

Habakkuk 2.5 – 3.19 | The fruits of faith
Redemption Hill Church | Simon Murphy
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Where we are going? We are observing a journey from fear to faith, and we are going to see today that it results in a life turned upside down. The issue is his view of God, from questioning doubt to radical faith.

What we see: God comes and tells him to live by faith in Ch 2.4, (we saw how that was pointing towards Christ) then he shows them a life of faith in oneself instead of Christ, and then we see the contrast in Ch 3 of the life of faith.

Radical lives from fear to faith, the gospel turns our lives upside down! We find Christians giving, singing in prison, worshipping!

What is this faith? A general faith? Belief? It's faith in the person of Jesus (Col 1.6)

The fruit of faith in something other than Christ

It's a **progression** of unbelief in Christ and faith in the wrong things. Instead of trusting God we do other things to get what we think will satisfy us and give us righteousness, peace, love, significance.

1. Wealth, money, credit and greed (read 2.5-7)

We can use our **possessions** as our saviors, trusting in them to give us what we need for significance, safety and value. But it's never enough. We need more! It's a longing that can't be fulfilled, and it ultimately defeats us by transforming us into it's image. We become like it.

RESULT: Vs 5: 'Like death he has never enough'. **You never have enough** because you ultimately can't satisfy yourself. So this man keeps on gathering for himself and doesn't stop til it gets to nations! You won't stop or be satisfied until you have gathered nations! Our greed cannot be satisfied, it cannot be tamed or controlled. It's a slave driver and we are it's slave.

Vs 8: The end is the idol you serve will come full circle and you'll be on the receiving end.

ALTERNATIVE: Faith says that we trust God to provide for us because he will never leave us or forsake us, and he commands us not to worry but to look to Him, our good Father.

2. Abuse of people (use of injustice for personal gain). (read 2.12, 15)

The next progression of greed is we try to get what we want abusing people, using others for our own gain (we sacrifice relationships and people for our own needs and desires).

Alcohol for sex. Like manipulation, control, the root is selfish desires and we use people to get what we want.

RESULT: Vs 11, 15: But there is no peace in this, and it comes back to bite us, we end u getting exploited and abused too! We get something by evil and when we have it (this idol) it becomes an object of hatred to us (**Story or Tamar**). It cried out against us and we hate it.

ALTERNATIVE: Contrast this to faith: We are satisfied in Christ, don't need to do these things, more that that it puts us on the offensive in terms of reaching out to others and loving people, we do to others, not just don't do to others.. We initiate as God initiates with us..

3. Idols

Then God transitions to the issue of idolatry. He speaks to people who then take created things and try to make them come to life so that they can trust in them and worship them. **It's when we make things we can trust in, our own plans, creations, answers.**

RESULT: What we worship (put our trust in) affects our choices and our lifestyles. Colossians 3.5 says that covetousness is idolatry. It's when a good thing becomes an ultimate thing.

Martin Luther spoke of the Cornerstone. If it shakes, we shake! Christ is our cornerstone.

ALTERNATIVE: Jesus displaces our idols because in Him we have all we need.

We now cut back to Habakkuk who has embraced this life of faith, and it affords us to see the great contrast between this life of faith and the fear of man.

We will now look at some **hallmarks of the Christian life!**

1. Prayer (read 3.1-2)

So his response to this revelation of the nature of God is to turn TO Him in prayer! Trusting Him! This is a drastic turn around from fear to faith! There is a reordering in his life! He has been set free!

3.2: Habakkuk is saying God I've heard through the scriptures. He is calling to mind God delivering his people in the following ways. He's saying I've read of these things but I have never seen them. "God I've heard so much about you but I've never seen it, judgment on nations, walking on water, miracles, cities turning so that whole culture etc." You feel left out of the action. **Look at the history of Acts and Revival!**

2. Seeing God's works and actions (read 3.3-15)

3.3: Teman: poetic reference to events of Exodus when God appeared at Sinai to give them his commandments.

3.5: Plagues: God delivered his people by crushing the Pharaoh.

3.6: God stands still to measure earth. There is no movement or effort required.

3.13: 'went out.. people' A reference to Jesus coming for us! Initiation! The peace that comes from knowing we have an initiating God!

3. Confident, patient waiting in peace (read 3.16)

3.16: We wait quietly with faith, faithfulness and patience, waiting for revival to come. As Christian we are not moved, we are not shaken, we are not panicky, we have Jesus as our rock!

4. Rejoicing in tribulation (3.17-19)

In an agrarian society this is everything needed for survival. They don't have fruit, olives or food. They have no flock or herds.

What would make you sing like that? This is a reordered world! If you aren't singing like that, you haven't been cut to the heart! ! Come before Him today and ask Him to reveal his awesomeness to you.

Our lives are reordered because we have God. He changes everything, turns the world upside down!

This is what we are going to be seeing at RHC next year.. lives (our own) turned upside down.