

At the start of the Reformation of the Church in Scotland in 1557, John Knox wrote to his congregation before going into exile and said,

“You are bishops and kings; your wife, children, servants, and family are your bishopric and charge. Of you it shall be required how carefully and diligently you have instructed them in God’s true knowledge . . .

And therefore I say, you must make them partakers in, exhorting, and in making common prayers, which I would in every house were used once a day at least.”

Let’s Worship God

24th-29th November 2014
Habakkuk



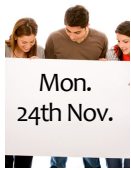
Let's Worship God is a ministry of



Airdrie Reformed Presbyterian Church

airdrierpcs.org, 01236 620107
Part of the RFCS - rpcscotland.org

Family worship, a joy to be experienced every day!



Mon.
24th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

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

reading notes

Habakkuk 1:12- 2:4 - God Does Not Change

After hearing the announcement of judgement Habakkuk is perplexed. How can an evil nation be allowed to ravage Judah? Habakkuk lifts up his soul and goes straight to God - he fixes his heart on who God is. Though he is perplexed about the coming Babylonian attack, he reminds himself that God has a covenant bond with His people that is the back-drop to all He is doing. This is faith - he focuses on God being 'everlasting' 'the Holy One' - so He does not change His covenant love, and because He is holy He will always do what is truly good. Habakkuk questions how an ungodly nation like Babylon can be allowed to succeed by God (v12). But he knows God is good, holy, and wise - so though he does not understand, he knows God cannot be wrong. When circumstances look perplexing and difficult, it is helpful to look first at God's character, not the circumstances. God is holy, perfect, and wise. Once we have that in our heart- we will view the circumstances differently. Take Joseph as an example. If he had weighed his life up based on the circumstances he would have been completely despondent! Yet he dwelt first upon the character of God, and then looked at his circumstances. This is exactly what Habakkuk is doing, he is glorifying God's character first, before he says anything else!

Habakkuk then comforts himself in thinking of the purity of God, that He will not suffer iniquity to be left undealt with. He may use the ungodly and allow them to flourish for a while, but He will deal with ungodliness at a later time. He will not ignore the lifestyle of the Babylonians!

questions

1. What does Habakkuk remind himself about God?
2. Why should we focus on God instead of our circumstances?

praise pray

Ps. 80:all

1. Pray that we would keep our focus on God.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Linda.
4. Pray for family matters.



Sat.
29th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

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

reading

Habakkuk 2: 5-20 - The Proud

notes

As Christians we should not live for the pleasures of this world, or set our nest on high and glory in our homes or finances. We ought not to advertise ourselves saying 'look at me- am I not wonderful'. That is the proud, and it shall all be cast down by Christ. The awful thing is that God says the proud are actually sinning against their own souls in this, it actually damages the soul and corrodes it (vs 10). If we live without God, feasting on the things of the world, which the devil controls, we will destroy our own soul - with sensuality, drunkenness, entertainment. Man does not live by bread alone 'but by every word which proceeds from the mouth of God'.

This, according to Habakkuk, is all vanity and a waste of life (v13-14) - it is a life that labours and wearies itself in vain- because none of it will last. What really matters is that soon the ends the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea (vs14) - and that alone is worth living for. If we build our house on the sand of the world and a material life, at the end of time our house will crash down; if we build on the rock, on Christ's word and take up our cross for His sake-when the earth is filled with the glory of the Lord we will be given an inheritance there. The proud and the just could not be more different!

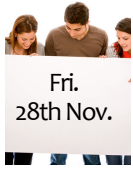
questions

1. What should we build our lives on?
2. What happens if we build our lives on the things of the world?

praise pray

Ps. 84A:1-6

1. Pray for the preaching and hearing of God's Word tomorrow.
2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
3. Give thanks for Philip, Marianne, Lydia, Esther, and Philip Ross.
4. Pray for family matters.



Fri.
28th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

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

reading notes

Habakkuk 2: 5-20 - Woes to the Proud

Once God shows how the faithful will be kept by Him through the judgement, He shows us then what the fate of the 'proud' is. To be proud is to think you are right in yourself. Unfortunately as Christians we can often feel and act that way ourselves, and the Lord has to correct it!

The proud are summed up by God and five woes are announced against them. God says the proud are:

- Controlled by extravagance and sensuality, especially with wine v 5, 15
 - They are covetous and greedy, they do not stay at home but love to go far and wide consuming as much as they can, heaping up more wealth v 5-8
 - They want to bring attention to themselves, and have security in this life "that he may set his nest on high" v 9.
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questions

1. What will happen to the proud?
2. What are characteristics of the proud?

praise pray

- Ps. 83:7-11
1. Pray that you would not be proud.
 2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
 3. Give thanks for George and Janette Rodger.
 4. Pray for family matters.



Tue.
25th Nov.

Let's Worship God

Verse To Learn

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

reading

Habakkuk 1:13-17 - The Righteous Are Afflicted

notes

Habakkuk then compares the ungodly power to men fishing, which he must have been familiar with. He feels the Babylonians would think no more of killing his countrymen than someone would of easily pulling fish out of the sea. He envisions the Chaldean army coming and asks if God will allow them to easily gather up men in a net like fishermen and keep coming back for more! How can God hold His tongue when the ungodly are surrounding the righteous? What about faithful men like Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, Azariah, Jeremiah, Baruch, and Ezekiel? They were all young when the Babylonians came and invaded. Will God allow the Babylonians to attack, without considering them?

This has happened through history; God's people have been pursued and stricken. The biography of the redeemed is Hebrew 11! There they were in the caves and dens of the earth, in goatskins, in great afflictions. They have had to take up their cross and follow Christ outside the camp! In the relative comfort of the modern United Kingdom, we have been left untouched by such trials. But even less than 100 years ago, armies went throughout Europe, and the truths of eternity, life, death, true evil, and the urgency of the Gospel were better understood. Those events seem unthinkable now, but we have no reason to think so. Christians, in less Christianised countries, are regularly arrested in the middle of the night, attacked, their churches bulldozed to the ground, disowned or even killed by parents. Habbakuk asks the Lord of wisdom and mercy- how can this be? How can the wicked prosper?

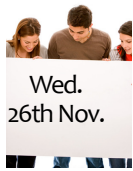
He prays and leaves the matter with God, waiting for an answer.

questions

1. Why are the Babylonians like fishermen?
2. What does Habakkuk ask God?

praise pray

- Ps. 81:all
1. Pray for Christians being persecuted in other countries.
 2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
 3. Give thanks for Betty Reilly.
 4. Pray for family matters.



Wed.
26th Nov.

Let's Worship God

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

reading Habakkuk 2:1-4 - God's Answer Always Necessary

notes Habakkuk's natural questions will receive an answer. Will the brutality of the enemy go on forever? He voices his perplexities and expects God to speak and even correct him. This shows us that in confusion, it is best to spread the matter out before God, hoping even that He will correct our perplexing thoughts. Habakkuk also takes the right position by not attempting to resolve everything in his own mind; but asks for the mind of God instead! 'I will stand my watch, set myself on the rampart, and watch to see what He will say to me'. This is vibrant faith!

When things are confusing, and we see much in our own heart and circumstances which seem out of control, and even seem a contradiction to the grace of God, we need God to speak into the confusion. We automatically want to weigh up the details, the what if's, the why's, we want to connect all the parts together to try to make sense of it all - but our minds are overcome by this. God sees the end from the beginning, He sees all eventualities, He sees all people in the world at once with their thoughts, hearts, decisions: we cannot see any of that in any extent. We soon realise in difficulty we barely understand our own emotions and thoughts. Like the prophet, if we cry out with our whole heart for God to un-tangle all of this, He will speak. God made our hearts, and He can un-tangle it all.

Habakkuk waits for God then to speak, and compares himself to a man on a tower watching for a messenger. It is as important to watch for answers to prayer as it is to pray itself! Why speak to someone and then not listen for their response? If we pray to the Lord we are to stand on the tower like Habakkuk and wait for Him to answer! Being on the tower gives the idea of being high up, eagerly looking at the horizon for a signal. He will answer in the Word, in the Spirit, in His governing providence.

questions

1. How is Habakkuk like a man waiting for a messenger?

**praise
pray**

- Ps. 82:all
1. Pray that we would look for God's answers to our prayers.
 2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
 3. Give thanks for Karen Reyburn.
 4. Pray for family matters.



Thur.
27th Nov.

Let's Worship God

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

reading Habakkuk 2:2-4 - A Vision of Hope

notes The Lord's response to the prophet's questions comes in the form of a vision, which the Prophet is to write down for future generations. How can God fulfil His loving promises to Israel when they are just about to be devastated? God tells him to get ready to write down the beautiful solution to this, to write it plainly so it can be easily read, and easily proclaimed by messengers which are to 'run' with it. God is about to sum up the whole of His word in a short saying - and it is this: "Behold, his soul is puffed up; it is not upright within him, but the righteous shall live by his faith." (vs 4)

This means that when the judgement or difficulty comes, the 'just' will be carried through it by God - because they really have faith. Faith is what separates the just from the unjust. The believers in Judah will continue in loving obedience to the Lord, prayerful, expectant, and right with Him - even if carried to Babylon. Others may abandon God, blame God, saying they did enough works for God so that this should not happen to them. The faithful however carry what God has given them and humbly embrace His sovereignty. Is that you? Having faith that God is doing what is perfect and right for the glory of His name, and for your own ultimate salvation! Abraham had faith God would provide him a son, Joseph had faith that God continued to love him in Egypt - so whether Jew or Gentile - Christians (the justified) have always lived by faith. God tells Habakkuk that in Judah there are the 'proud', and the 'just' who shall live by faith, so they have hope in God. This saying is so important it is quoted in Hebrews 10:38 & Romans 1:17 to show that it is faith in Christ which makes us right before God, not anything else. Habakkuk says the proud, on the other hand, will eventually be cast down by God.

questions

1. What makes a person just ?
2. How does a just person live - through works or faith?

**praise
pray**

- Ps. 83:1-6
1. Give thanks that we are saved by faith and not works.
 2. Pray from one of the prayer points in In The Pew.
 3. Give thanks for Fraser and Stacy Ridley.
 4. Pray for family matters.