

**THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT**  
**Lesson 432– March 3, 2013**

**/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES**

**Good Morning!**

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

Good morning! Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 19-20 says...

/COL 1:19-20

*For it was (God) the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness (of Deity) to dwell in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), //and through Him (the Lord) to reconcile all things to Himself (the Father), having made peace through the blood of His (the Lord's) Cross; through Him (the Lord), I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.\*

We have peace with God because of the saving work of the Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross. It is on this basis alone that we have hope, totally apart from anything we could ever do to add or subtract from the Lord's finished work.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

God the Holy Spirit is looking forward to filling up your deficiency of thought with today's lessons, RENEWING you by leading you into the truths of the Word of God, and by unveiling the Plan of God the Father for your life. Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

ROM 12:2

*...(keep on) be(ing) transformed by (God in) the RENEWING of your mind...*

As we gather to study the Word of God, we shift our minds to this RENEWING. We ask, in self-evaluation, "What thought pattern am I allowing to influence my life?" WE wait in eager anticipation as God changes us, with our permission of course into a Creature who is engaging the Christian Way of Living.

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

When I Say I Love You\

As God prepares you for this RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is...When I Say I Love You.

### **/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 put the past behind us so we can make room for the future you have planned for us...

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-two 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 Forget the Past\**

We continue our study of the CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT.

<CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT 21 C's SLIDE>

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We are studying our CREATOR...we are learning about God's Person and His Work, so that we can have a great relationship with Him. We use an encoding device called the CREATOR CLOCK to introduce ourselves to the various aspects of God's character and nature. Tick tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK? It's seven o'clock.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE dial points to seven o'clock>

God is WILLING. We're studying God's Will. It is God's will that you forget the past. Turn in your bibles to Philippians, Chapter 3, Verse 1...

<Read the Chapter 3 of Philippians...>

I want to call your attention to three verses from this passage...

/PHI 3:12

*Not that I have already obtained it or have already become perfect, but I press on so that I may lay hold of that for which also I was laid hold of by Christ Jesus.\*

/PHI 3:13

*Brethren, I do not regard myself as having laid hold of it yet; but one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...\*

/PHI 3:14

*I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.\*

First, let's look at the life to which God has called us Christians.

**Salvation** is a request by God, inviting you out of condemnation and into the **Christian Way of Life**. As it says in First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 9, salvation is from God...

/1PE 2:9

*...who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light.\*

John, Chapter 3, Verse 18 says...

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/JOH 3:18

*“He who believes in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) is not judged; he who does not believe (in the Lord Jesus Christ) has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name (the Person) of the only begotten (uniquely born) Son of God.”\*

The **spiritual life** is a request by God, inviting you to the freedom of the **Christian Way of Living**. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 18 says we are to...

/2PE 3:18

*...grow in the (sphere of) grace and (in the) knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen.\*

The **Christian Way of Living** is powered by the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit and by the filling of God the Holy Spirit, who offers us a spiritual engine through the Word of God...it's called the mind of Christ and it is alive and powerful and sharp, like a two-edged sword, and piercing...

Eternity beckons when we enter our very own “death shadowed valley,” as God prepares us for the **Christian Way of Dying**. Psalm 23, Verse 4 says...

/PSA 23:4

*Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me.\*

Philippians, Chapter 1, Verse 21 says...

/PHI 1:21

*For to me, to live is Christ and to die is gain.\*

Christianity offers you a past...salvation...the **Christian Way of Life** through the benefits provided by the Lord Jesus Christ's work as we look backward to the Cross... Christianity offers you a present...the **Christian Way of Living**...and Christianity offers you a future, the **Christian Way of Dying**...a passageway between our lives on earth and eternity in heaven, spent face-to-face with the Lord...Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 8 says...

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/2CO 5:8

*...we (believers in Christ) are of good courage, I say, and prefer rather to be absent from the body and to be at home (face-to-face) with the Lord.\*

/REV 21:4

*“...and He (the Lord Jesus Christ) will wipe away every tear from their eyes; and there will no longer be any death; there will no longer be any mourning, or crying, or pain; the first things have passed away.”\*

As Paul suggests in Philippians, Chapter 3, the Christian Way of Living is not lived while looking in the rear view mirror.

/PHI 3:13

*Brethren...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...\*

So if the Christian Way of Living is not a life lived while looking in the rear view mirror, why do so many Christians look over their shoulders for answers? Why are they so committed to the part of their lives they cannot change?

Okay...you lived through a mistake...someone taught you the doctrine of rebound...I taught you...a Pastor you respect before me taught you...your parents taught you...and you believed it...and now we have found it is false...is this unusual? Now that we have learned that the doctrine of rebound is false, is this such a horrible thing?

To many of us it is a horrible thing because being deceived makes us feel vulnerable...so for those of you who are “over it,” have some compassion...because there are many people who were traumatized by this discovery. I certainly understand. It’s similar to the feeling I had when I found out that Roman Catholicism is false, after I had swallowed it “hook, line and sinker.” I was devastated. I’m happy that I didn’t blame God when I was awakened from my cosmic coma, because I might have never recovered. I believed the deception.

I can tell you today, that I don’t spend any of my mental energy reliving the trauma of my Roman Catholic past. I made a mistake, and I moved on. I found that I believed deceptions again, and now the truth has surfaced, and

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this time, I have not spent very much time fretting over my own gullibility. It happens. I can be fooled. Mistakes happen along the way when we are learning. And Paul says...

/PHI 3:13

*Brethren...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...\*

But how many of you heed this sound advice? How many of you think you are doomed because of what your parents taught you? How many of you look back to your childhood for an explanation of what you are doing right now, especially if you are failing at something? How many of you are stuck on things you have emotionalized as a child and still live today? Or how about when the behavior of others is unexplainable to you? How many of you look to the medical community or to psychology or to the media to explain human things that you don't understand, when all you need is this thought...

/PHI 3:13

*Brethren...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...\*

The past doesn't explain anyone's life. Is your past so bad? After all, have you killed any Christians? Paul had every reason to dwell on what was behind...he had killed or participated in the killings of Christians. In Galatians Chapter 1, Verses 21 to 23, Paul says...

/GAL 1:21-22

*Then I went into the regions of Syria and Cilicia.//I was still unknown by sight to the churches of Judea which were in Christ...\*

/GAL 1:23

*...but only, they kept hearing, "He who once persecuted us is now preaching the faith which he once tried to destroy." \*

Paul moved on.

How about David...the conspirator, adulterer, murderer King who had one of his best generals killed, and took his wife, Bathsheba...the David of

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David and Goliath fame...he had every reason to dwell on his past. He didn't.

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

*Father I Adore You*

*When I Think About Home\*

Welcome back!

/PHI 3:13

*Brethren...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...\*

Did Moses dwell on his past? Moses killed a man in Egypt. Exodus, Chapter 2, Verse 11...

/EXO 2:11

*Now it came about in those days, when Moses had grown up, that he went out to his brethren and looked on their hard labors; and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his brethren.\*

/EXO 2:12

*So he looked this way and that, and when he saw there was no one around, he struck down the Egyptian (killed him) and hid him in the sand.\*

/EXO 2:13

*He went out the next day, and behold, two Hebrews were fighting with each other; and he said to the offender, "Why are you striking your companion?"\*

/EXO 2:14

*But he (the offender) said, "Who made you a prince or a judge over us? Are you intending to kill me as you killed the Egyptian?" Then Moses was afraid and said, "Surely the matter has become known."\*

Did Moses let his past keep him from growing in God's plan for his life? Certainly not!

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How about the apostle Peter? Peter's past is infamous, especially to all of you. All I have to do is crow like a rooster and you immediately know that I am referencing Peter's betrayal as predicted by Christ. Matthew, Chapter 26, Verse 34 says...

/MAT 26:34

*Jesus said to him, "Truly I say to you (Peter) that this very night, before a rooster crows, you will deny Me three times."*\

Did Peter let his failure deter his spiritual advance? No way.

Paul, David, Moses, Peter...we reference them regularly...how about Thomas? Turn in your bibles to John, Chapter 20, Verse 24...

/JOH 20:24

*But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.*\

/JOH 20:25

*So the other disciples were saying to him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he (Thomas) said to them, "Unless I see in His hands the imprint of the nails, and put my finger into the place of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe."*\

/JOH 20:26

*After eight days His disciples were again inside, and Thomas with them. Jesus came, the doors having been shut, and stood in their midst and said, "Peace be with you."*\

/JOH 20:27

*Then He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to Thomas, "Reach here with your finger, and see My hands; and reach here your hand and put it into My side; and do not be unbelieving, but believing."*\

/JOH 20:28

*Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"*\



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/JOH 20:29

*(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to him (Thomas), “Because you have seen Me, have you believed? Blessed are they who did not see, and yet believed.”\*

We call him doubting Thomas. Did Thomas, after seeing the Lord, then turn his life around and never doubt again? Certainly not, even though Thomas got one of the best lessons ever on faith.

There is something we need to get clear on as Christians...neither is past performance a predictor of future success, nor is past performance a predictor of future failure.

Another thing we need to be very clear on...how easy it is to slip into error.

We can turn Christianity into a philosophy, making it nothing more than futile speculation. Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 21 to 23 say...

/ROM 1:21

*For even though they (unbelievers) knew God, they did not honor Him as God or give thanks, but they became futile in their speculations, and their foolish heart was darkened.\*

/ROM 1:22-23

*Professing to be wise, they became fools, //and exchanged the glory of the incorruptible God for an image in the form of corruptible man and of birds and four-footed animals and crawling creatures.\*

Even though these verses are about unbelievers, they have application to Christians. It is easy for us to get carried away by futile speculation and to turn Christianity into a philosophy. Christianity of course, is NOT a philosophy. It is a relationship with Christ. Philosophy does not advance relationships; it advances endless speculation.

We can turn Christianity into asceticism, a life of self-denial. We can pursue what we call the “simple life,” stripping ourselves of our “worldly goods.” But any lifestyle patterned after Satan’s suggestions is anything but simple. It is complexity of the worst form. This complexity eventually takes on an identity of its own. Instead of thinking asceticism is a choice you are making, ascetic becomes the type of person you are. Do you really think the

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Lord Jesus Christ, who is grooming His believers as spiritual royalty, wants them living the asceticism lifestyle?

We can turn Christianity into lasciviousness, a lifestyle spent indulging in lusts, especially of a sexual nature. “I’m sure glad there is no more rebound girl...now I can gossip as much as I want and not feel bad about it!” Is that truly what you think the Christian Way of Living is all about? Gossip? James, Chapter 3, Verse 6 says...

/JAM 3:6

*And the tongue is a fire, the very world of iniquity; the tongue is set among our members as that which defiles the entire body, and sets on fire the course of our life, and is set on fire by hell.\*

Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 29 says...

/EPH 4:29

*Let no unwholesome word proceed from your mouth, but only such a word as is good for edification according to the need of the moment, so that it will give grace to those who hear.\*

Romans, Chapter 6, Verses 1 and 2...

/ROM 6:1-2

*What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?//May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?\*

Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 13...

/ROM 6:13

*...and do not go on presenting the members of your body to sin as instruments of unrighteousness; but present yourselves to God as those alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness to God./*

Do you really think the Lord Jesus Christ, who is grooming His believers as spiritual royalty, wants them living a chaotic, lascivious lifestyle?

We can turn Christianity into legalism. Matthew, Chapter 23, Verse “take your pick!” Let’s look at Verse 27...

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/MAT 23:27

*“Woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! For you are like whitewashed tombs which on the outside appear beautiful, but inside they are full of dead men’s bones and all uncleanness.”\*

Legalism puts your spiritual life in a deep freeze. You become as cold as ice. Legalism has no life in it. In fact it sucks the life out of you.

There is no escaping one indisputable fact...our salvation and our spiritual life...the Christian Way of Life and the Christian Way of Living...is not an improvement on our state of condemnation and spiritual death...it is a complete change...the two have nothing in common...turn to Luke Chapter 5, Verse 37...

/LUK 5:37

*“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the skins and it will be spilled out, and the skins will be ruined.”\*

/LUK 5:38

*“But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.”\*

/LUK 5:39

*“And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new; for he says, ‘The old is good enough.’”\*

Is it?

The place we are moving to is not a mixture of the past and the future. It’s the only way. Christianity is Christ, and Christ is the living Word. So by banishing legalism from our spiritual closets we are making room for Christ, the author and perfecter of our faith. So stop looking over your shoulder to the past for the answers to your unknown, yet marvelous future.

/PHI 3:13

*Brethren...one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and reaching forward to what lies ahead...\*

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### /CLOSING SONG

You Don't Have to Beg\

### CLOSING VERSES

/PRO 3:5-6

*Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.//In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.\*

/DEU 31:8

*The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed\*

/ISA 30:18

*Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.\*

### /CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

THANKS  
INTERCESSION  
PETITION

And we pray that you continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of your person, your thinking, your work, your reputation and your essence...we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

**/Thanks for coming!**

**Thanks for watching!**

**Thanks for listening!**

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