

## **Series: How to Live Godly When the Godless Bear Rule**

### **Habakkuk the Prophet and Peter the Apostle**

Proverbs 29:2 “when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.”

Both men had a message to scared and suffering believers prior to the destruction of the Temple yet they lived 450 years apart. Habakkuk discovered the preciousness of the principle, “The just shall live by his faith.” Peter in his first epistle, focused his readers on the value of their redemption bought with the precious blood of Christ. Peter imprisoned in his early 70’s knew that their faith would be tried and purified as gold in a furnace. They would need to partake of Christ’s divine nature through the application of precious promises. Peter’s last will and testament was that they be established in faith in Christ. In every generation, in Habakkuk’s, in Peter’s, and in ours, “The just shall live by his faith.”

#### **I. How We Know That We Are Precious To Our Lord Jesus**

In the Nipple Creek Colorado, gold rush – a chunk of gold bearing ore was unwittingly discarded with a shovel of coal into a stove. Later when cleaning out the ashes, beads of pure gold were found on the bottom. Like that unattractive ore, people are often discarded by sin and the world but have gold inside. It takes a trial in a fiery furnace to reveal the beads of our faith which are more precious than gold.

##### **A. We are elect through the sanctification of the Spirit**

1:2,3 “Elect according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ...”

Rom 8:29 “For whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate *to be* conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brethren. Rom 8:30 Moreover whom he did predestinate, them he also called: and whom he called, them he also justified: and whom he justified, them he also glorified.”

Eph. 1:3-5 “Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly *places* in Christ: According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and without blame before him in love: Having predestinated us unto the adoption of children by Jesus Christ to himself, according to the good pleasure of his will”

##### **B. We are recipients of abundant grace and mercy**

vs.2 “Grace unto you, and peace, be multiplied.... Blessed *be* the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy”

##### **C. We are begotten**

vs.3 “hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

##### **D. We have an inheritance**

vs.4 “hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead”

### E. We have security

vs.5 “Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time.”

### II. How we can rejoice when we have trials of faith

vs.6 “Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations”

Solomon to his trusted servant: find a certain ring in 6 months for me to wear at Sukkot  
If a happy man looks at it, it will make him sad and if a sad man looks at it, it will make him happy.  
Friend made him a gold ring with three Hebrew words *gam ze yavor* - “This too shall pass.”

Trials are part of the providential process that makes our faith more precious.

#### ✓ We must live for His praise & glory

vs.7 “That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory”

#### ✓ We must look for His coming – vs.7b “at the appearing of Jesus Christ”

#### ✓ We must love Him – vs.8a “Whom having not seen, ye love”

#### ✓ We must learn to believe – vs.8b “though now ye see *him* not, yet believing”

2 Peter 1:4 “Whereby are given unto us exceeding great and precious promises: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.”

#### ✓ We must determine to rejoice – vs.8 “ye rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory”

### III. How He has provided strength in trials – “Grace” 1 Peter 1:13 / 5:10,12; 2 Peter 1:3,4

### IV. In the fiery trial focus your faith on the finished work of God.

There was supposedly a lost shipment of jelly during Operation Desert Storm in Iraq. An investigation revealed that the jelly was no where to be found. The Pentagon ordered a general post to use all available men to find it. Reply from a General “Sirs. I can dispatch the entire army to find your missing jelly. **Or I can kick Saddam out of Kuwait** – not both.” – No reply, to this day.

**“Arm our minds”** - vs. 13 “Wherefore gird up the loins of your mind, be sober, and hope to the end for the grace that is to be brought unto you at the revelation of Jesus Christ

vs. 18 21 “Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, *as* silver and gold, from your vain conversation *received* by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you, Who by him do believe in God, that raised him up from the dead, and gave him glory; that your faith and hope might be in God.”

- ✓ **Love** – vs. 22 “Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, *see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently*”
- ✓ **The Word of God** – vs.23, 25a “Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever. But the word of the Lord endureth for ever.”
- ✓ **The Gospel to perishing souls** – vs. 24,25 “For all flesh *is* as grass, and all the glory of man as the flower of grass. The grass withereth, and the flower thereof falleth away: And this is the word which by the gospel is preached unto you.”

In every generation the principle remains, **“The just shall live by his faith.”**