



RICHARD HUGHES, EDITOR

AN OUTREACH OF RICHARD HUGHES MINISTRIES, INC.

THE PEN OF A READY WRITER

...I SPEAK OF THE THINGS WHICH I HAVE MADE TOUCHING THE KING:
MY TONGUE IS THE PEN OF A READY WRITER (PSALM 45:1).

VOL. 14, NO. 2

FEBRUARY, 2023

The Just Shall Live by Faith

Four passages use this statement: “the just shall live by faith.” The first is found in the Old Testament. It is Habakkuk 2:3-4 – “For the vision is yet for an appointed time, but at the end it shall speak, and not lie: though it tarry, wait for it; because it will surely come, it will not tarry. Behold, his soul which is lifted up is not upright in him: but the just shall live by his faith.”

Judgment, at the hands of the Chaldeans, will come, though they will attribute their power and their might unto their own god and not to the Lord God. This is the passage quoted in Romans 1:16-17 -- “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

The judgment of God is again stressed. Men are still changing the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like unto corruptible man (Romans 1:23). They worship and serve the creature more than their Creator, blessed forever (Romans 1:25).

The difference in these two passages is the word “his”: “his faith” (Habakkuk) and “faith” (Romans). Both passages deal with the same thought: the just shall live *by the faith of God*.”

The Apostle Paul writes to Rome: “What if some did not believe (the oracles of God committed to the Jews)? Shall their unbelief make the faith of God without effect? God forbid; yea, let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightiest be justified in thy sayings, and mightiest overcome when thou art judged.”

That a man shall live by faith deals with our justification before God. Galatians 3:11 tells us “that it is evident that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God.” The just shall live by faith: the faith once delivered to the saints (Jude 1:3). Christ spoke what the Father had given him (John 17:14). The words of eternal life are his words (John 6:68). They are spirit, and they are life (John 6:63).

The just shall live by faith, the promises of the Lord Jesus Christ: “but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him” (Hebrews 10:38). Are you of them that believe (that Jesus is the Christ) to the saving of the soul; or, are you of them who draw back unto perdition, denying the only Lord God and our Lord Jesus Christ?



Vickie Wilkerson
Hughes

Thou shalt love the Lord thy God

Our grandchildren have all kinds of activities each week. This past week was no exception. It was filled with basketball and karate. What a blessing to see each one of them striving to do their best. I love watching them and seeing their excitement as they make a basket or receive a new belt. I am so proud of them.

My goal, in my own walk with God, is to set my eyes upon Jesus and hear him say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant." As I age, I look forward to stepping heavenward. One day, my eyes shall see him, and I will be like him (1 John 3:2).

In the meantime, I am reminded of the great commandment: Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind (Matthew 22:37). My desire is to love God and to walk in Christ's Spirit every day.

A wonderful praise that we have is that Ila, one of Ben's little girls and one of our grandchildren, came to know the Lord Jesus Christ as her personal Savior!

A MERRY HEART...

About last month: the preacher could ride into town and leave town on Friday, before a week had passed, because his horse was named Friday.

And, speaking of horses, did you hear of the three boys who inherited horses from their Grandpa?

The Preacher had dropped by the ranch to check on the boys; and, he found them looking over the 17 horses Grandpa had left them.

They all were thankful for Grandpa's godly example and his faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, but they were puzzled by his will. How could they divide up the horses?

The youngest, Johnny, said, "Preacher, I get a ninth of them!" The oldest nodded, saying he received half of the horses, and the middle boy said, "I get a third!" The problem? What's a third of 17?

The Preacher pondered a moment, looked at his old mare and smiled. "I have an idea," he said. The boys watched him as he took the saddle off of Molly and turned her into the coral. "Now, we have 18 horses," said the Preacher. "Since Tom, as the oldest, gets half, cut out 9 of the horses for him." The boys jumped right to it.

The Preacher continued, "Tim gets a third—" The boys yelled out, "He gets 6!" And, they hurried to cut out 6 more for Tim.

"That leaves a ninth for Johnny, so—" the Preacher paused again.

"I get two horses of my very own," Johnny exclaimed, as he rushed to claim them.

"Does that solve your problem," the Preacher asked? The boys just smiled.

One young white stallion stood in the center of the coral. The Preacher approached him slowly, and he gently slipped his harness over the horse's head. As he rode off, he gave thanks to the Lord and to the three boys. You see, $9 + 6 + 2 = 17!$