

The High Cost of Pride

Introduction:

Pride is Satan's universal temptation invading both man and nation which often brings catastrophic consequences. In Habakkuk 2:6-20 we have an honest and upfront examination of pride. Pride is a sin that is often hard to recognize until it has latched on to us. Pride always has a high cost. Perhaps if we completely understood the damage it does, we would do a better job of keeping ourselves clear of pride. Let's first understand the damage it does by looking at...

I. Pride's Victims

- A. Two things we need to understand concerning pride:
 - 1. Controlled by pride? You will say and do things that will hurt others.
 - 2. Rom. 12:17, 19-21 - Leave retribution to God.

II. The Traits of Pride

- A. 2:6-8 - Greed and Ambition
 - 1. Look at our nation. Will it ever be satisfied?
 - 2. 2:6b-7 – practice of piling one loan on another until no possibility of being repaid. One day the nation would be unable to pay.
 - 3. Pro. 30:8-9 - Must learn to trust the provisions of God.
- B. 2:9-11 - Evil Scheming
 - 1. Due to its seemingly rich status Babylon felt secure.
 - 2. People today seek ways to get ahead without regard for others.
 - 3. Those who scheme in such a way have one that judges them.
 - a. Luke 12:15-21 – Did the rich man have “genuine” security?
- C. 2:12-14 - Violence
 - 1. Babylon brought destruction upon all she came in contact with.
 - a. Violence may appear to be triumphant, but it never renders genuine success.
 - 2. Many people's behavior today is controlled by pride.
 - 3. When one is full of pride there are no restrictions.
- D. 2:15-17 - Immorality
 - 1. Babylon was a nation known for its excess of alcohol.
 - 2. Alcohol has caused many people to do things they normally wouldn't.
 - a. Pro. 20:1; 23:29-25; 1 Peter 4:3 - Drinking, excessive and socially, are condemned in Scripture.
 - 3. Christians must avoid the temptations such as these and focus upon the Lord and His will.
- E. 2:18-19 - Idolatry
 - 1. Babylon was focused, not upon God, but upon themselves.
 - 2. Idolatry is removing God with the pre-eminent concern in your life and replacing Him with a greater concern.
 - 3. Mark 12:29-30 - Must seek to have God as number one in our lives.

III. Pride's Absolute Harvest

- A. Three things that pride will reap:
 - 1. 2:7 – Plunder; 2:10 – Shame; 2:13 - Futility
- B. 2:20 - Remember God is aware of all that occurs.

Conclusion

- A. Put your trust in God and not in yourself.
- B. Humble yourself to the mighty hand of God.