

Title: **When Habakkuk Cooks a Stew (Part 1)**
Text: **Habakkuk 2:2-4**
Date: **July 17, 2022**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at mercyhillchurch.org.



Big Idea

How does one get right with God? There is no question more significant in all the word. And there is no text in the Old Testament that brings us closer to an answer than Hab. 2:4.

Tucked within the latter half of this verse is the answer to our pressing question. These words tell us how we get right with God. They tell us how we can hinge from meriting his wrath to enjoying his favor. They tell us how we can get life from him and with him—not just momentarily, but eternally.

That's why the authors of the New Testament grab hold of this statement and quote it on three separate occasions as they attempt to expound for us the gospel and what it means to be saved and reconciled to God (Rom. 1:17; Gal. 3:11; Heb. 10:38).

1. Habakkuk 2:4

There's a way of being *righteous* before God, of *living*, of escaping judgement, and it's, in one way or another, by *faith*. So we've got to know what this is!

"Righteous"—This word could be referring to those who are ethically, morally, personally, practically righteous. But it could also be referring to those who are righteous by way of God's decree—they've been declared as such, counted as such in the courtroom of heaven, even if, perhaps there are some spots on their record so far as their earthly lives are concerned.

"Live"—This word could be referring to a person's way of life. But it could also be referring to the reward of life that God will grant those who are righteous by faith.

"Faith"—This word could be referring to a life of faithfulness to God, waiting obediently for him. But it could also be referring to the mere act of placing one's faith in God—a fundamental transaction in

humility, where we come and put the full weight of our hope on him, trusting him to do what only he can.

It seems to me, in all of this, it really comes down to two basic options: On the one hand, we could take this as there's this initial act of faith whereby we place our trust in God and, in that he counts us as righteous, not because we perfectly uphold the law, but because we trust him to save and intercede on our behalf. We're like Abraham. We've got nothing. We trust him to do it. He counts our faith as righteousness. And we live!

But on the other hand, we could take this to mean that, in some way or another, if we want to escape God's coming judgment, if we want to be right with him, we have to walk with him, we have to endure to the end, we have to be faithful. We can't bail out on our obedience. We don't just get to make a decision once and then go on our own way. We're not just saved by faith, we need to walk faithfully day by day.

So which is it? In Christ . . . it's both!

2. Romans 1:17

"Paul displays a magnificent grasp of the prophet's [Habakkuk's] message when he adopts this single phrase as a basis for constructing the entire letter to the Romans. Not merely as a keynote sounded to introduce his treatise, but as a well-balanced theme that structures the entirety of his message, this verse from Habakkuk permeates the whole of the epistle." - O. Palmer Robertson

"I felt that I was altogether born again and had entered into paradise itself through open gates." - Martin Luther



Reflection Questions

- Read Rom. 1:17, Gal. 3:11, and Heb. 10:38 in context. Why do you think the New Testament authors quote from Hab. 2:4 in each instance? What do you think they are trying to say? What new perspective does each citation give you on these same words from the prophet?
- Which part of the "stew" that Habakkuk is cooking up in this verse did you most need to hear this morning (*justification by grace through faith or sanctification by the same*)? Why? How would such a truth change your upcoming week?

W

E

L

C

O

M

E

SCAN TO FILL OUT A



CONNECTION CARD

Give online at mercyhillchurch.org/give or text any amount to 84321 and follow the prompts.

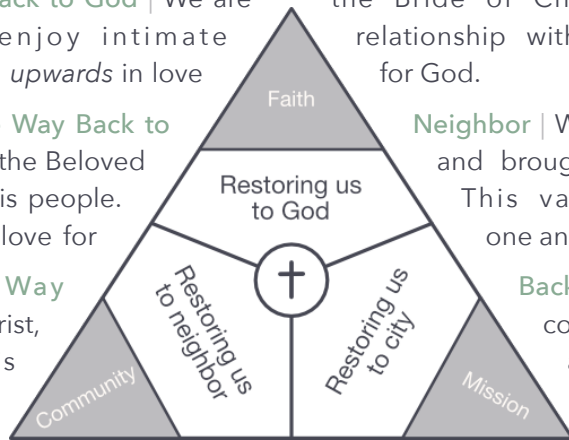
Our Mission & Values

Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.

FAITH: The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate relationship with him. This value presses our church *upwards* in love for God.

COMMUNITY: The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. This value presses our church *inwards* in love for Neighbor | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal relationship with his people. This value presses our one another.

MISSION: The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his ambassadors. This value presses our church *outwards* in love for the unbelieving.



Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



Mail: PO Box 23806, San Jose, CA 95153
Phone: (408) 320-7080
Email: info@mercyhillchurch.org
Web: mercyhillchurch.org



Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.
We are so glad you've joined us today!

Announcement Spotlight

All Church Prayer - Tonight at 6:00pm

This Sunday's prayer meeting will held in-person at 6:00pm at the Wilson Residence. Scan the QR code below for more info.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at info@mercyhillchurch.org.

Mercy Hill Kids - Celebrating Christina Lugo!

Christina Lugo has been serving faithfully in her role as the Director of Mercy Hill Kids for almost five years now! During that time, she's developed many critical processes, raised up many volunteers, ministered week-in-and-week-out to our kids, and she's even helped us get through a pandemic! We owe her (and God!) a great debt of gratitude for all that she has done to serve and lead us and our children.

That said, Christina feels like the time has come for her to step down from this role to make space for other things. Not to fear, she will still be serving our kids like all other volunteers, but she will no longer be functioning as the ministry's Director.

In her place, the elders (and Christina), through prayer and discussion, have felt it best to have Megan Weber serve in the role as Interim Director. In time, she may be considered for something more permanent should God so continue to lead.

If you are interested in helping in some greater capacity with the ministry, please do let us know! We are considering a "Team" approach and would love to know if you want to be a part!

If are interested in getting involved, feel free to reach out to us at kids@mercyhillchurch.org.

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub.