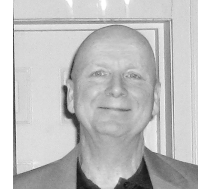


Lo The d Ou Righteousness

A Singing Faith

Elder Charles Moore



tears at our hearts. Habakkuk trembles as he awaits the day of God's judgment to come. He knows what is coming and

Have you ever looked around and seen the problems, the injustice, the evil in this world and wondered what God is doing? We have governments using chemical weapons against their own people. Terrorists killed at least 67 and injured more than 100 others at a mall in Kenya. A man killed 12 others in the Navy Yard in Washington, D.C. Every weekend, we see violence and killings in our own backyard. Where is the justice? Why isn't God acting? How long will this continue? If you look at the book of Habakkuk you will see that those are some of his complaints as well.

Habakkuk had not been content with God. He had not been content with the way He was working. But as he complained to God, he discovered that God was doing a lot more than he had originally thought and in reality a lot more than he wanted God to do. Eventually, he learned that God was doing exactly what was needed.

When we find ourselves confronted by fears of every sort we need to think, we need to meditate upon God's Word. We need to stop and think about the countless times that the Lord has shown Himself faithful, and stop and think about the promises He has made to His people. The truth is we need God to be exactly the way He is and the way He works.

I don't want this to lead you to

believe that those who trust in the Lord will never see calamity or trouble. I would love to be able to tell you this, but then we would have to remove the story of the Apostle Paul's imprisonment and beatings from God's Word. We would also have to dismiss Jeremiah the prophet who lived his whole life rejected and scorned by those he sought to share the truths of God.

Notice what Habakkuk says. **"I hear, and my body trembles; my lips quiver at the sound; rotteness enters into my bones; my legs tremble beneath me..." (Habakkuk 3:16)**

Can you picture the prophet trembling, his heart pounding, his lips quivering? Can you identify with those feelings? Gripped by fear, but recounting the mighty deeds of God in the past, the prophet continues to say, **"...Yet I will quietly wait for the day of trouble to come upon people who invade us." (Habakkuk 3:16)** It is hard when we are waiting on the news of the doctor's report isn't it? It is difficult to be at rest when we know layoffs are coming at the plant and we don't have enough money to make it another week. It is difficult to wait when anxiety holds us in its clutches and fear wakes us in the night.

Waiting is almost unthinkable when terror

yet, because of what he knows about God, he will not succumb to fear – he is placing his faith in the hands of God as devastation makes its way to his homeland. Habakkuk says, **"Though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls." (Habakkuk 3:17).**

Mrs. Jeanie McNab was a Pollyanna who never wanted to talk about anything other than warm fuzzies. One day Mr. Boreham said to her, "But, supposing, Jeanie..." Jeanie said, "Now don't you have anything to do with supposings. I know them all. 'Suppose I should lose my money?' 'Suppose I should lose my health?' And all the rest. When those supposings come knocking at your heart, you just slam the door, and bolt it, and don't let any of them in!" That's good advice from the world's perspective and better advice than worrying over things that will probably never come to pass.

However, Jeanie's advice falls far short of Habakkuk's advice to you and me. He says,

"Suppose the fig tree does not bud?"

"Suppose there are no grapes on the vine?"

"Suppose the olive crop fails?"

"Suppose the fields produce

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no food?’

“Suppose there are no sheep in the pen?”

“Suppose there are no cattle in the stalls?”

Habakkuk refused to slam the door shut because he knew he could not thwart the plans of God. He did not fear the “supposings” because one greater than these or any other supposings was in the room.

(James Montgomery Boice)

Habakkuk says in effect, though all the supposings come and my life will be changed forever – **“yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength; he makes my feet like the deer’s; he makes me tread on my high places. To the choirmaster: with stringed instruments.” (Habakkuk 3:18-19)** Can you say that with Habakkuk today? Can you honestly say that whatever may come your way, no matter how hard it may be or how many tears you cry, you will rejoice in the Lord?

Let God take you above the troubles of this world. He does not want us forever dwelling in the valley of sorrows. He wants us to rise above them. And He will give us the strength. We can be like a deer going up into the mountains, leaping with strength and power.

So...how do we apply this prophetic writing of Habakkuk? What will you do in the face of fear? First...Wait on God when you don’t understand Him. Especially when life is not turning out as we had hoped and imagined. When those times come, it is time to wait and trust in God, for in His sovereign judgment, He is merciful

Second... God wants us to be looking, listening and understanding what He is doing. He wants us to have the confidence that He is ultimately working for our good, even though for a time, we may be hurting.

God, though, is not satisfied with just that. He has even more! God wants us to have a faith that sings in the face of fear because we know that God is in control.

Cyberspace News *Geneva Begeman*



Due to Geneva’s illness there was no news collected. More next month.

Jamie Carothers, Editor;

Diane Begeman, Publisher.

Limitations live only in our minds. But if we use our imaginations, our possibilities become limitless.

Jamie Paolnetti



Michigan Report

Tim Begeman

I just finished reading "The Five Myths about Jesus" an op-ed in the Washington Post written by Reza Aslan. What baffles me is why the New Testament gospels are never considered reliable early accounts and attestations of the life and times of Jesus by popular writers of today. Mathew, Mark, Luke and John are some of the most scrutinize early writings of early Christianity we have, but they are just hand waved away by bestselling authors. The gospels are written in the genre of ancient biography. They most closely resemble the type of literature the ancient lives of prominent Greek and Roman citizens in telling facts that would illustrate the character and exploits of their hero, so if the gospels are in fact written in the genre of ancient biography they are intended to be factual accounts of Jesus and not just hear say political arguments as Aslan says. It is nothing but sheer prejudice to ignore the primary and early sources and instead turn to secondary derivative and later sources to sell books and make eye catching headlines. At least that's the way I see it.

Jeff, Melinda and daughter Katie finished their excursion to Maine as a vacation for them in uncharted territory. They did much sightseeing and enjoyed the local cuisine while they were there. I'm sure they created many memories that they can reminisce about in years to come.

My wife Diane also got back at the beginning of September from her visit to our oldest son Kane and family in Arizona. We were both there for the birth of our brand new grandson Everett. Diane stayed there another week to help Kane's family get settled in with their new member of the family. All are doing well and Diane hated to leave but knew she had to get back to keep me well-nourished and clothed.

This month we had our bimonthly visit to the Magnum Nursing Home with our friends from Church of God Seventh Day. We had a blessed time with the people there. The singing was lead by my brother Jeff, and he also prayed with them. Paul Vanderhorst gave a captivating and compelling talk that included many of his childhood memories. Everyone gave us all a vociferous thank you and asked "when are you coming back?"

On the 21st of September a missionary we have been supporting, Dr. KD Nasir spoke to us during our usual worship service. He spent much of the last year in Pakistan teaching the students there. After a very lively talk on the Great Commission he showed us a short video of the students he interacted with while he was there. The video showed Dr. Nasir leading singing for his students while playing his hand pump organ. We applaud Dr. Nasir for trying to spread the gospel where it is very dangerous for Christians to openly proselytize and or worship in public.

My mom Geneva had a setback in her bout with cancer in September. After she was finished with her chemo treatments her pain came back with a vengeance and left the doctors temporarily puzzled about what was going on. After many scans, tests and consultations the doctors realized that the cancer was back and had gotten more aggressive, so they started giving her radiation to try to relieve the pressure on her spine and therefore ease the pain. Please keep her in your thoughts and prayers in the days ahead which are going to be tough for her and our whole family.

**CHURCH OF THE
LORD OUR
RIGHTEOUSNESS**

**1922 LaSalle Road
Monroe, MI 48162
Church 734-242-9511**

Editor - Jamie Carothers
Jamie.Carothers@utoledo.edu

Publisher - Diane Begeman
734-417-2392
veggie@charter.net

website
colornet.org

BROKEN SCALE

THERE WAS A NICE BATHROOM SCALE IN OUR SHIP'S CABIN ON OUR RECENT CRUISE. SINCE THE SIGN IN FRONT OF THE FITNESS CENTER CLAIMED THAT THE AVERAGE CRUISER GAINED 7 TO 10 POUNDS DURING A CRUISE, I FIGURED THE SCALE WAS A WAY TO HELP THE CRUISER AVOID THE WEIGHT GAIN.

I STEPPED ON THE SCALE.

IT WAS 10 POUNDS TOO LOW.

I ASKED MY WIFE TO TRY IT. SHE SAID THAT IT WAS REGISTERING ABOUT 10 POUNDS TOO LOW.

THE THING WAS BROKEN.

THE SHIP HAD EXCELLENT SERVICE AND I WAS SUPER IMPRESSED WITH THE CABIN STEWARD. I DIDN'T MENTION IT TO HIM, BUT HE MUST HAVE KNOWN THAT OUR SCALE WAS OUT OF WHACK AND NOT MEASURING CORRECTLY. WHEN I STEPPED ON THE SCALE ON THE LAST DAY OF THE CRUISE MY WEIGHT WAS READING PERFECTLY.

EXCELLENT CRUISE SERVICE!