

**ROMANS**  
**Lesson 297–July 17, 2016**

**/Welcome To**  
**BARAH MINISTRIES**  
*a Christian Church*  
**Rory Clark**  
**Pastor-Teacher\**

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church based in Mesa, AZ...my name is Pastor Rory Clark. At Barah Ministries we are “pursuing the truth through the study of the Word of God.” Because of the gracious provision of the internet, from our omnipotent God, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, Barah Ministries has a worldwide reach and an intimate impact on lives. Thank you Lord for providing a way for anyone, anywhere to be reached with Your Word.

**/TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON**  
**Are You Full Persuaded That Nothing Stops God From Loving You?\**

God’s unconditional love for us is fixed forever, and it can’t be changed. What is the bible’s description of unconditional love? You’ve heard it many times if you’ve been to weddings...First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verses 1 to 13...and as you hear it again, or as you pay attention for the first time to God’s version of unconditional love, take a look at a relationship in your life where unconditional love is required, and test yourself to see if you are employing this kind of love in that relationship. And let’s not do the assessment to condemn ourselves, but to learn the standard to which we Christians aspire in reflecting the unconditional love of God to the world.

*/First Corinthians 13:1*

*If I (Paul) speak with the tongues of men and of angels (in other words, if I speak eloquently), but do not have unconditional love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.\*

*/First Corinthians 13:2*

*If I have the gift of prophecy, and if I know all mysteries and if I have all the knowledge; and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have unconditional love, I am nothing.\*

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/First Corinthians 13:3

*And if I give all my possessions to feed the poor, and if I surrender my body to be burned, but do not have unconditional love, it profits me nothing.\*

Paul makes it clear, using himself as an example, that unconditional love is not works based. It's actually thought based. So what does unconditional love look like? There are things it is, and there are things it isn't. Picking it up at First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 4...

/First Corinthians 13:4

*Unconditional love is patient, unconditional love is kind, and unconditional love is not jealous; unconditional love does not brag, and unconditional love is not arrogant...\*

/First Corinthians 13:5

*... unconditional love does not act unbecomingly...unconditional love does not seek its own, unconditional love is not provoked, unconditional love does not take into account a wrong suffered...\*

/First Corinthians 13:6

*... unconditional love does not rejoice in unrighteousness, but unconditional love rejoices with the truth...\*

/First Corinthians 13:7

*... unconditional love bears all things, unconditional love believes all things, unconditional love hopes all things, unconditional love endures all things.\*

/First Corinthians 13:8

*Unconditional love never fails...but if there are gifts of prophecy, and there are, they will be done away; if there are gifts of tongues, and there are, they will cease; if there is knowledge, and there is, it will be done away.\*

/First Corinthians 13:9

*For now we know in part and we prophesy in part...\*

/First Corinthians 13:10

*...but when the perfect comes, the partial will be done away.\*

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/First Corinthians 13:11

*When I was a child, I used to speak like a child, think like a child, reason like a child; when I became a man, I did away with childish things.\*

/First Corinthians 13:12

*For now we see as if in a bronze mirror seeing dimly, but then we'll see face-to-face; now I know in part, but then I will know fully, just as I also have been fully known by God.\*

/First Corinthians 13:13

*But now faith, hope, and unconditional love...abide in the sphere of these three; but the greatest of these is unconditional love.\*

Unconditional love has no peer...not knowledge...not prophecy...not wisdom...not tongues...not mysteries...not faith...not hope...not generosity...not self-sacrifice. Unconditional love is the solution, no matter what the problem. Unconditional love has no peer.

What the Lord Jesus Christ teaches us by shedding His blood for our sins... certainly is a demonstration of how much He loves us...but the great thing is that He loves us enough to not place conditions on us and to not coerce our will by forcing us to follow Him, to respect Him, or to love Him. He makes us aware of ALL the do's and don'ts of this life...and He makes us aware of the do's and don'ts of unconditional love. In this First Corinthians 13 passage, the Lord tells us what unconditional love is, and what it isn't.

/UNCONDITIONAL LOVE ISN'T...

Jealous

Self-Seeking

Braggadocious

Easily Provoked

Arrogant

Remembering Wrongs

Unbecoming

Happy in Unrighteousness\

/UNCONDITIONAL LOVE IS...

Patient

Believes All Things

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Kind	Hopes
Rejoices in Truth	Endures
Bears All Things	Unfailing\

God gives us direction and then He is willing to allow our will to demonstrate a natural result...amazingness or disaster. Welcome to a place where you are loved unconditionally, and where you can learn to love the way that always works.

**/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*  
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

***DROPS IN THE OCEAN***

*Hawk Nelson\*

The opening song for this lesson *DROPS IN THE OCEAN* sung by *Hawk Nelson*.

**/OPENING PRAYER**

*Let us pray...\*

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

Father, You know how much we struggle with the insecurities instigated by the flesh... You know how much we listen to the "roaring lion's" thoughts and words designed to make us doubt You... You know that because we believe the lies of the kingdom of death we have a warped perspective of who we are as beings in union with Your Son... You know how hard it is to disregard these insecurities and instead to be fully convinced by leaning on Your thoughts and Your Words as You teach them to us through our Mentor and Teacher God the Holy Spirit...

Father, rewire our minds...renew the way we think...so that we believe what You say about us...so we can live in that confidence...help us every moment

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to trust You and to trust Your precious Word so that we can claim freedom from insecurity and so we have confidence through our relationship with You...

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

Let's begin this lesson with a few announcements....

**/BARAH MINISTRIES ANNOUNCEMENTS\**

**/MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Coeur d'Alene Bible Conference  
Coeur d'Alene, Idaho  
August 5-6, 2016\

**/MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

The Lord's Supper Celebration  
EVENING LESSON ONLY  
6:00P-7:30P  
August 7, 2016\

**/MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

New York – Pennsylvania Conference  
Traditions at the Glen  
Johnson City, New York  
September 16-17, 2016\

**/MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Evening Lesson Only  
6:00P-7:30P  
August 21, September 18\

**/MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Next Deacon's Meeting  
September 3, 2016  
7:30A-10:00A\

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**/MARK YOUR CALENDARS!**

Homecoming for the Non-Resident Congregation  
April 21-23, 2017\

**/NEW WEBSITE IS LIVE!**

Check it out!\

The new site is ready for mobile devices.

**/TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON**

**Are You Full Persuaded That Nothing Stops God From Loving You?\**

We’re wrapping up our study of Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 31 to 39, one of the greatest love letters ever written to mankind. This passage not only winds down this chapter, but in fact it is the culmination of eight chapters, directed specifically to the Gentiles, of which we, as Church Age believers are a part...eight chapters of education, without a single command, designed to present the details of the gospel of our salvation. And we are nearly three hundred hours into our study of THE foundational book of biblical Christianity. Let’s remind ourselves of what we have learned in this passage so far...

**/Romans 8:31**

*What then shall we believers in Christ say face-to-face with all these things? If God the Father is for us, and He is, who is ever going to be successful in opposition against us?\*

Are you full persuaded that this is true?

**/Romans 8:32**

*God the Father, who did not spare His own Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), but delivered Him over for us all, how will the Father not also, with our union with Christ, freely give us all things?\*

Are you full persuaded that this is true?

**/Romans 8:33**

*Who will bring a successful charge against God’s elect (all believers in Christ)? God the Father is the one who justifies...\*

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/Romans 8:34

*...who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He...the One who died, yes, rather He who was raised (resurrected) from the dead...He who is at the right hand of God the Father...He who also intercedes for us (is the One who condemns).\*

/Romans 8:35

*WHO will separate us from the unconditional love of Christ? (Or WHAT will separate us?) Will tribulation, or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword separate us from His unconditional love?\*

/Romans 8:36

*Just as it is written (in Psalm 44:22), “For Your sake we are being put to death (killed) all day long; we were considered as sheep to be slaughtered.”\*

/Romans 8:37

*But in all these things (in every situation imaginable) we believers in Christ overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us unconditionally.\*

/Romans 8:38

*For I (Paul) am convinced that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor things present, nor things to come, nor powers...\*

/Romans 8:39

*...nor height, nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate (sever) us from the unconditional love of God the Father, who is for us through our union with Christ Jesus our Lord.\*

Nothing can stop God from loving you! God’s unconditional love for us is fixed forever, and it can’t be changed! Are you full persuaded that this is true? The final two verses of this passage are at the center of our study today. Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 38 and 39...

/Romans 8:38

*For I (Paul) am convinced that neither death nor life...nor (elect) angels nor principalities (demons...fallen angels), nor things present nor things to come...nor powers...\*

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/Romans 8:39

*...nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the unconditional love of God the Father, who is for us through our union with Christ Jesus our Lord.\*

Well in the First Corinthians 13 passage, the apostle Paul talked about the value of knowledge. Here, he says there is something higher than knowledge...there is the result of knowledge...FULL PERSUASION. Paul says, “I am convinced,” which means, “I am fully persuaded,” And that’s as convinced as you can get. What is Paul fully convinced of? He’s fully convinced concerning the depth of God’s unconditional love for us.

I am fully convinced, said other ways? I AM ABSOLUTELY SURE... BEYOND A SHADOW OF A DOUBT...IT IS EXACTLY THIS WAY ...IT IS CERTAIN...YOU CAN HAVE FULL ASSURANCE...Paul uses this expression in other passages, one of them in Romans, Chapter 15, Verse 4...

/Romans 15:14

*And concerning you, my brethren, **I MYSELF ALSO AM FULLY CONVINCED** that you yourselves are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge and able also to admonish one another.\*

Nothing can separate us from the unconditional love of our God...nothing can ever stop God from loving you!

Two notes from the Greek language about Paul’s expression, “I am fully convinced.” First, the expression is in the perfect tense in Greek...the perfect tense in Greek is not past tense...it’s not present tense...it’s not future tense. The Greek language is much more precise in expressing things than English. So Paul’s being convinced didn’t occur yesterday, it didn’t happen today, in the present, and we aren’t waiting for him to be fully convinced in the future. No. Paul is saying that his condition of being fully convinced is a true and permanent state of affairs...an established and irrevocable fact that will not change under any circumstances.

Secondly, the verb for being convinced is in the passive voice. That tells us who is doing the convincing. It is God, the perfect One who never lies that has fully convinced Paul. That means Paul’s being convinced couldn’t be



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any truer, because God always tells the absolute truth.

Paul is fully convinced by God, after God's educated Paul, that nothing could ever stop God from loving you. That's a powerful guarantee. Another way for Paul to say, "I am fully convinced" would be for Paul to say, "I am not "head" convinced...this is not intellectual for me...this is something my heart is sure of as well." In other words, "I believe this with all of my heart." When you are fully persuaded, you are ALL IN...Mark, Chapter 12, Verse 30...

/Mark 12:30

*'...and you shall love the Lord your God with ALL your heart, and with ALL your soul, and with ALL your mind, and with ALL your strength.'*\

When you learn to love God this way, it will be apparent to you that you are like Paul in relation to the Christian Way of Living...ALL IN...FULLY PERSUADED. Until then, you probably think you have a better way than God's way. Why would that be? If you are not fully persuaded of a thing, then maybe your conscious, that part of you which distinguishes right from wrong, has been inculcated with different ideas...false ideas...the persuasion of the kingdom of death...First Timothy, Chapter 4, Verse 1...

/First Timothy 4:1

*But God the Holy Spirit explicitly says that in later times (in all generations) some believers in Christ will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and paying attention to doctrines of demons...\*

This is probably even truer today than it was in Paul's day. Full persuasion occurs when God the Holy Spirit wins over your will...when you decide that you agree with the Holy Spirit in ALL things.

Let's take a music break and then we'll continue.

**/MUSIC BREAK**

*FEEL IT*

*TobyMac\*

**/TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON**

**Are You Full Persuaded That Nothing Stops God From Loving You?\**

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Welcome back! Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 38 and 39...

/Romans 8:38

*For I (Paul) am convinced that neither death nor life...nor (elect) angels nor principalities (demons), nor things present nor things to come...nor powers...\*

/Romans 8:39

*...nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, will be able to separate us from the unconditional love of God the Father, who is for us through our union with Christ Jesus our Lord.\*

We're dealing with the first few words of Paul's closure on the chapter...I AM FULL CONVINCED. When you are fully convinced, another way to say it is... I BELIEVE...another way to say it is AMEN...what does it take to fully persuade you? Because it is one thing to know a thing is true. It's another thing to be fully persuaded a thing is true. Take a look at a struggle, for those in Paul's day, about eating meat. Romans, Chapter 14, Verses 1 to 14...

/Romans 14:1

*Now accept the one who is weak in faith, but not for the purpose of passing judgment on his opinions.\*

/Romans 14:2

*One person has faith that he may eat all things, but he who is weak eats vegetables only.\*

/Romans 14:3

*The one who eats is not to regard with contempt the one who does not eat, and the one who does not eat is not to judge the one who eats, for God has accepted him.\*

/Romans 14:4

*Who are you to judge the servant of another? To his own master he stands or falls; and he will stand, for the Lord is able to make him stand.\*

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/Romans 14:5

*One person regards one day above another...another regards every day alike. Each person must be fully convinced in his own mind.\*

/Romans 14:6

*He who observes the day, observes it for the Lord, and he who eats, does so for the Lord, for he gives thanks to God; and he who eats not, for the Lord he does not eat, and gives thanks to God.\*

/Romans 14:7

*For not one of us lives for himself, and not one dies for himself...\*

/Romans 14:8

*...for if we live, we live for the Lord, or if we die, we die for the Lord; therefore whether we live or die, we are the Lord's.\*

/Romans 14:9

*For to this end Christ died and lived again, that He might be Lord both of the dead and of the living.\*

/Romans 14:10

*But you, why do you judge your brother? Or you again, why do you regard your brother with contempt? For we will all stand before the judgment seat of God.\*

/Romans 14:11

*For it is written, "As I live, says the Lord Jesus Christ, every knee shall bow to Me, and every tongue shall give praise to God the Father."'\*

/Romans 14:12

*So then each one of us will give an account of himself to God the Father.\*

/Romans 14:13

*Therefore let us not judge one another anymore, but rather determine this—not to put an obstacle or a stumbling block in a brother's way.\*

/Romans 14:14

*I know and am fully convinced in union with the Lord Jesus that nothing is unclean in itself; but to him who thinks anything to be unclean, to him it is*

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*unclean.*\

It's one thing to know a thing. It's quite another to be fully persuaded. When you are fully persuaded, God's will works in your life. Your will has been won over by His will.

I AM FULLY CONVINCED...powerful words from the apostle Paul. In the next lesson we'll see what the Lord did to make His message so convincing to Paul.

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**/GOD WANTS YOU!**

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

Matthew 22:42

*“What do you think about the Christ (the Messiah)...?”\*

/Acts 16:31

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes.”\*

/Acts 4:12

*“And there is salvation in no one else; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given to mankind by which we must be saved (except the name of the Lord Jesus Christ).”\*

/Romans 1:16

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God that brings salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.\*

/Acts 2:21

*‘And it shall be that everyone who calls on the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation will be saved.’\*

**/CLOSING SONG**

**ALL BECAUSE YOU WANTED TO**

*June Murphy\*

**/CLOSING PRAYER**

*Let us pray...\*

/Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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