

**False Shortcuts to Success or
How to Waste Your Life**
Habakkuk 2:5-17
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HABAKKUK
WRESTLING WITH GOD



Pursue genuine glory.

Habakkuk 2:5-17

“Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples.”

Woe to the Chaldeans

⁶ Shall not all these take up their taunt against him, with scoffing and riddles for him, and say, “Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—for how long?—and loads himself with pledges!”

⁷ Will not your debtors suddenly arise, and those awake who will make you tremble? Then you will be spoil for them. ⁸ Because you have plundered many nations, all the remnant of the peoples shall plunder you, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them. ⁹ “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! ¹⁰ You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. ¹¹ For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond.

¹² “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!

¹³ Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing? ¹⁴ For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea. ¹⁵ “Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink— you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness! ¹⁶ You will have your fill of shame instead of glory. Drink, yourself, and show your uncircumcision! The cup in the Lord’s right hand will come around to you, and utter shame will come upon your glory! ¹⁷ The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you, as will the destruction of the beasts that terrified them, for the blood of man and violence to the earth, to cities and all who dwell in them.

Betrayers

- The Bottle – 2:5 *“Moreover, wine is a traitor, an arrogant man who is never at rest. His greed is as wide as Sheol; like death he has never enough. He gathers for himself all nations and collects as his own all peoples.”*
- Profitable vice – 2:6b, 9-12, 15-17 *“Woe to him who heaps up what is not his own—for how long?...⁹ “Woe to him who gets evil gain for his house, to set his nest on high, to be safe from the reach of harm! ¹⁰ You have devised shame for your house by cutting off many peoples; you have forfeited your life. ¹¹ For the stone will cry out from the wall, and the beam from the woodwork respond. ¹² “Woe to him who builds a town with blood and founds a city on iniquity!...¹⁵ “Woe to him who makes his neighbors drink—you pour out your wrath and make them drunk, in order to gaze at their nakedness! ¹⁶ You will have your fill of shame instead of glory...and utter shame will come upon your glory! ¹⁷ The violence done to Lebanon will overwhelm you...*
 - Shrewdness is not shadiness. Be strategically wise but morally blameless as doves (Matthew 10:16).
 - Tainted profits cannot bring safety.
 - Crooked conquest cannot erase guilt.

Q: How does profitable vice betray us?

A: ¹³ *Behold, is it not from the Lord of hosts that peoples labor merely for fire, and nations weary themselves for nothing?*

“Evil’s inherent tendency is to self-destruct.” – J.N.B. Heflin¹

A: It ends in losing your personal peace, family health, soul, and often the stuff you sacrificed everything for: Money, power, and fame.

How do you turn the corner?

- Pursue genuine glory by seeking God's glory – 2:14 *For the earth will be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as the waters cover the sea.*
 - Allow this future reality to influence your day-to-day decisions.

What does this response to God's grace look like?

- Repent and say "Yes" to Jesus.
- Be baptized by immersion in obedience to Jesus.
- Join a local Bible-teaching church.
- Tell others about Jesus.
- Be quick to forgive and admit when you're wrong.
- Live in generosity.

¹ J.N.B. Heflin, *Nahum, Habakkuk, Zephaniah, and Haggai* BSC (Grand Rapids: Zondervan, 1985), 93. In Kenneth L. Barker & Waylon Bailey, *The New American Commentary: An Exegetical and Theological Exposition of Holy Scripture*, ed. E. Ray Clendenen (Nashville: Broadman & Holman, 1998), 334.