

## Consequences

Habakkuk 2:6-20

We have become an increasingly driven culture of risk-takers who have less and less regard for consequences. There is a prevailing sense of urgency that often demands or compels that we act, decide, and often jump at the moment without taking the time to consider the possible outcomes.

In a recent discussion with a person highly involved in the auto industry, I learned that there is a common frustration people in that industry have in regard to the issue of consequences. There is a demand to design and produce an automobile that is essentially accident free and foolproof in an attempt to keep lawsuits at a minimum. The foolproof has more to do with the driver than the car itself. With an element of cynicism, this person related the need to build a car designed to allow someone who is intoxicated to drive at 120 mph on the wrong side of a freeway and to crash head on into an 18 wheel Peterbuilt and come out safe and sober. As a result, we have intoxication alarms, buzzers that go off when we cross the center line, cameras with dash screens to show us who we're about to back over, front air bags, side air bags, speed control indicators, and the costly list goes on while a cluster of well-trained attorneys are positioned in regard to each item in case perchance someone might get hurt . . . so there will be no consequences to the driver.

We bring this same culture of risk-taking without consideration of consequences into our spiritual walk. In acts of expediency and emotional urgency, we often disregard the warnings of Scripture so we can fulfill our desire of the moment with little thought of the results. Often this begins quite subtly and at times in innocence. Usually it is a fulfillment of the felt need of the moment and what seems right for "Me." God and His imperative for "safety" are defined with our expectations, freed of consequences by what we clandestinely call grace, and then we wonder why God has failed us.

There are consequences to risk-taking choices that are contrary to the ordered world God has created. Yet, there is in fact an immeasurable expression of His grace as we *sober up* in the midst of our circumstances.

Habakkuk the prophet is addressing the consequences both to God's people and to those who are His enemies. These three chapters reveal His grace to His people as He disciplines them and the destruction of those who have rejected Him. Chapter 2 is a blend of the sobering consequences for the one and His eternal grace and provision for the other.

### **Life Response**

1. This week MEMORIZE and MEDITATE on Habakkuk 2:20 *"But the Lord is in His holy temple. Let all the earth be silent before Him."*
  - (a) What is there about this one verse that provide confidence in the midst of conflict imposed by others and consequences from poor personal choices?
  - (b) Continue to read Psalm 73 as a companion chapter to the book of Habakkuk. Simply read and draw parallels between the experience of David and yourself.
  - (c) Note carefully how Psalm 73:16-17; 23-24; 27-28 and Habakkuk 2:20 and 2:4 compliment each other. How does this comparison affect your thinking?

2. List the 5 “woes” from 2:6-20. In what ways do each of these influence your own life? How are they revealed in your relationships? Professional life? Home life? In your social settings?
3. The source of each of these “woes” is what the Bible calls sin. It is manifested in the first person “I.” What does this tell us about our role in conflict and consequences?
4. What choice can you make now that would be a reflection of God’s purpose and grace in the midst of your present circumstances?

*“Our behavior is governed by principles. Living in harmony with them brings positive consequences; violating them brings negative consequences. We are free to choose our response in any situation, but in doing so, we choose the attendant consequence.” - Stephen R Covey*

### **What happens when our world begins to fall apart?**

Ch. 1 Does God know or even care about what is going on in my conflicted world?

Ch. 2 What is my basis for confidence/security/stability as I face my conflicted world?

**A. THE WILL** 2:1-4

- |              |                                     |
|--------------|-------------------------------------|
| I will stand | I will wait (Eternal Perspective)   |
| I will watch | I will personalize (personal faith) |
| I will act   | I will pray                         |

Hinge verse – verse 4

**B. THE WARNING** 2:6-20

5 woes

- \* Magnifies the sin nature of man
- \* Warning of consequences
- \* Focus is not on sin but God’s faithfulness
- \* Taunting in form of poetry – 5 stanzas/3verses each

What does this have to do with me?

<b>Habakkuk 2:6-20</b>	<b>Isaiah 14:13-14</b>	<b>Culture</b>	<b>God’s Standard</b>
1. Vs 6-8 Greed	I will ascend to Heaven	I deserve it	Rom. 12:1-2
2. Vs 9-11 Pride	I will raise my throne	I have my rights	Col.3:1-3
3. Vs 12-14 Control	I will sit on the mount	I will win	Acts 1:8 Gal. 5:16-21
4. Vs 15-17 Deception	I will ascend above the heights	I will be cunning	1 Cor. 2:1-5
5. Vs 18 Idolatry	I will make myself like God	I’ll do it my way	Phil. 2:5-8

Observations:

- Progression of sin
- How do I respond to conflict/circumstances
- Sovereignty of God 2:14/2:20
- Consequences of sin Phil. 2:12; Heb. 10:4-12
- Leaves us with questions
  - ✓ Will I chose to do the “next right thing”?
  - ✓ Will I acknowledge my sin nature “I”?
  - ✓ God, what do You want me to see in myself in this?
  - ✓ God, what do You want to teach me in this?
  - ✓ How do You want to reveal yourself in this?
  - ✓ Am I committed to making You my trust? Jer. 17:5