/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES Good Morning! Let's Make a Mental Shift \

I'm happy that you are here today for biblical study. It is my sincere hope that you experience in your soul, as a result of your investment of time here, the love of God the Father; the courage of God the Son; the sanctifying power of God the Holy Spirit; and the obedience of the manifest member of the Godhead, the Lord Jesus Christ; as a result of the truth with which your soul will be edified.

In preparation for our study of the Word of God, it is a time to make a voluntary shift in your mindset. You can ask yourself a very simple question, "What thought pattern am I allowing to influence me right now?"

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Is your soul tuned to KCOS...the cosmic system of thought...or is your soul tuned to WGOD...the divine system of thought? This request for a mental shift mental shift gives you the opportunity to make an evaluation, and to tune your soul to the reception of biblical thought, which the bible refers to as RENEWING, as you prepare to listen to the teaching of the Word of God.

Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

ROM 12:2 ...be transformed by the renewing of your mind...

Ephesians, Chapter 4, verse 23 says...

EPH 4:23 ...be renewed in the spirit of your mind...

So right now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ prepare you "in humility (to) receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls."

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.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

Worthy

So let's get ready to learn about these good works that each of us, as believers in Christ, will be called on to perform at God's request. Let's hear June Murphy prepare us for the study of the Word of God by worshipping our Lord in song. The opening song is...Worthy.

/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 enjoy the freedom of the spiritual life...show us the simplicity of worshipping you...help us to understand the balance between your provisions and our activity in the spiritual life...direct our focus to your Son...make us aware of our motivations so they are always in line with obedience to your plan...

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 twenty of the Creator-Creature Conflict series. Welcome to a ministry designed for serious students of the Word of God.

/TODAY'S STUDY The CREATOR'S Will is that You Enjoy Your Spiritual Freedom\

Here's a thought from a member of our non-resident congregation.

/FROM A NON-RESIDENT CONGREGATION MEMBER

I have studied and studied this year's lessons! They have hit my soul like sweet refreshing summer days after a long hard winter!!!!\

Amen? Turn in your bibles to Philippians, Chapter 3, Verse 1...

/PHI 3:1 Finally, my brethren, (continue to) rejoice in the Lord. To write the same things again is no trouble to me, and it is a safeguard for you...\

/PHI 3:3 ...we (Church Age believers in Christ) are the true circumcision, who worship in the Spirit of God (who worship God in spirit) and glory in (union with) Christ Jesus and put no (not never...ouk!) confidence in the flesh...\

Perhaps it is worthwhile to hear the same things again...messages from the first twelve lessons of this year, along with their biblical backup, to be certain the messages are clear in your souls, so you will remember exactly what it is that God the Holy Spirit has been saying to you.

Through these lessons, and through your reactions to them, it is easy for me to see how false doctrine proliferates...we get a thought about something in the Word of God, and we run with it without checking to see what the bible has to say about the matter. And when a Pastor does that, it is a disaster!

I invite you to reflect on a series of questions posed by our studies so far.

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION To whom have you given your spiritual loyalty?\

Our loyalty is to God and His Word. Reflection and self-examination on a regular basis is useful to remind ourselves not to place our confidence in men and tradition. Second Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 5 says...

/2CO 13:5

(Make it a habit to) Test yourselves to see if you are (living) in the (sphere of) faith (the Word of God); examine (prove it to) yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves (in self-examination), that (the Lord) Jesus Christ is in(dwelling) you — unless indeed you fail the test (by proving that you are not in the sphere of the Word of God)?

First John, Chapter 4, Verse 1 says...

/1JO 4:1

Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

First Timothy, Chapter 4, Verse 1 says...

/1TI 4:1 But (God the Holy) the Spirit explicitly says that in later times (in every generation) some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and (paying attention to the) doctrines of demons...\

Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 14 to 16 say...

/EPH 5:14-16 For this reason it says, "Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and

For this reason it says, Awake, sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you. "//Therefore be careful how you walk, not as unwise men but as wise,//making the most of your time, because the days are evil.\

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION Who is your God?\

Are you a spiritually dead, condemned, unbeliever with no hope and no relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 11 and 12 say...

/EPH 2:11 Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called "Uncircumcision" by the so-called "Circumcision," which is performed in the flesh by human hands — \

/EPH 2:12

...remember that you were at that time (when you were an unbeliever) separate from Christ, excluded from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers to the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world.

Or are you a Christian, a believer, in union with the Lord Jesus Christ?

Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17 says...

/2CO 5:17

Therefore if (1) anyone is in (union with) Christ (and all believers are), he is a new creature (a new spiritual species); the (sovereignty of the) old things passed away (died!); behold, new (spiritual species) things have come.\

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION What is your source of truth?\

You are being encouraged not to be Comatose, Check-the Box, Closet Christians, and instead to be serious students of the Word of God. First Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 16 says...

/1CO 2:16 For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD (so well), THAT HE WILL (be qualified to) INSTRUCT HIM? But we (believers in Christ) have the mind of Christ.\

Therefore, as Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 8 and 10 suggest...we believers in Christ are to...

/EPH 5:8 and 10 ...walk as children of Light...//trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION What is your part in the CREATOR-CREATURE Conflict?

There is a CREATOR-CREATURE conflict...according to Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 25...you're invited to reflect on the part you play in it.

/ROM 1:25

For they (unbelievers) exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature (Satan and Self) rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

There is a God...One God, existing as three separate and distinct Persons... God the Father...God the Son...and God the Holy Spirit. God the Father is the PROVIDER...who created a plan for divine history and established its objectives...God the Son, in His very Person, is the PROVISION of a distinctive advantage to all creatures...God the Holy Spirit is the illuminator of the PATH, the narrow road provided by God the Father, and as the tactician of the Father's plan, He does the detail work of personalizing the plan of God for your life. The Lord Jesus Christ...the uniquely born One...100% God and 100% True Humanity in one person forever... PROTOTYPED the plan of God...His life proved beyond a reasonable doubt that the plan of God works, regardless of circumstances, to produce contentment in the face of adversity, and prosperity and impeding physical death. The Lord Jesus Christ is the physical manifestation of the Godhead and He lived a life of perfect obedience to His Father's plan.

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

Who is the enemy of your spiritual life?\

God has an enemy who does not want you to get to know God, and who does not want you to learn God's Word. First Peter, Chapter 5, Verse 8 says...

/1PE 5:8

Be of sober spirit, be on the alert. Your adversary, the devil, prowls around like a roaring lion, seeking someone to devour.

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION What side are you on in the CREATOR-CREATURE Conflict?\

/JOSHUA 24:15

"If it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me (Joshua) and my house, we will serve the Lord. "\

Every person has the right, as a result of being invited to God's plan, to choose sides.

<CHOOSE SIDES SLIDE>

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION Where do your soul's spiritual loyalties lie?\

For Barah Ministries, the year 2013 will be remembered as a time when we realized that there is more to the spiritual life than regurgitating the "company line of doctrines" as taught by the Pastors of our past. It is the realization that God the Holy Spirit is speaking to the churches today though different Pastors, and today's Pastoral voices are intended for your advance in the spiritual life. Second Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 3 reminds us...

/2CO 11:3 But I am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK Above and Beyond When I Think About Home\

Welcome back!

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION Does your spiritual life feel like a life of freedom?\

For Barah Ministries, the year 2013 is also a shift away from legalism, from mental slavery, from dead works, and from self-sufficiency to a Christianity that is alive and powerful and sharp and piercing. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 18 says...

/GAL 5:18 But if (1) you are led by (God) the (Holy) Spirit (and all of you believers in Christ are), you are not under the (Mosaic) Law.\

Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 14 says...

/ROM 6:14 For (the) sin (nature) shall not be (sovereign) master over you, for you (believers in Christ) are not under (Mosaic) law but (you are) under grace.\

Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 1 says...

/GAL 5:1 It was for freedom that (the Lord Jesus) Christ set us (believers in Christ) free; therefore keep standing firm (in the freedom) and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

For Barah Ministries, the year 2013 is a shift away from the traditions of men to occupation with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ through the thorough study of His Word. Colossians, Chapter 2, Verse 8 says...

/COL 2:8 See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men, according to the elementary principles of the world (system of thinking), rather than according to (the thinking of) Christ.\

It is really easy for believers in Christ to become entangled in the same deceptions in which unbelievers find themselves entangled. Look at Mark, Chapter 7, beginning at Verse 6...

/MAR 7:6

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to them (the Pharisees and scribes), "Rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you hypocrites, as it is written: 'THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.'"\

/MAR 7:7

"'BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN. '"\

/MAR 7:8

"Neglecting the commandment of God, you hold to the tradition of men."

/MAR 7:9

He (the Lord Jesus Christ) was also saying to them (the Pharisees and scribes), "You are experts at setting aside the commandment of God in order to keep your tradition."

And as William Newell says in His work on the book of Romans...

/WILLIAM R. NEWELL

Romans Verse-by-Verse, Page 107

Those attached to, and entrenched in tradition, will always be found fighting for tradition. Even among the most earnest Christians, the temptation and the tendency have always been to seize upon those truths emphasized by the leaders of the sect they follow and claim those truths and principles as their own.\

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION Are you a serious student of the Word of God?\

Serious students ask questions. Acts, Chapter 17, Verse 11...

/ACT 17:11

Now these (the believers at Berea) were...noble-minded...for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

Serious students of the Word of God live the New Self Life. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 22 says...

/EPH 4:22-24

...that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit,//and that you be renewed in the spirit of your mind,//and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. \langle

Serious student of the Word of God KNOW-GROW-SHOW.

<CHOOSE LIFESTYLE SLIDE>

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Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 18 says...

/2PE 3:18

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

Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 16 says...

/GAL 5:16 But I say, walk by (means of the enabling power of God) the (Holy) Spirit, and you will not (in fact, cannot never!) carry out the desire of the flesh.

James, Chapter 1, Verse 25...

/JAM 1:25

But one who looks intently at the perfect law, the law of liberty, and abides by it, not having become a forgetful hearer but an effectual doer, this man will be blessed in what he does.

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION Are you a friend of God?\

God wants His believers to be His friends. John, Chapter 15, Verse 14 says...

/JOH 15:14

"You (believers in Christ) are My friends if (3) you do what I command (request of) you (maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have freedom to choose)."

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION Are you clear in your soul how much God loves you?\

God loves you unconditionally. If you miss that, it skews your whole viewpoint of God, His Word, and the spiritual life. First John, Chapter 4, Verse 8 says...

/1JO 4:8

The one who does not love (unconditionally) does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.

First John, Chapter 4, Verse 16 says...

/1JO 4:16

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We have come to know and have believed the (unconditional) love which God has for us. God is (unconditional) love, and the one who abides in (unconditional) love abides in God, and God abides in him.

God wants you to love unconditionally as well. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 1 says...

/1CO 13:1 If I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, but do not have (unconditional) love, I have become a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal.

We are simply blowhards and fools if we miss the power and the importance of the unconditional love that is the bedrock of the Plan of God.

It's comforting, as we ponder these questions in our souls, to know how patient God is with us...and how He lets the Creator - Creature- Conflict play out, to give us time to learn and grow. And even we fail Him, our God will never turn his back on us.

Second Timothy, Chapter 2, Verse 13 says...

/2TI 2:13 If (1) we (believers in Christ) are faithless (and we often are), He remains faithful, for He cannot deny Himself (the righteousness of God He placed in us...+R).

/CLOSING SONG He's Been Faithful\