



Teaching Notes: Ray Davis

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Trusting in Troubled Times

desert breeze community church

Habakkuk 2:4-20 **"Our Root Problem"**

Religious people tend to divide the world into good guys and bad guys, but the Bible says there are no good guys. There is a root of evil in every human heart that is the source of our problems that must be overcome by God's grace.

The Root of Evil in Every Human Heart: (Rom. 3:23)

Unbelief – Turning from satisfaction in God. It is the opposite of v4c the righteous will live by his faith. Gen. 3:1-5 Begin to question the word and character of God.

Pride – Life is all about me and my glory. V4a Soul is puffed up, v5b An arrogant man who is never at rest, v16 Glory hungry. Phil. 2:3 Rivalry (self promote) and conceit (glory hungry).

Idolatry – Anything more important to you than God. V4b It is not upright within him, vv18-19 Worship and serve created things over the creator. (Rom. 1:25-26)

Five Woe's are symptomatic (by-products) of this evil path:

v6 Extortion, v9 Covetousness, v12 Stockpile Wealth, v15 Drunkenness & Lust, v19 Essence of life in god substitute.

Uproot the Evil in Your Own Heart: (Rom. 5:1, 8)

Belief – Turning to satisfaction in God. v4 "The righteous will live by faith" Belief is not just agreement with facts in the head but also a ferocious appetite for God in the Heart. (John 3:16-21)

Humility – Life is all about God and His Glory. V20 "The Lord is in His Holy Temple; let all the earth keep silence before Him." No matter how bad things get God is in control. (Gen. 50:20; Rom. 8:28) Decisions count and you are responsible for them and at the same time God over rules them for your good and His Glory. (1 Cor.10:31; Col.3:17; Matt. 5:16)

Worship – Fill your heart with the knowledge of the Glory of the Lord. v14 "The earth will be filled with the knowledge of the Glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea." He is speaking prophetically (Rev. 21:1-7) and practically (2 Cor. 3:18, 4:4-6).

Jesus Christ drank from the cup of God's wrath (Luke 22:42-44) taking the shame we deserve so that when we put our faith in Jesus Christ He clothes us in the Glory He deserves. (Mark 1:11)



Growing

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1) Habakkuk is perplexed at how can God discipline His people Judah with a nation more wicked. Why do you think religious people tend to divide the world into good guys and bad guys? How does it make you feel that the Bible says there are no good guys?

2) Read Habakkuk 2:4-20. Anything in particular stand out to you in this text? What are the three characteristic of the root of evil in every human heart? What is unbelief? Unbelief is not “no belief” but an “alternate belief” system to Christianity. Explain.

3) We were created for relationship with God that would fill our hearts with dignity, value and honor. How does unbelief inevitably lead to glory hunger (Pride)? What is idolatry? What are some obvious idols living here in the Valley of the Sun? Why do you think idolatry is the last part to the root of evil in our hearts?

4) What are the three characteristics to uprooting evil in our heart? What does it mean that belief is more than agreement with facts in the head but a ferocious appetite for God in the heart? If pride is making life all about my glory than humility is what?

5) What is worship? Why is worship the final piece to uprooting evil in our hearts? The Chaldeans seek their own glory at others expense & will ultimately receive shame (v16; Mark 8:35). Jesus drank from the cup of God's wrath (Luke 22:42-44) taking the shame we deserve so that when we put our faith in Him He clothes us in the Glory He deserves (Mark 16:13). How will the Holy Spirit help us to overcome our pride and

How to Identify Idols:

- 1) What controls most of your thoughts and feelings?
- 2) What motivates the things that you do?
- 3) What are you most afraid of?
- 4) What brings the highest amount of frustration and anger into your life?
- 5) What is the one thing that can change your mood in a second?
- 6) What would your friends say is your favorite topic of conversation?
- 7) What are some things you think you could never live without?
- 8) What brings you solace (comfort, support, relief)?
- 9) What do you yearn for?
- 10) What is one thing you wish God would do for you?

Personal Idols

- ☐ Religion – earning and achieving right standing with God
 - a) through rules and rituals, moral conformity
 - b) rightness of doctrine (confusing non-essential with essential doctrine)
 - c) elitism in gifts and ministry (focus of form)
- ☐ Leisure – life is about having this kind of pleasure experience
 - a) Hunting, fishing, golfing, four wheeling, season ticket holders
 - b) Back yard BBQ, swimming pools, vacations, camping
 - c) Sports teams both children and adult
- ☐ Workaholism – Work becomes the thing you live for--to be productive and useful, or to feel successful and powerful.
- ☐ Codependence – Because you “need to feel needed” you stay in unhealthy relationships with perennially needy individuals.
- ☐ Beauty and image – This can have various forms including:
 - a) Eating disorders and excessive time, effort, and concern about appearance
 - b) Pornography
- ☐ Romance – This is not the same as pure sexual gratification. You live for crushes or for someone to love you.
- ☐ Family – This idolatry has many variations:
 - a) your children’s prospects and happiness become the most important thing (athletics over spiritual well being)
 - b) meeting your parents’ expectations become the most important thing
 - c) getting married or having a “perfect” marriage becomes the most important thing
- ☐ Money – This idolatry has many variations:
 - a) having (and saving) lots of money may be your security, the main way you feel safe in the world,
 - b) having (and spending) lots of money may be the main way of feeling significant and important (nice possessions, car, home, clothes, etc.)
- ☐ Perfectionism in general - You live to keep complete control of your life.

Social/Cultural Idols

- ☐ Fascism makes an idol of one’s race or nationality.
 - a) “I am acceptable because I am a _____” rather than getting identity as a child of God.
 - b) Leads of course to racism.
- ☐ Communism makes an idol of the state.
 - a) Government will solve all problems rather than God.
 - b) Marx said everything is political, and all problems are political/economic ones, rather than spiritual ones.
- ☐ Populism makes an idol out of public opinion or majority rule, rather than what God says is right.
- ☐ Capitalism makes an idol out of the free market.
 - a) Like communism, it sees all our problems as economic ones, all issues in cost-benefit terms and all things, even people, as commodities.
- ☐ Multiculturalism makes one’s ethnic group or culture an absolute value.
 - a) There are no absolute standards by which to judge.
- ☐ Enlightenment “humanism” makes an idol of reason and scientific investigation.
 - a) Science has an answer for everything and reason will open all doors.
- ☐ Individualism makes an idol out of individual freedom.
 - a) Nothing must curb the individual’s freedom to choose whatever he or she wants to be happy.
- ☐ Traditionalism makes the family and tradition an idol.
 - a) Traditional cultures see the rights of individuals as unimportant compared to the name and interests of the family and tribe.