

Ministry of Encouragement

Yet Will I Praise Him!!

Habakkuk 3:17-18

The morning newsfeed tells of violence, greed, climate change, fighting and perverted justice. Perverted justice is when we take the law, revenge and retribution into our own hands. It is difficult to hear of the way immigrants, especially children are being treated, that the government was willing to shut down over the non-construction of a wall, corruption and greed in the highest offices of this land, and the effects of global warming and not being a good steward of the land God has given us and not wonder. The book of Habakkuk begins with, “² *How long, LORD, must I call for help, but you do not listen? Or cry out to you, “Violence!” but you do not save?* ³ *Why do you make me look at injustice? Why do you tolerate wrongdoing? Destruction and violence are before me; there is strife, and conflict abounds. ⁴ Therefore the law is paralyzed, and justice never prevails. The wicked hem in the righteous, so that justice is perverted.” [Habakkuk 1:2-4 NIV] The book begins with the prophet Habakkuk interrogating God. We sometimes begin by asking God the why and how long questions. It is acceptable to ask God these questions because God is the creator and is all-knowing; just be prepared to accept that God may not answer the way you think.*

As we continue on our pilgrim journey we will learn to live by faith and to put our trust and hope in God who is all-powerful. We come to a place in our faith journey that we know God is in control and trust that God can turn our terrors into trust, our fears into an unshakable faith, our hang-ups into hope in a loving God, our anguish into adoration, and our desperations into devotion. We get to a place that our interrogation, “Why?” is changed into an exclamation Who! We come to understand that a loving and caring God is in control. We will come to a place on our journey that we do not worry but worship. We cast our cares and concerns onto God who is willing and able to sustain us. We will get to a space of submission to God’s will and know that it is for our good. The Prophet Habakkuk came to that place by chapter three. *Chapter three* begins, “² *LORD, I have heard of your fame; I stand in awe of your deeds, LORD...*”

Moreover, *chapter three* ends with, “¹⁷ *Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior. ¹⁹ The Sovereign LORD is my strength; he makes my feet like the feet of a deer, he enables me to tread on the heights.” As we continue to walk with God we too will be able to say, yet will I rejoice in the Lord. Nevertheless, I will serve and love You, O God.*

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

Prayer

Eternal wise God, we come to the end of another year thanking you for the journey. You have brought us a mighty long way through health, financial, and relational challenges. We are mighty grateful for what we have learned on the journey. We pray for strength, wisdom, and compassion. Because of your faithfulness every morning we have experienced new mercies. Lord, we ask that you would intervene in this government shutdown; may wisdom, peace, and justice prevail. We pray for healing, deliverance, and salvation. We bring to you those who are under hospice care and ask that your will be done in their lives, comfort and strengthen their families. We ask that you would comfort those who are grieving, bereaved, and mourning. We pray for health, healing, and wisdom blessings upon the people of God. Bless your people in the coming year with financial wisdom, peace of mind, wisdom in living for you and serving you. We pray for our country, community, and Wayman AMEC that we would turn to you for strength and wisdom in this coming year. This we pray in Jesus name. Amen!

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

Stewardship Moment

Each of us are called to be good stewards of what God has entrusted to our care. God gave us these bodies, minds, treasures, gifts, graces, and talents to manage. Let us be mindful of what God has given us and begin to take be better stewards. A steward manages the owner's possessions. We belong to God, the world and everything in it belongs to God. Our tasks is to manage it well. We are going to commence managing our bodies better. With faith, food, fitness, friends, and focus we are going to successfully better steward our bodies.

Join me on The Daniel Plan forty days to better health. You are welcome to begin studying The Daniel Plan: 40 Days to a Healthier Life; The Daniel Plan Cookbook: Healthy Eating for Life, and The Daniel Plan: Jumpstart Guide written by Rick Warren, Daniel Amen, and Mark Hyman. If you want more information about the Daniel Plan and have not purchased the above-mentioned books go to the website. www.danielplan.com

Reverend Dr. Brigitte A. Black

Sermon Scripture Reference

Rejoice In The Lord!

Habakkuk 3:17-18

¹⁷ Though the fig tree does not bud and there are no grapes on the vines, though the olive crop fails and the fields produce no food, though there are no sheep in the pen and no cattle in the stalls, ¹⁸ yet I will rejoice in the Lord, I will be joyful in God my Savior.