

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 431 – February 24, 2013**

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Good Morning!**

**Let's Make a Mental Shift \**

Good Morning! First Corinthians, Chapter 8, Verse 1 says...

/1CO 8:1

*...we know that we all have knowledge. Knowledge makes arrogant, but (unconditional) love edifies.\*

We are not here to merely take in knowledge...we are here to learn how to love others unconditionally, just as God loves us. So in preparation for the study of the Word of God, it's time for self-evaluation. You can ask yourself, "What thought pattern is reflected by my relationships?"

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

As you go about your everyday life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, at any moment in time, you can choose to tune your soul to the influence of KCOS, operating with the world system of thought, or you can choose to tune your soul to the influence of WGOD, operating with the divine system of thought. Bible study is a time to lay aside the spiritual battle of daily life...the internal fight between two kingdoms for control of your soul...it's a time to allow the infiltration of your soul and spirit with the mind of Christ, the Word of God, so you can have a chance, when you return to the world, to operate with the same attitude that was also in Christ Jesus. The Word of God refers to bible study as a time of RENEWING, as you let God the Holy Spirit fill up your deficiency of thought, leading you into the truths of the Word of God, as He unveils the plan of God the Father for your life. Second Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verse 18 says...

/2CO 3:18

*But we (believers in Christ) all, with unveiled face (given by God), beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from (the ultimate source of) glory to (reflected) glory, just as from the (agency of the) Lord, (God) the (Holy) Spirit.\*

Now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, prepare you "in humility (to) receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

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### **/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Destiny\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song, as you fix the eyes of your soul on the author and perfecter of your faith, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The opening song is...DESTINY.

### **/OPENING PRAYER**

Let us pray...(0:30)

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Help us to see your riches in the midst of our tribulations...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

### **/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

Pastor Rory Clark\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. You're listening to lesson four hundred and thirty-one of the CREATOR versus CREATURE Conflict series. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

### **/TODAY'S STUDY**

**The CREATOR'S Will is That You Experience Bankruptcy and Riches\**

### **/ANNOUNCEMENTS\**

/The Pledge of Allegiance\

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Since there is a separation of church and state...Barah Ministries will no longer recite the Pledge of Allegiance in our biblical lessons. We will replace it with a prayer service, which will start in the third week of March. The prayer service will be celebrated twice a month for half an hour, after the third lesson on announced dates, and it will give us a chance to pray together as a congregation for any intentions that are weighing on your heart. We will include in our intercession for others the military establishment, the police and other protective services, and your family and friends. I'm really looking forward to this, and I want to say thanks to Maureen Slobig for giving us the prayer service idea.

/Mark Your Calendars!

The next Lord's Supper Celebration is March 3, 2013

NEXT WEEK!\

/Mark Your Calendars!

Temporary Change of Location

NEXT WEEK!

March 3

Hilton Chandler

2929 West Frye Road

Chandler, AZ 85224

(480) 899-7400\

/Mark Your Calendars!

Barah Ministries Radio Program

KXXT, 1010 AM, Phoenix

Fridays 4:30PM-5:00PM

Rebroadcast

[myfamilyvaluesradio.net](http://myfamilyvaluesradio.net)

CLICK TO LISTEN

“G”

“God Cares for You”\

/Mark Your Calendars!

HOMECOMING

for the

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“Soon to Be Resident” Congregation

June 15-16\

We suggest you come in on Thursday night so we can have some recreation time on Friday, June 14...and then stay through Monday night if you can...

Thanks to all of you who came for a visit last week...Stephen, Charlotte and Nick Capaldo...Debbie Cramer...Alex “Boots” Leary...Nathan Murphy...Leo and Kathy Gildea (GIL-DAY)...this week we have Tracy Bixby and Donna Chin in from California and Texas...

/Mark Your Calendars!

Coeur D’Alene, Idaho  
BIBLE CONFERENCE

*Tentative Date*

August 9\

/Mark Your Calendars!

No Bible Study

March 10

April 21

June 30

December 8

December 29\

/Happy Birthday

Tyler Wetherbee

February 24\

/Happy Birthday

June Murphy

February 27\

/Happy Birthday

Mike Embree

February 28\

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/Congratulations

Shannon Thomas-Zeluff

Daughter of Nancy Ruybal\

She's the owner of Studio 3 Beauty Designs in Casa Grande and she's on the list of Blue Ribbon Winners with an opportunity to win the Dream Big Award. Let's keep her in our prayers.

/Prayers

Vimala Chowdala

Her Mother Passed Away\

Next, let's take the offering. Let's welcome up Deacon Caleb Alburn.

**/THE OFFERING**

Deacon Caleb Alburn\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

No price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

/OFFERING VERSE

1CO 1:4

*I thank my God always concerning you for the grace of God which was given you in Christ Jesus.\*

/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

2CO 9:7

*Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.\*

**/OFFERING SONG**

*Halleluiah\*

**/TODAY'S STUDY**

**The CREATOR'S Will is That You Experience Bankruptcy and Riches\**

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Quite often we feel like failures, and as Christians we wonder why. One of our “Soon to Be Resident” Congregation members sent me a note this week with a perfect description of FAIL...

/FAIL

**F**irst

**A**ttempt

**I**n

**L**earning\

...to F-A-I-L is often our first attempt at learning.

Another “Soon to Be Resident” Congregation member puts it this way...

/FEELINGS OF FAILURE

“I feel like my confidence in God is dwindling”\

If the Christian Way of Life feels like a battle, a struggle filled with failures, that’s because it is...it’s a battle between the bankruptcy of the self-life, and the riches of Christ. Second Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 1 to 5 describe the fruit of the self life...

/2TI 3:1

*But realize this, that in the last days difficult times will come.\*

/2TI 3:2

*For men will be lovers of self, lovers of money, boastful, arrogant, revilers, disobedient to parents, ungrateful, unholy...\*

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/2TI 3:3

*...unloving, irreconcilable, malicious gossips, without self-control, brutal, haters of good...\*

/2TI 3:4

*...treacherous, reckless, conceited, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God...\*

/2TI 3:5

*...holding to a (superficial) form of godliness (the spiritual life), although they have denied its power; Avoid such men as these.\*

When we hear these verses, we hope they are describing someone else, but in the wee small hours of the morning, when we look at ourselves in the mirror, we know very well that often these verses are describing our own lives, and in many ways they are describing exactly how we feel inside.

On the other hand, we hear the promises of God concerning the Christian Way of Life...Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verses 7 and 8 say...

/EPH 1:7-8

*In Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) we have redemption (the freedom from slavery to the law) through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His grace//which He lavished on us.\*

Does your life feel like God is lavishing riches on you?

We know our God, we have faith in our God, we know He purchased us from the slavery of spiritual death, but we secretly wonder, in the recesses of our minds, why the things God promises never seem to apply to us. Even those of us who are positive to the study of the Word of God secretly wonder why “bad things happen to good people,” namely us.

I often share with you the challenges of my life. I was reminded by another of our “Soon to Be Resident” Congregation members about how when he goes back and listens to Barah Ministries lessons of the past, he hears of a son of mine who was not even talking to me, and now that same son is living in the same city as me and our relationship is under repair.

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I hear many of you talking about the change in my voice in the lessons lately...how I seem so unburdened and free and happy...how the quality of the lessons has improved...how just last year I was claiming that everything in my life felt like a loss and how now life seems so different. I will tell you that happiness is not only those times when we feel free. Happiness is also those times when we are dying inside, and I have felt like that often, just not lately.

From the perch of the pulpit, and from time spent getting to know you, I see similar struggles going on in your lives. After a short break, we'll take a look at your lives and see if we can make sense of things before we embark on our passages in the book of Galatians.

/BREAK

*When I Think About Home*

Welcome back!

From this perch called the pulpit, I see some of you struggling with clinical depression. Depression is a torture that those of us who don't suffer from it cannot fathom. We see depression as just "being down..." as something you should be able to just snap out of after a good pity party...depression really is a missing chemical in the brain that must be replaced...the difference between the depression of "being down" and clinical depression is that when we are "down" we don't have suicidal thoughts. For those who are clinically depressed, suicidal thoughts are a constant, and at a point suicide appears to be a great alternative. People who are clinically depressed often wonder why the Word of God doesn't help. The truth is the Word of God does help, but it doesn't replace the need for chemicals that medicate mania, and depression and sleep. People in the lives of those who are clinically depressed often choose to look the other way instead of offering help because they don't know exactly what to do.

Some of you struggle with intimate relationships. You want one, and no matter what you do, one is not forthcoming. Whenever you get in one, it always seem to fail. You wonder secretly what is wrong with you. The truth is, there is nothing wrong with you. But there is a tremendous difference between wanting a relationship...that is..."wanting to be married"...and wanting to be there in the trenches with a real person. The



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difference, of course, is that “wanting a relationship” often is deeply rooted in self. And until you see the depth of the depravity of this self-life approach to relationships, which your “intended targets” can easily see in you, success at attaining intimate relationships eludes you.

Some of you are tired of being alone.

Some of you are married, and you wonder about a concept people keep talking about as they refer to marriage...the concept of “being on the same page.” You and your spouse don’t even have a page, perhaps never did, and you have no idea how to “bring back that loving feeling.”

Some of you are struggling with “what’s next.” You are about to finish a long and arduous trek through college, and in the final stages of the college marathon, as you look ahead a bit, you are beginning to realize that the world is not about to welcome you with open arms. You often have thoughts of quitting. You have been stripped of the protection of your parents, or a mentor, or perhaps a spouse, and the expression “you’re on your own” is about to take on a new meaning.

Some of you have graduated. You think back on the time you were in college, when you had hopes and dreams and aspirations...now you have a college degree and you’re working for minimum wage and you can barely afford the gasoline to get to work.

Some of you are parents of young children. You’re wondering where your freedom went. You’re up to your elbows in poop diapers and that thing you called a marriage has all but disappeared. You think back to the days when you wanted, in fact were begging for a child, and now that the child is here you’re wondering if you need your head examined.

Some of you are the parents of teen-agers. As hard as you try, you can’t remember the time when this Cretan of yours actually valued one of your thoughts. You’re thinking back and wondering, “Did I ever see this person smile?”

Some of you have married the person of your dreams, but they came as a package deal...with kids...and you’re wondering if you will ever be able to break into the inner circle.

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Some of you go to bed one night, perfectly normal in your own mind. You wake up the next day, and in a routine doctor's appointment you find out that you have cancer.

Some of you are beginning to experience breakdown in your body as you age. Suddenly the word surgery is being bandied about in conversations about you and it is a bit unsettling, especially when you know that there are more days of your life in back of you than there are in front of you.

Some of you work for bosses who are out of their minds. It's Sunday, and you know in a few hours that sick feeling in your stomach will return as you face "just another manic Monday."

Some of you are members of the "executive homeless." You spend more time in hotel rooms than you do in your own bed. So this is success?

Some of you secretly wonder if God invented families just to torture you.

Some of you have children who are incorrigible. You feel powerless and out of control and there just seems to be no hope.

For some of you there is always too much month at the end of the money.

I talk regularly to Pastors. They enter the ministry with great enthusiasm. Then at a point there seem to be some common themes regarding what they wonder, like "Where is my building, and where is my evangelist, and where is my salary, and how come this ministry seems so dead, and why do people "ministry hop," and why are people so sensitive, and why when I try to help and seek to be personable does it always seem to blow up in my face, and why are the seats empty, and why don't they ever bring anyone to church, and why do they take but not give, and when are the "spiritual gifts" of the congregation members going to start showing up in actions...and really...you're taking away my health?"

What do all these situations...your situations...my situations...our situations...have in common? Turn to First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 25...

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/1PE 2:25

*For you were continually straying like sheep, but now you have returned to the Shepherd and Guardian of your souls.\*

Christianity is not a do-it-yourself life. It is not a life of striving. It is a life of receiving. It is not a rule-based existence...a series of do's and don'ts... a series of laws, which if we just follow, everything will work out. Christianity is not a self-creation...Satan thought it was...Isaiah, Chapter 14, Verse 14...

/ISA 14:14

*"I (Satan) will make myself like the Most High." \*

How is a self-oriented approach to life working out for Satan? How is a self-oriented approach to life working out for you? It isn't. It can't. It never will. At a point, we realize the bankruptcy of self, and we have no choice but to throw up our hands in surrender, as believers in Christ, and cry out...Daddy! Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 15...

/ROM 8:15

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as (adult) sons by which we cry out, "Abba! Father!" \*

When you cry out in desperation, God hears you. When you are ready to receive, He is ready to give. When you are ready for a life of living and giving and serving, He is ready to take you to the destinations that will give you the desires of your heart. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 10 says...

/EPH 2:10

*For we (believers in Christ) are His (God the Father's) workmanship, created in (union with) Christ Jesus for (divine) good works, which God (the father) prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.\*

Is your self-life a life that God prepared for you? Is it the riches in Christ? Is it producing joy?

Romans Chapter 8, Verse 29 says...

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/ROM 8:29

*For those whom He foreknew, He also predestined to become conformed to the image of His Son...\*

Romans Chapter 8, Verse 28 says...

/ROM 8:28

*And we (believers in Christ) know that God (the Father) causes (the) all things to work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.\*

I leave you with this thought...if God had a training program for royalty, what do you think it would look like? When you think about it long enough, I'll bet you'll discover that it looks exactly like the life you are living right now...and as we learn from Paul's letter to the Galatians, we'll see how quick we are to abandon the life of riches God planned for us in eternity past.

**/CLOSING SONG**

We Are Royalty\