

## "WHAT IF..."

*"Look among the nations, and see; wonder and be astounded. For I am doing a work in your days that you would not believe if told."* **Habakkuk 1:5**

"Would you have believed it if someone told you, say at Valentine's Day, that the restaurant you were eating in would be closed and all the workers would be unemployed in just over a month? Even with isolated Covid-19 outbreaks in the United States, even watching it spread from China to Iran to Italy and throughout Europe, even with warnings from epidemiologists who have been preaching "be ready" for years (see the 2011 film, *Contagion*, for some eerie prophecies of the current crisis), very few people would have predicted our current situation: Every nation on this globe is focused on a common enemy, all humanity has joined to fight against it, and over 1/3 of the human population is in isolation. Who can do that, but God? Our gods are being laid bare, and it is as if Jehovah God has sent us to our rooms to think about it. In what have we placed our confidence?

I encourage you to read the book of Habakkuk – it's only three chapters long. Contemplate the dialogue between the prophet Habakkuk and Jehovah God. Habakkuk complains that God has been sitting idly by while humanity perverts justice and the "wicked surround the righteous". Meanwhile, God replies that he *is* at work through the Assyrians, "that bitter and hasty nation" to bring *his own people* to repentance. Habakkuk had approached God with his own idea of how God should relate to humanity, but by the end of the book, he exclaims "though the fig tree should not blossom, nor fruit be on the vines, the produce of the olive fail and the fields yield no food, the flock be cut off from the fold and there be no herd in the stalls, *yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation. GOD, the Lord, is my strength.*" **Habakkuk 3:17-18**

My question for you today is "What if...?" What if there is no fruit on the vine, or food in the aisles? Doesn't seem so theoretical as it did a month ago, does it? What is the worst thing that could happen to you? Does it seem more realistic today? Think about that, and then consider another *what if...* *What if* we humble ourselves before God and pray and seek his face and turn from all our wicked ways? What if God is our only hope in life and in death? What would that look like? Would our lives look different? If the worst happened, could we say along with Habakkuk, *yet I will rejoice in the LORD; I will take joy in the God of my salvation.*" What kind of faith is that (Hab 2:4)? May the LORD grant us eyes to see and faith to believe!

In Christ,  
Pastor Grant



### QUESTIONS:

1. What is the worst thing that could happen to you and your family throughout this crisis?
2. Think about concrete ways that God is greater than the worst thing that could happen to you throughout the crisis. Does the book of Habakkuk offer any words of insight? Any prayers to pray? (Hint: it does!)
3. What does it mean that "the righteous will live by faith" in this current crisis?