

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Habakkuk 3:16-19.**
- B. Tonight's lesson is a simple one. I want to briefly introduce the Habakkuk, read some of its passages, and then draw some concluding lessons.
- C. We know very little about the man, Habakkuk, his family or occupation. He is contemporary with Jeremiah, and preached just before the Babylonian captivity of Judah.
- D. In his short book, the chapters break down into a clear outline.

## I. CHAPTER ONE: WATCH AND SEE.

- A. Habakkuk begins the book by talking to God. This is much different than other prophetic books when it is God speaking to the prophet.
- B. Habakkuk has two questions:
  - 1. Why does God tolerate evil (1:2-4)?
  - 2. How can God use ungodly Chaldea (the Babylonians) to punish Judah (1:12-2:1)?
- C. Notice how the description of Judah in 1:3,4 is very similar to our society today.
- D. God's answer to the first question:
  - 1. "Look...! Observe! Be astonished! Wonder!"
  - 2. "I am doing something" or "I am working a work" (1:5-11).
- E. Then in 1:12-2:1, Habakkuk doesn't understand God's answer and asks another question.
- F. Our lesson: learn to trust God's providence in working all things out, and working all things together for good (Rom. 8:28).

## II. CHAPTER TWO: STAND AND SEE.

- A. Habakkuk decides to stand watch and wait for God's answer to his second question (2:1).
- B. God answers the second question:
  - 1. God judge unfaithful Judah, but Chaldea also!
  - 2. God condemns the problem of pride (see 2:2-5).
  - 3. God pronounces five woes against the Babylonians:
    - a. Woe upon... the lust for conquest (see 2:6-8).
    - b. Woe upon... covetousness (see 2:9-11).
    - c. Woe upon... the building of cities with blood (see 2:12-14).
    - d. Woe upon... intoxication and violence (see 2:15-17).
    - e. Woe upon... idolatry (see 2:18-20).
- C. Our lesson: We must allow God to work out His vengeance on His enemies (Rom. 12:19).

## III. CHAPTER THREE: KNEEL AND SEE.

- A. Habakkuk has been answered and he will know, in faith, patiently wait for God to do His will.
- B. The prophet asks for mercy in the midst of judgment (3:2); we should too.
- C. Habakkuk now lists several reasons why we should trust Him:
  - 1. God has great splendor and radiance (see 3:3-4).
  - 2. God commands all things, even disaster (see 3:5).
  - 3. God is in control of the entire planet, nothing escapes Him (see 3:6).
  - 4. God rules the forces of nature for His own pleasure or judgment (see 3:7-10).
  - 5. God controls the heavens as well (see 3:11).
  - 6. God wrath is thorough and complete (see 3:12-15).
- D. Then, in a beautiful closing statement, Habakkuk, who might have had a lack of faith in the beginnings of the book, is now full of faith in God (see 3:16-19). HALLELUJAH ANYWAY!

- E. Our lesson: We must learn to be trusting with God.

### **CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.**

- A. Habakkuk: watch and see, stand and see, kneel and see.
- B. Here are some practical lessons from the book of Habakkuk:
  - 1. In every crisis God can be trusted.
  - 2. We can see the glory of God when we rise above the fog of human doubt.
  - 3. Religious is not to have all the answers, but to have all faith and trust in God.
  - 4. When in doubt, God asks us to turn to Him, to wait, and to trust His answer.
- B. Habakkuk is a lesson in doubt, hope, and trust.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring-Xians.