The Three Eternal Destinies #106*Faith*

Hab 2:4 became the rallying cry of the Protestant Revolution in the 1600's. They got it mixed up as to what *faith* actually meant. Where in all the Old Testament do you see the word *faith*? Where does it say Abraham was saved by *faith*? In Gen 15:6 it says he *believed*.

Hab 2:4 speaks of a person's own works — which he lives by in his own lifetime — his own fidelity, faithfulness to his conscience. This is his obedience to the everlasting covenant of Isa 24:5-6; Gen 3:16-19; and 9:1-7. Hab 2:4 does not say the words *faith alone*, or *by itself*. It means full of one's own steadfastness, firmness, and truthfulness to his own heart (Rom 2:6-10, 14-16).

Dt 32:20 and Hab 2:4 are the only two places *faith* is found, but it means one's own works — proving his faith or trust as Jms 2:14-17. The man is justified by his own faithfulness to God by good works (Rom 14:22-23). In Dt 32:20 *no faith* meant men who are not faithful, not doing the works prepared for them (Eph 2:10). Paul uses the Greek version of faith for the doctrine of justification by faith in Rom 1:17, but Hab 2:4 speaks of justification by one's own faithfulness, fidelity, firmness in what he knows is right and true, and in *doing* it.

The Greek word for *faith* is the word *belief*. It means trusting in God's faithfulness for salvation, expressed by the believer in baptism (Acts 2:41). But *faith in* Hab 2:4 is a men's faithfulness in doing what is right in his conscience, the things he knows (James 4:17). If one lives by *faith*, it means his faith in God, which is obedience to His command — which necessitates works (Jms 2:14-23; Eph 2:10). Our *faith* is justified by our works. The people of the nations are saved from the second death by their character proven by their works (Ecc 12:13-14; Mt 12:34-37; Rev 12:12-15).