

Nettleham Methodist Church
Cell Material
Week beginning 18th February 2007
Theme: Trusting when all else fails

Welcome

Have you ever had to wait a long time for something and as a result learnt about yourself, someone else or simply developed a different perspective?

Word

Key passages Habakkuk 1¹ - 2¹ & 3, Philippians 4⁴⁻¹², Hebrews 5⁷⁻⁹

“The rise of violence, sacrilege, ugliness and insubordination is a God-issue. The basic issue is a failure to feel dependence on God with gratitude towards the past and faith towards the future. When the high springs of gratitude and faith toward God dry up at the top of the mountain, soon all the pools of happy thankfulness and courage begin to dry up farther down. When gratitude and faith go, the sovereignty of the self condones more and more corruption for its pleasure.”
- John Piper

Habakkuk challenges God. He is shocked that the God he thinks he knows can use a corrupt and violent nation as a tool to fulfil His purpose.

- Do you understand Habakkuk`s perspective? In what ways is he right and in what ways is he wrong?

In chapter 3 we have a `hymn` used in temple worship, detailing God`s action through the nation`s history

- How does this passage affect the circumstances in which Habakkuk and the nation find themselves?
- How does this affect his attitude and perspective of the nation`s plight?

Paul urges the church in Philippi to rejoice, pray and focus on the positive

- Does he suggest that this will result in a successful life (10-13)

There are those who say that unanswered prayer indicates a lack of faith or perhaps a lack of discernment regarding the will of God.

- What does the Hebrews reading have to say about this issue?

Worship

When we can rejoice despite our circumstances we are on the way to learning true contentment in God.

Praise God for some of the blessings of your personal history.

Witness

How do we respond to those who legitimately ask how a sovereign God can allow so much evil in the world?

Put Phil 4⁴⁻⁷ into practice!