

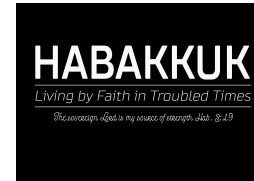
## Notes:

(Jesus) gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,<sup>8</sup> he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.

Philippians 2:7,8

"... fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame ..." Hebrews 12:2

Dan Wilvers- November 12th, 2017 Part 3



**Pride comes from every human heart.  
Idolatry is at the root of every human culture  
Habakkuk 2:4-20**

"Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked. But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.<sup>5</sup> Wealth is treacherous, and the arrogant are never at rest. They open their mouths as wide as the grave, and like death, they are never satisfied. In their greed they have gathered up many nations and swallowed many peoples.

...<sup>8</sup> Because you have plundered many nations, now all the survivors will plunder you. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence.<sup>9</sup> "What sorrow awaits you who build big houses with money gained dishonestly! You believe your wealth will buy security, putting your family's nest beyond the reach of danger.<sup>10</sup> But by the murders you committed, you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives.

...<sup>13</sup> Has not the Lord of Heaven's Armies promised that the wealth of nations will turn to ashes? They work so hard, but all in vain!<sup>14</sup> For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.<sup>15</sup> "What sorrow awaits you who make your neighbors drunk! You force your cup on them so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness.<sup>16</sup> But soon it will be your turn to be disgraced. Come, drink and be exposed! Drink from the cup of the Lord's judgment, and all your glory will be turned to shame.<sup>17</sup> You cut down the forests of Lebanon. Now you will be cut down. You destroyed the wild animals, so now their terror will be yours. You committed murder throughout the countryside and filled the towns with violence.<sup>18</sup> "What good is an idol carved by man, or a cast image that deceives you? How foolish to trust in your own creation—a god that can't even talk!

...<sup>20</sup> But the Lord is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."

## I. Understanding The Source Of The Evil

"Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, ... 5 the arrogant are never at rest.

vs.4,5

...you have shamed your name and forfeited your lives.

vs.10

...they are never satisfied.

vs.5

### The whole world suffers from this sin of self-glorifying.

#### Lewis Smedes:

*"Pride in the religious sense is an arrogant refusal to let God be God. It is to grab God's status for one's self. We force other people to act as buttresses for the shaky ego that pride created. 'How can this person contribute to my need for applause and power?' Vanity creates the need to use people because we cannot keep our balance spiritually if we are empty at the center."*

**Unless you are profoundly sure** of your value/significance in Christ then to some degree you will use others for personal gain.

For in Christ lives all the fullness of God in a human body. <sup>10</sup>So you also are complete through your union with Christ. Colossians 2:9,10

By his divine power, God has given us everything we need for living a godly life.

2 Peter 1:3

#### Creating Idols:

...In their greed they have gathered up many nations and swallowed many peoples.

...you who build big houses with money gained dishonestly! You believe your

wealth will buy security, putting your family's nest beyond the reach of danger.

...you who build cities with money gained through murder and corruption!

...How foolish to trust in your own creation— a god that can't even talk!

**Sexual Sin-** "What sorrow awaits you who make your neighbors drunk! You force your cup on them \* so you can gloat over their shameful nakedness. Hab.2:15

\*Which is a euphemism for having sex with them.

**Environmental Sin-** You cut down the forests of Lebanon. Now you will be cut down. You destroyed the wild animals, so now their terror will be yours .Hab. 2:17

Liberal agenda says, "*Harming the environment is a sin!*"

Conservative agenda says, "*Sleeping around is wrong.*"

**Only the Bible says it's all a sin.**

So whether it's liberal or conservative, capitalist or socialist, religion or secular, our **idols** will drive our attitudes to the point that those that would deny us our idols are met with fierce resistance and swift destruction, by word and/or deed.

**In the world:** Life is about getting what we want. (**Idols**)

**In Christ:** The only options are to be merciful and gracious.

#### **Key Point of This Habakkuk Narrative:**

Pride leads to idols and idols lead to a destructive self-determination and God will judge both.

#### **The Antidote? Humility**

Why do you look at the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Matthew 7:3

#### Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn in *The Gulag Archipelago:*

*"But the line dividing good and evil cuts through the heart of every human being."*

## II. Understanding The Source Of The Hope

"Look at the proud! They trust in themselves, and their lives are crooked.

*But the righteous will live by their faithfulness to God.* Habakkuk 2:4

#### **The Hope that God offers:**

...But the Lord is in his holy Temple. Let all the earth be silent before him."

Habakkuk 2:20

#### **God is Sovereign over all.**

For as the waters fill the sea, the earth will be filled with an awareness of the glory of the Lord.

Habakkuk 2:14

#### **Our Deepest Longings Are Only Met in God's Beauty and Honor**