enough to bring us to God
- Think carefully about where hope and comfort comes from in conversation

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and **may be found in Him, not having a righteousness of my own derived from the Law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which comes from God on the basis of faith,**

Philippians 3:9

“I have been crucified with Christ; and **it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God,** who loved me and gave Himself up for me.

Galatians 2:20

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

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“Faith in God was the key to consistent living, even though violence abounded and justice was perverted (1:2-4). That short statement helps believers to persevere even though God chastens them 1:5-11 and they cannot understand His ways (1:12-17). It provides a solution to the doubt they sometimes feel in His all-wise providence (2:1-3), and helps them to understand his righteous judgments (2:4-20). In the final analysis, faith provides the key to understanding the Lord’s sovereign purpose, and it leads men to worship (3:1-19).” Waylon Bailey

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

“The righteous person is the one who maintains loyalty to God in spite of all discouragement and continues to trust in him even when the outlook is most unpromising (as it was for Habakkuk).

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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.

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Habakkuk 1:12-2:5

Therefore, **since we have a great high priest** who has passed through the heavens, **Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession.** 15 For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. **16 Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.**

Hebrews 4:14–16



# Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

Habakkuk 2:6-8, Wednesday, July 3, 2024

# Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

## Habakkuk 2:6-8

“But it shall come about, **if you do not obey the LORD your God, to observe to do all His commandments and His statutes with which I charge you today**, that all these curses will come upon you and overtake you: 36 “The LORD will bring you and your king, whom you set over you, to a nation which neither you nor your fathers have known, and there you shall serve other gods, wood and stone. **37 “You shall become a horror, a proverb, and a taunt among all the people where the LORD drives you.**

Deuteronomy 28:15, 36-37

# Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

## Habakkuk 2:6-8

**“But if you or your sons indeed turn away from following Me, and do not keep My commandments and My statutes which I have set before you, and go and serve other gods and worship them, 7** then I will cut off Israel from the land which I have given them, and the house which I have consecrated for My name, I will cast out of My sight. **So Israel will become a proverb and a byword among all peoples.**

1 Kings 9:6–7

Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt Habakkuk 2:6-8

**What is the heart of this crime? Where does it creep into our lives?**

# Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

## Habakkuk 2:6-8

He who increases his wealth by interest and usury Gathers it for him who is gracious to the poor.

Proverbs 28:8

He who oppresses the poor to make more for himself Or who gives to the rich, will only come to poverty.

Proverbs 22:16

Wealth obtained by fraud dwindles, But the one who gathers by labor increases it.

Proverbs 13:11

# Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

## Habakkuk 2:6-8

Therefore his calamity will come suddenly; Instantly he will be broken and there will be no healing.

Proverbs 6:15

A man who hardens his neck after much reproof Will suddenly be broken beyond remedy.

Proverbs 29:1

# Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

## Habakkuk 2:6-8

**I. Don't Be Like Babylon. Don't Gain at Another's Expense.**

# Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt

## Habakkuk 2:6-8

“Though everyone says this as to others, yet no one as to himself. Let us therefore take heed that, when we reprove injustice in others, we come without delay to ourselves, and be impartial judges. Self-love so blinds us, that we seek to absolve ourselves from that fault which we freely condemn in others. **In general things men are always more correct in their judgment, that is, in matters in which they themselves are not concerned; but as soon as they come to themselves, they become blind, and all rectitude vanishes, and all judgment is gone.**” “Had they been contented with some moderate portion, **they might have lived cheerfully and happily, as we see to be the case with all the godly; who though they possess but little, are yet cheerful, for they live in hope, and know that their supplies are in God's hand, and expect everything from his blessing.** Hence then, their cheerfulness, because they have no anxious fears. **But they who inebriate themselves with riches, find that they carry a useless burden, under which they lie down, as it were, sunk and buried.**” John Calvin



Lessons from Wisdom's Taunt Habakkuk 2:6-8

**What sobers you as you hear this proverb/taunt against Babylon?**