

Seeking God's Plan During Times of Adversity Adversity Provides a Contrast Between Pride and Faith

3 principles to help us benefit from God's promises regarding the future:

I. God Certainly Will Make Things Right in the End

- A. God is willing to go on permanent record
- B. God's people can confidently live and proclaim this message

v. 2- *"The one who reads it may run"*

II. God Wants His People to Walk by Faith in This Principle

- A. It is possible to be righteous

Romans 3:23 - *for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,*

Romans 5:8 - *But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.*

Romans 1:16-17 - *For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "But the righteous man shall live by faith."*

- B. This righteousness is received by faith

Romans 5:1 - *Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ,*

- 1. as a decision at a point in time

Romans 10:9-10 - *that if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved; for with the heart a person believes, resulting in righteousness, and with the mouth he confesses, resulting in salvation.*

Romans 10:13 - *for "Whoever will call on the name of the Lord will be saved."*

- 2. as a lifestyle

Hebrews 10:37-38 - *For in just a very little while, He who is coming will come and will not delay. But my righteous one will live by faith. And if he shrinks back, I will not be pleased with him.*

- C. Biblical faith is the foundation of a godly lifestyle

Galatians 3:11 - *Now that no one is justified by the Law before God is evident; for, "The righteous man shall live by faith."*

- D. Impact of this text on one of Christianity's most important figures

III. The Opposite of this Approach is Pride

A. Its description

1. the meaning of the word

the proud one – swelled, puffed up, full of himself

2. the affect

never satisfied

“Pride gets no pleasure out of having something, only out of having more of it than the next man.” - C.S. Lewis

B. Its characteristics

1. Greed – vv. 6-8

Habakkuk 2:6 - ...*Woe to him who increases what is not his— for how long— and makes himself rich with loans?*’

Luke 12:15 - *Then He said to them, “Beware, and be on your guard against every form of greed; for not even when one has an abundance does his life consist of his possessions.”*

Matthew 6:30 - *But if God so clothes the grass of the field, which is alive today and tomorrow is thrown into the furnace, will He not much more clothe you? You of little faith!*

Matthew 6:33 - *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.*

2. Injustice – vv. 9-11

Habakkuk 2:9 - *Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house to put his nest on high, to be delivered from the hand of calamity!*

3. Violence – vv. 12-14

Habakkuk 2:12 - *Woe to him who builds a city with bloodshed and founds a town with violence!*

4. Seduction – vv. 15-17

Habakkuk 2:15 - *Woe to you who make your neighbors drink, who mix in your venom even to make them drunk so as to look on their nakedness!*

5. Idolatry – vv. 18-20

Habakkuk 2:18 - *What profit is the idol when its maker has carved it, or an image, a teacher of falsehood? For its maker trusts in his own handiwork when he fashions speechless idols.*