Introduction

1. What can we do in uncertain times when every facet of human civilization is under attack and losing?

2. There are three types of people in the world today.
   - Those who are afraid.
   - Those who don't know enough to be afraid.
   - Those who know their Bible.

3. As believers we must understand that our faith is not based on the conditions of our culture.

4. Habakkuk was a prophet that lived in the time of Jeremiah. We know him as one of the Minor Prophets, not because he lacked significance but because of the length of his book.

5. The key to understanding Habakkuk is found in 2:4, “Behold, as for the proud one, his soul is not right within him; but the righteous will live by his faith.”

6. The righteous will live by faith is repeated in Romans, Galatians, and Hebrews.

7. We will see that faith doesn’t live by explanations but by promises.

8. In chapter one, we will see that as we live by faith, we look to the promises of God’s Word. Peace is not the subtraction of problems from life; it is the addition of power to meet those problems.

1. The Problem of Heaven’s Silence

1. Habakkuk turned around and asked, “God where are you?” “Why are You letting all this happen?” (1:1-2)

2. Many people are asking the same questions today.

2. The Problem of Earth’s Sinfulness (1:3-4)

1. The wicked had surrounded the righteous and things weren’t getting better as a result of Habakkuk’s crying out.
2. In verse 4, Habakkuk describes the law as being ignored. We have never had more laws, lawyers, and judges; yet less justice.

3. Listen as Jeremiah weighs in on the situation:

   **Jeremiah 5:30–31** “An appalling and horrible thing has happened in the land: 31 The prophets prophesy falsely, And the priests rule on their own authority; And My people love it so! But what will you do at the end of it?”

4. Those who were supposed to be speaking for God were telling lies and the people were loving it. “And My people love it so!”

5. We’ve got preachers that are engaged in slander, sex scandals, extortion, pornography, and telling others that sex outside of marriage is okay and same sex marriage is okay.

6. **Jeremiah 8:12** “Were they ashamed because of the abomination they had done? They certainly were not ashamed, **And they did not know how to blush**; Therefore they shall fall among those who fall; At the time of their punishment they shall be brought down,’ says the Lord.”

We are living in a generation of arrogant; unblushable people who are not ashamed to engage in the unspeakable.

7. Vance Havner: “Sin that used to slink down back alleys now struts down main street.” Habakkuk would agree with Dr. Havner.

## 3. The Problem with Hell’s Success

(1:5-6)

1. God is going to respond to Habakkuk’s prayer with news Habakkuk doesn’t like or expect.

2. God says, “...you think it’s bad now; it’s about to get worse.”

3. Remember, faith doesn’t live by explanations. God is under no obligation to explain or justify Himself to me or anyone else. In verse 5 He tells Habakkuk, “You would not believe if you were told.”

**Why Won’t God Explain it All to Us?**

- **We couldn’t understand it if He did explain it.**
  **Isaiah 55:9** “For as the heavens are higher than the earth, So are My ways higher than your ways And My thoughts than your thoughts.”

- **Romans 11:33–34** “Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are His judgments and unfathomable His ways! 34 For who has known the mind of the Lord, or who became His counselor?”
No more than you could explain nuclear science to an ant, could God explain His unsearchable and unfathomable ways.

- **God is not going to limit Himself to what man can understand.**
  
  **John 16:12** “I have many more things to say to you, but you cannot bear them now.” (We don’t live by explanations)

- **If God did explain it to us, and we understood it, we’d try to talk Him into something different.** We’d be saying, “Lord I think there might be a better way.”

Just because it doesn’t make sense to you, doesn’t mean it doesn’t make sense. And just because it doesn’t make sense to you now doesn’t mean that it won’t make sense to you later on. We live by faith, not explanations.

4. Habakkuk is stunned by God’s response and asked another question in verses 12-17. Habakkuk was upset that God was going to use a wicked nation to discipline His own people. “God You are righteous. How can You let the Babylonians come against us?” It doesn’t make sense.

5. Habakkuk thought God ought to grade on the curve, “Lord we may be bad, but we’re not nearly as bad as the Babylonians.”