

### 03.17.21 – A Weekly Word for Covenant Church

**Title:** “Woe!”

**Scripture Reading:** [Habakkuk 2:6-20](#)

**Reflection:** Pastor Henry

The opening questions on the [spiritual formation guide](#) for this week, when we take time to answer and talk about them together, are delightfully illuminating. How we answer these questions will significantly inform how we approach and respond to a text like Habakkuk 2:6-20. Did you catch what the opening questions were? If not, here they are. The first one is this:

1. What are some things that your parents warned you about when you were a child?

Some answers to this question that I heard already this week in the spiritual formation groups that I am a part of include...watching TV, going to the movies, the friends you choose to hang out with, touching the hot stove, dancing, gambling, staying up too late, befriending strangers too quickly. When it came to warnings from our parents, these are some of the things our parents warned us about.

What about you? What did / do your parents warn you about? What things would you add to the list above?

The second opening question, and how we answer it, is even more illuminating. Why? Because how we answer this question reveals to us and others a part of our heart, soul, and will. How we answer this second question reveals and illuminates to us and others how we go about living our life. It begins to illuminate for us who or what may or may not have a voice in how we choose to live our life. The second question is this:

2. When your parents tried to warn you about these things, how did you react?

Some people said they heeded their parents’ warnings about various things and did as they were told. Others heeded their parents’ warnings about things while they were at home, but then quickly ignored them once they left the confines of home and found freedom in their aunt’s or friend’s house down the street or in the dorms at college/university. Others either ignored their parent’s warnings or merely took their warnings as ‘suggestions.’ Instead, they trusted their own judgement when it came to making decisions about the things that their parents warned them about.

What about you? How did you / do you react to the warnings that your parents give you? What did you / do you do with their warnings?

And, how about the other warnings you receive from other people and places? What do you do with them? How do you react and respond? What do you do with the warnings from your teachers or professors; warnings from your doctor, the surgeon general, or the health department; warnings from environmentalists; warnings from economists; warnings from your employer or your customers; warnings on the products you use and/or consume; warnings from our God?

In our text for this week, God warns his people, his people of Habakkuk’s day as well as us today, about five different things. God provides five different “Woes!” or warnings for us to watch out for and pay attention to. God warns us about the dangers of exploitation/extortion; greed; violence against others; intimidation/hazing/bullying/shaming; and idolatry. God warns us that if/when we embrace any of these things,

if/when we use any of these things, if/when we do any of these things, "...what sorrow awaits..." us and those affected by them when we do. God clearly warns us how each of these things can deceive, disgrace, and destroy our relationships with him and others. God's warnings are clear.

But, what about our reactions and responses to these warnings? Are they also clear?

**Prayer:**

God, your warnings to us today are clear. Sorrow and pain await us and others when we embrace exploitation and extortion, greed, violence, intimidation, and idolatry. Holy Spirit of God enable us to turn away from these things. Free us from their power in our lives. Replace these with love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. God helps us to turn to and listen to you. You are in your temple! Your words are our source of life! AMEN.

**Action Item for the Day/Week:**

This week, as you go about your day, examine who you choose to listen to and who you choose to ignore. Examine what type of warnings you choose to heed and what type of warnings you choose to ignore. Ask yourself "Why do I listen to who I listen to? Why do I ignore the people I do? What warnings do I readily embrace? What warnings do I simply ignore?" Talk about these with a family member or friend.

**Songs for today:**

[Will You Not Listen?](#)

[Word of God Speak](#)

[Speak O Lord](#)

[Ancient Words](#)

[Living Word](#)