

I. Introduction.

II. The LORD speaks to you with authority. 2:2-3

- A. God's Word is perfect and certain – *sola scriptura*. v. 2
 - 1. We have infallible revelation from God. v. 2a II Pe. 1:20-21 II Ti. 3:16 Jo. 10:35
 - 2. God makes Himself clear. v. 2b
 - 3. God's Word is meant to be widely known and remembered. v. 2c Isa. 30:8 8:1f Dt. 27:8 Mt. 10:27 Ex. 17:14 24:12 Jer. 30:2 Rev. 1:19 1 Tim. 3:15 1 Co. 10:11
- B. God's timing is perfect. v. 3 Isa. 55:8-9 26:13 Dan. 11:35 8:17,19 9:19 Ga.4:4 Num. 23:19 Deut. 7:10
- C. In the meantime, patiently wait on the LORD to fulfill His promises. v. 3c Da. 12:12 Isa. 64:4 40:31 Ps. 27:14 33:20
 - 1. The Jews in exile had to wait for the crushing defeat of Babylon by the Medes and Persians in 539 B.C. 2:6-20 Dan. 5:1ff
 - 2. God's people had to wait many centuries for the Messiah's advent. Ga. 4:4
 - 3. We have to wait patiently for the return of Christ and the final judgment of the wicked. Heb. 10:32-29 Rev. 18:2 21:4 Rom. 8:18 2 Co. 4:17ff 2 Pet. 3:3-9

III. Those who are arrogant will die in their unbelief. v. 4ab,5

- A. Those who are proud wickedly oppose God.
 - 1. Pride is the opposite of faith. v. 4ab Pr. 21:24
 - a. The Babylonians exalt themselves. v. 4a 1:7b,11c,15d-16a Js. 4:6
 - b. They are inwardly perverse. v. 4b Mark 7:21-23 Ecc. 7:29 Deut. 32:4
 - 2. The greedy man who is addicted to evil will never be satisfied. v. 5 Jer. 51:7 Isa. 9:20 55:1ff 5:16 Ecc. 1:8 5:10 Pr. 30:15-16
- B. Those who are proud will perish in their unbelief. v. 6-20 Isa. 13:11 I Pet. 5:5 Js. 4:6 Dan. 5:1ff

IV. Those who humbly believe God will live. v. 4c

- A. This is the answer to Habakkuk's question about the problem of evil.
 - 1. Rely upon God in spite of circumstances and appearances. Heb. 10:37-11:1
 - 2. In what sense will Habakkuk and other remaining believers "live" through the destruction by the Babylonians? 1:12c Heb. 11:39,13
 - 3. Faith has always been the only way men could be right with God. Ge. 15:6 Ro. 4:1ff
 - 4. Trust God because He is faithful. Deut. 32:4 Ps. 119:138,90,86,75
- B. You are justified before God by faith alone. Rom. 1:16-17 10:9f Gal. 3:10-11
 - 1. Paul quotes Habakkuk as he explains how a person can be right with God.
 - 2. You have no righteousness of your own. Rom. 3:10-18,23 6:23 Eph. 2:1-3
 - 3. You cannot gain life by your (proud) works. Ro. 3:20 Ga. 3:10-11 2:16 Eph. 2:9 Luke 18:12-13 Phil. 3:3ff

4. You can only be saved through humble faith (alone) in Christ (alone), through whose finished work God declares sinners righteous. Ro. 3:21-28 5:1ff Phil. 3:9 Jo. 3:16 II Co. 5:21 I Pe. 3:18 Isa. 53:4-6,11 Gal. 3:13 Luke 18:13-14
5. God gives you life by His grace (alone). Eph. 2:4-9 Isa. 55:3 Amos 5:4,6 Jer. 23:6
6. There is not, nor has there ever been, another way to be right with God. Heb. 11:5 Jo. 14:6 Acts 4:12 Ga. 3:6-9 Gen. 15:6 Rom. 4:1-3,6-8,16 Ga. 3:9 Ps. 32:1-2
7. God offers life to all who believe. Rom. 1:16-17

C. You continue to live by faith.

1. Believing is not merely a one-time event, but rather it is the beginning of a life of trusting God. II Co. 5:17 Ezek. 36:25-27 Heb. 11:2ff Phil. 1:6
2. Faith is central in your sanctification. Ga. 3:3 Col. 2:20-23
3. Don't regress to living in sinful (proud) unbelief. Ro. 6:1 14:23 Ga. 6:7 Heb. 3:19
4. A heart of faith produces a remarkable life of obedient faith. Heb. 10:38-11:40 Eph. 2:10 James 2:21-24f
5. Faith will enable you to endure hard times. Heb. 11:13-16,35-40 Ro. 5:1-5 2 Cor. 4:16-18 5:7 Luke 18:7
6. Your faith will be richly rewarded. Heb. 11:6,13-16, 26, 39-40 Ps. 103:5

V. Concluding Applications: Which way do you choose? Josh. 24:24-25 Isa. 53:11

Discussion Questions for Family Worship

1. Why does the LORD tell Habakkuk to record his vision?
2. What do verses 2-3 teach concerning the nature of God's Word?
3. What do verse 2-3 teach concerning the nature of God's control over history?
4. What does it mean to "wait upon the LORD"?
In what ways do you have to wait?
5. What is the basic character of the unrighteous? v. 4ab,5
6. What is the outcome of proud unbelief?
7. How does "the just shall live by faith" apply in Habakkuk's situation?
8. How can you be righteous before God?
9. Were people under the Old Covenant saved in a different way?
10. How does one live by faith after becoming a Christian?
11. How can you live by faith in the midst of your trials (evil)?