

SERMON FOR September 4, 2016

TEXT: HABAKKUK (selected portions)

TITLE: "FACING THE FACTS"

**"WHY DOES EVIL AND FEAR REIGN SUPREME IN OUR
WORLD?" NO SANE ANSWER, NO REASONABLE SOLUTION
APPEARS TO BE IN SIGHT FOR US.**

1. "GOD, WE GOT US A PROBLEM!" (Habakkuk's Complaint)

**HABAKKUK & THE STATUS OF JUDAH – NO JUSTICE,
RAMPANT WRONGDOING.**

**The LORD's Answer : "I'M GOING TO USE THE BABYLONIANS
TO CHASTISE MY PEOPLE. " (HAB. 1:6-11)**

HABAKKUK'S RESPONSE:

**1. Your eyes are too pure to look on evil;
you cannot tolerate wrongdoing.
Why then do you tolerate the treacherous?
Why are you silent while the wicked
swallow up those more righteous than themselves?**

**HABAKKUK DIDN'T UNDERSTAND GOD'S METHODS (NOR DO
WE! IN OUR OWN LIVES, DON'T WE TRY TO TELL GOD THE
BEST WAY TO DO THINGS?**

Isaiah 55:8-9 (NIV)

8

“For my thoughts are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,”
declares the Lord.

9

“As the heavens are higher than the earth,
so are my ways higher than your ways
and my thoughts than your thoughts.”

The LORD's 2ND Answer

2:2 Then the LORD replied: “Write down the revelation and make it plain on tablets so that a herald may run with it. **3 For the revelation awaits an appointed time; it speaks of the end and will not prove false. Though it linger, wait for it; it will certainly come and will not delay.**

4 “See, the enemy is puffed up; his desires are not upright — **but the righteous person will live by his faithfulness** —

THIS IS ONE OF THE GREAT DOCTRINES OF GOD'S WORD:

REMEMBER GOD'S DEFINITION OF FAITH, HEBREWS 11:1?

“NOW FAITH IS THE ASSURANCE OF THINGS HOPED FOR, THE CONVCTIONS OF THINGS NOT SEEN.” (NASB)

“NOW FAITH IS BEING SURE OF WHAT WE HOPE FOR AND CERTAIN OF WHAT WE DO NOT SEE.” (NIV)

HABAKKUK DOESN'T UNDERSTAND GOD'S METHODS, BUT HE
KNOWS THAT HE CAN TRUST HIM TO “DO THE RIGHT THING”,
BECAUSE.... HE'S GOD! HE RESPONDS WITH WORDS OF

FAITH:

3:17 Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines,
though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no

sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, **18** yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will **be joyful in God my Savior. 19** The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.

OUR SOCIETY WANTS INSTANT ANSWERS, “QUICK FIXES”

BUT GOD DOESN'T WORK THAT WAY.

HEBREWS 10:23: “*Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful.*”

HEBREWS 11:6: “*And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe that He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him.*”

**“WHY DOES EVIL AND FEAR REIGN SUPREME IN OUR
WORLD?” BECAUSE GOD HAS NOT YET COME TO MAKE THE
FINAL JUDGMENT. BUT WHEN HE DOES, ALL WRONGS WILL
BE RIGHTED AND PERFECT JUSTICE WILL BE DONE IN EVERY
CASE.**

THE CURE FOR OUR FEAR IS OUR CONTINUING

FAITHFULNESS TO GOD.

**EVIL AND INJUSTICE ARE NOT FOREVER; WHEREAS GOD'S
PROMISES ARE!!!**