

"The righteous will live by faith!"

Today's Reading
Habakkuk 1:12-2:20



Reading the book of Habakkuk reminds me of watching a tennis match. As you watch tennis, your head swings back and forth as you follow the ball from one side of the court to the other. Similarly, this Old Testament minor prophet engages in a dialogue volley of human complaint and divine response. We read the first complaint yesterday: "God, why do You put up with evil?" The Lord's answer: "I will bring the Babylonians against your people."

The ball has now crossed the net and is back on Habakkuk's side. While addressing God with titles indicating respect and deep personal relationship, he raises another complaint. He observed evil in the world and God seemed to be both silent and tolerant. How can that be?

God's response is basically, "Justice is future, but for now, the

righteous will live by faith!" Like Habakkuk, we desire immediate and obvious justice...unless we are the people at fault! And yet, the Lord is clear in indicating that the justice He will bring against the Babylonians was yet future (v. 2:3). At times, it can be hard waiting for justice like that! But, in the meantime, we are to be people of faith...people who trust God even though we see injustice around us...people who trust God even though we may not see the scales of justice balanced or the accounting books closed in our lifetime. No wonder the Scriptures place such an emphasis on faith. Need some reminders of that today? Look at these verses from the New Testament:

- Hebrews 11:1 *Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.*
- 2 Corinthians 4:18 *So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal.*
- 2 Corinthians 5:7 *We live by faith, not by sight.*

Faith is to characterize your life even when things around you don't make sense. The sovereign Ruler of the universe can be trusted.