

The Righteous Shall Live By His Faith

Habakkuk 2:2-3 And the Lord answered me: "write the vision; make it plain on tablets, so he may run who reads it. For still the vision awaits its appointed time; it hastens to the end--it will not lie. If it seems slow, wait for it; it will surely come; it will not delay."

→ As Habakkuk has waited for the Lord, He receives an answer and provides a two fold-answer: Habakkuk is to be kingdom minded and not culture minded;

→ The vision Habakkuk receives is one that is not only based on the inevitable discipline of God's people at the hand of the Chaldeans, but also a message that must be proclaimed--not just to the current generation, but to all generations that are to come;

→ In other words, the vision was not only to communicate what is going to happen, but of who is to eventually come;

→ Habakkuk receives an admonishment: do not run away from the message, rather he must run with the message and proclaim it;

→ The vision is a reminder that everything happens in God's time not our time; we wait for the day where our faith turns into sight; for God's kingdom to come and His will to be done; a day where fools are no longer winning and worshippers are not longer weeping;

Habakkuk 2:4-5 "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith."

"Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples."

→ The position of pride and self-reliance excludes the proud from the possibility of finding righteousness outside of himself; the proud cannot live and their pride is an indicator of their judgement;

→ The Righteous Shall Live By His Faith:

::The Righteous (How does one become righteous? What is righteousness?):::

- *"For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith for faith, as it is written, "The righteous shall live by faith." (Romans 1:17)*

- Righteous or justified, here, implies our legal standing before God; how does God accept us;

- The Bible teaches that we are made righteous not by our works, but because of the works of Jesus Christ; righteousness is God's gift to the sinner through the work and life of Jesus;

- The doctrine of justification teaches that we are accepted by God on the condition of faith alone; our acceptance from God is not based on our works or merit;

::Shall Live (We Are Made Alive in Christ)::

- *"For all who rely on works of the law are under a curse; for it is written, 'Cursed be everyone who does not abide by all things written in the Book of the Law, and do them.' No it is evident that no one is justified before God by the law, for 'The righteous shall live by faith.'" (Galatians 3:10-11)*

- Paul is addressing those (Galatians) who believe that their performance gives them a standing before God; his argument here is that through faith in Christ, we are made alive and our salvation is not one of achieving but receiving; what you do is a result of who you are.

- "The hypocritical doers of the law are those who seek to obtain a righteousness by a mechanical performance of good works while their hearts are far removed from God. They act like the foolish carpenter who starts with the roof when he builds a house." (Martin Luther)

::By His Faith (We Are To Endure)::

- *For you have need of endurance, so that when you have done the will of God you may receive what is promised. For, "Yet a little while, and the coming one will come and will not delay; but righteous one shall live by faith, and if he shrinks back, my soul has no pleasure in him." But we are not of those who shrink back and are destroyed, but of those who have faith and preserve their souls. (Hebrews 10:36-39)*

- We endure (grow in steadfastness) not by asking God to change our circumstance, but by asking Him to change us; our hope is not found in what is before us, but in what is to come;

- Our endurance, maturity, and possession of faith must be of the same source