

Place of the Christian in God's Program

Lorne Sanny

I. Introduction.

- A. This topic is broader than what the laymen should do.
- B. This has to do with God's program. Most people have little concept of what God's program is.
- C. The world is suffering and the church is in moral decay.
- D. Text: Habakkuk.
 - 1. The Word gives us a sense of the battle, a vision for the world, and a true sense of history.
 - 2. Habakkuk is God's view of history.

II. The problem.

- A. Habakkuk is a perplexed prophet.
- B. The answer to his prayer about a despicable situation perplexes him further. God promises to raise up their enemies against Habakkuk and his land. It seemed that God was not on his side.
- C. God does not come to take sides; He comes to take over.
- D. The prophet's problems: God's apparent inaction, and God's apparent over-action. How can he reconcile God using a wicked nation?

III. Habakkuk's method of address.

- A. The starting point is God. The next point is what He is like. The last point is what relationship God has to us. This is where Habakkuk started.
- B. Going to God Himself.
 - 1. God is from everlasting. (Psalm 102:27)
 - 2. God will always be the same. This is the basis for certain hope.
 - 3. God is holy.
 - 4. God is faithful to His promises to Israel.
 - 5. You always start with Christ, not obedient actions. Through prayer we consent to the Lordship of Christ. Through witnessing we acknowledge the Lordship of Christ. It all centers in Christ.

C. The relationship God has to us.

1. God is holy - we are sinful.
2. God's thoughts are above our thoughts.
3. We need to be willing to trust Him with answers as well as without them.
4. While Habakkuk committed the question to God, he positioned himself to hear from God too.
5. We are to seek a perspective that breaks through to ultimate reality.

IV. God's answer.

A. The just shall live by faith.

1. The just lives by his faith in the bare Word of God in spite of all appearances.
2. The reason for a Navigator work today goes back to its founder believing the promises of God.
3. God purposes, and therefore He promises. We pray as a result.

B. Woes.

1. Sin against the soul. Sin has its own built in penalty in mind, body and spirit.
2. God will ultimately triumph. God is in charge.

V. Habakkuk's response.

A. He asks God to revive his work again - God's purposes are what is really important.

B. It is only going to get worse, so we too ask God to revive His work.

C. God's work. (Matthew 24:14)

1. It is the Great Commission. (Matthew 28:20, Mark 16:15, Acts 1:8, John 20:21, Luke 24:46-47, Acts 25:16-18)
2. The work of the Christian abroad is God's work.

D. Habakkuk asks God to remember mercy.

1. We have our ministry only by mercy.
2. Remembering mercy is humility before God.

Application questions

1. What was surprising about God's initial response for Habakkuk's cry for judgment?

2. What does it mean to live by faith?

3. In light of the sermon, how can you make sense of difficult times.
