

University Heights Church
of Christ
445 Columbia Ave.,
Lexington, KY 40508
(859) 255-6257
www.uheightschurch.com

WORSHIP SERVICES

Sunday

Bible Study: 9:45 AM

Worship: 10:45 AM; 6:00 PM

Wednesday

Bible Study: 7:30 PM (This is
immediately followed by a
short worship period)

First Friday of Each Month

Singing: 7:30 PM

LEADERSHIP

Elders

David Collins

John Thompson

Troy Antle

Evangelist

Adam Litmer

Deacons

Richard Brundige

Matt Thompson

Adam Litmer

Bill Morelan

Jim Parsons

Pat Seabolt

Adam Daniels

Jamie Powell

IN NEED OF PRAYERS

Rick Small, The Brundige and Spivey family as they mourn the loss of Janet's stepfather, Arlena Poynter, the Collins and Daniels family, David Seabolt, Jeff Howerton, Rhonda Boyd (and her sister, Dorothy), Louis Harrod, Paul Atkisson, Julia Ann Dixon, Ed Allison, Dwight Antle, Taylor Osterling, The Bays and Robbins family, Sheila Lawson, Keia Burton, Robert Brundige, Susie Burton, Valerie and Barry Boyd, Janett's mother, Sandy Driver, Erlene Young, Larry Sells, Evelyn Damron, Jennifer Dunbar, Jean Gartland, John Blessing, William Roberts, Paul Lyda, Pete Soro, The Ward and Thacker family, our brethren in southern Philippines, our brethren in Zimbabwe, Jamie Powell's father, Bruce Feltner, Harleigh Spartman, Fay Thomas, Mattie Johnson, the brethren in Texas, Louisiana, Florida, Mexico City, and the Caribbean.

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“The Righteous Shall Live By His Faith”

Adam Litmer

God has never commanded His people to ignore the reality of their situation. When difficulties surround us, wicked people abuse us, or circumstances become painful, our God has never told us to bury our heads in the sand and pretend that it's not really happening.

The prophet Habakkuk prophesied shortly before the Babylonian captivity. His eyes were wide open to the trials of the godly at that time. He found himself struggling to find God through all the wickedness and violence of the day. Speaking for the righteous remnant, his opening words are filled with pain and an inability to understand God's apparent inactivity.

O Lord, how long shall I cry for help, and you will not hear? Or cry to you 'Violence!' and you will not save? Why do you make me see iniquity, and why do you idly look at wrong? Destruction and violence are before me; strife and contention arise. So the law is paralyzed, and justice never goes forth. For the wicked surround the righteous; so justice goes forth perverted. (1:2-4)

“Why?” Such a *tiny* word and yet one that can be loaded with such anguish and pain! Habakkuk joins voice with such

stalwarts as Job, David, Jeremiah, and Asaph to ask God why the wicked seem to be given free reign while the righteous suffer at their hands? Sometimes it even seems as though it pays to be wicked (Malachi 3:13-15)! That *can't* be right though, can it?

God responds to Habakkuk's first complaint by sharing His stunning plan (1:5-11). God was going to use a nation worse than Judah to punish Judah! God was planning to take the Chaldeans, a bitter and hasty nation, and throw them directly at Jerusalem. The Chaldeans created their own rules, their own form of justice, and worshipped their own might. Judah was going to be punished by a nation even worse than themselves!

Habakkuk found himself even more flummoxed upon hearing God's plan. Recognizing that the Chaldeans were being used to punish Judah, he still could not fathom how God could bring Himself to do it. Note how Habakkuk wrestles with himself in his second complaint.

Are you not from everlasting, O Lord my God, my Holy One? We shall not die. O Lord, you have ordained them as a judgment, and you, O Rock, have established them for reproof (Habakkuk is exactly right in this. However, he wrestles with the idea of God using a wicked nation to punish His people in his very next sentence—AL) *You who are of purer eyes than to see evil and cannot look at wrong, why do you idly look at traitors and remain silent when the wicked swallows up the man more righteous than he?* (12-13)

In the final analysis, Habakkuk's complaints can be summed up with three words: "I don't understand." Which of us hasn't been there at some point in our lives, perhaps more than

once? Who among us has *never* questioned why God makes the decisions He makes? Why does God allow some very righteous people to suffer? Why does God allow some very wicked people to prosper? Why? Interestingly, God did not answer Habakkuk according to the questions Habakkuk asked. He informed him that the Chaldeans would ultimately be destroyed because of their wickedness but that was about the extent of His response to Habakkuk's specific query.

Rather than explaining the details of His plans to Habakkuk, He informed him of a truth that must guide the life of every saint, *The righteous shall live by his faith* (2:4b). The righteous person, regardless of the circumstance, lives by faith. The righteous person, even when he or she does not understand why a thing is happening, lives by faith. God's response to Habakkuk, and every saint who asked similar questions throughout the Scriptures, is always the same: trust, believe, maintain, have faith.

We don't have to understand why God does all the things He does or permits all the things He permits. Our feeble minds could never comprehend the depths of His thinking. Fortunately, our faith is not dependent upon our ability to explain every happening of life. Our faith is dependent upon the power, wisdom, and knowledge of our God. His final statement to Habakkuk is, *But the Lord is in his holy temple; let all the earth keep silence before him.* I will trust Him, even when I don't understand. How about you?

