

Crossroads Baptist Church
September 9, 2007 10:00
Habakkuk 2:4
Habakkuk Series #5

“Pride vs Faith; Me vs God”

Habakkuk 2:4 is the crux of the book of Habakkuk and the life of Habakkuk. As I said in the first message of this series, this is the key point of the book and the theme of the book. This is what moved Habakkuk from wrestling to worshiping, from sighing to singing; from fear to faith.

That is not just true for Habakkuk, its true for the entire sixty-six books of the Bible.

This is one of the most important verses in all of God’s Word.

This single verse describes two very different people. It is the same two kind of people that makes up every home; every office; every church. Spiritually, you are either saved or lost; you are either trusting in yourself or God.

It is the dividing line of everyone in this church this morning. It is the dividing line of everyone in the world.

The two kinds of people are those who are puffed up, those who are proud, those who are upright in themselves; those who are self-sufficient; those who trust in themselves to save themselves; they don’t need God; they don’t need anybody; they can make it; they are righteous in themselves.

This is the first kind of person. They can even be very religious. They may go to church. They may be full-time Christian workers. They are proud of how much of the Bible they know; how much they pray; how much they have done in church; what positions they hold; how much they can sing. They are “puffed up, proud.”

People will even say, “But I’m doing the best I can. I’m trying so hard. That’s not proud.” Yes it is. It’s pride that says I can do this. I can’t do anything to gain my salvation.

The other kind of person here is one of faith. They have nothing of any value to offer God because they are poor in spirit. They are sinful people; they realize who they are. They rely entirely on God. They know that God alone can save them. They realize how pitiful of an offering they are and they have nothing to offer God; so they accept His gift with graciousness and humility.

That’s why this verse is translated “The righteous shall live by their faithfulness. Its what they are really relying on – a faith that is lived out in obedience and faithfulness.

We come into right relationship with God by faith and faith alone. Adding nothing. No works. No other creed.

This is the simplicity of the Christian life.

Live in dependence on God.

II Corinthians 1: 9 “We had the sentence of death in ourselves, that we should not trust in ourselves but in God who raises the dead.”

Are we going to trust in ourselves or God?

Proverbs 3: 5 “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding;”

Romans 14:23 “For whatever is not from faith is sin.”

Hebrews 11:6 “without faith, it is impossible to please God.” He did not say, that it was impossible to please God unless you went to church; or gave, but had faith.

I Corinthians 13:13 “And now abideth faith, hope and love...” Faith is simply living in dependence on God and they will continue through Heaven.

So the one who lives now in complete dependence on God will be happier, stronger, and more at rest than anyone else.

Habakkuk is losing his mind trying to figure out what God is doing and has been mad at God; but now he stops talking and realizes that he doesn’t have to “understand God, but trust Him.”

If you can see the end, know the outcome, have all the answers to your questions; then why do you need faith? You don’t. So, what had you rather have; understanding of everything going in your life right now or God?

From this point on, one begins to rest his arguments, his mind, his heart, his life, his future and his own faith – in God.

Conclusion:

It was Martin Luther who finally believed this and was saved. He was a theologian with an earned doctorate of theology. He did his best to feel approved to God. He would confess his sins until he was told of the priest, "Quit coming back here until you find some serious sin to confess."

On a pilgrimage to Rome, inside the church of St. John there was a stairway that was believed and taught that they were the steps Jesus walked up to face Pontius Pilate. These stairs had pieces of glass embedded in the stairway marking the places where the drops of blood had fallen from Jesus' body. So the pilgrims would come, climb the stairs, beat themselves with whips and kissing each piece of glass to try and earn God's favor.

It was while he was on his knees that the Spirit brought to his mind this verse; "The righteous shall live by his faith." The light began to come on and he began to understand. He was later converted. He was later made righteous by faith alone. Luther said of that moment, "Then I felt born again like a new man; I entered through the open doors into the very paradise of God."

The situation is that Jesus has already walked those steps; he already has gone to Calvary; he has died on the cross; he has paid the price for our sin.

Maybe today you come to understand that you don't have to climb the steps; you don't have to attend church to gain favor with God; you don't have to be good to get good for God.

Simply repent or turn from yourself and turn to the only one who can save you – God.

One question that will also haunt you is 'when have I done enough?' And Satan will always say, "A little more." But with Christ, it is already done and completed. Trust Him.