

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 424– February 10, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

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.

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 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.

Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 22 to 24 recommends that we...

EPH 4:22

...lay aside the old self...KCOS

EPH 4:23

...and that you be renewed (by God) in the spirit of your mind...

EPH 4:24

...and put on the new self....WGOD

So right now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ prepare you to...“in humility 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 the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song, as you let thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ occupy your mind. 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 see the big picture of your plan when we study Scripture...

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

/TODAY'S STUDY

THE CREATOR'S Will is that You Use Context When Studying Scripture

We continue our study of the second of the twenty-one categories of doctrine that are part of the CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT series.

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

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We are learning about the depths of God’s Person and His Work, and we’re using an encoding device called the CREATOR CLOCK to introduce us 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.

I was a bit unsure why God directed us into the subject of the doctrine of rebound when we are studying His will. In fact, many of you have asked me in the last few weeks, “Why this study? Why now?” Well yesterday I took a glance at the roadmap God developed on our behalf for the study of His will. You probably don’t even remember it. It’s the sixth chart on our website under “Printable Charts.”

<GOD IS WILLING CHART>

As you can see, this study is a nice setup for the ten subjects we’ll investigate as we explore the facets of God’s will...especially for our study of God the Holy Spirit...and I am excited to be able to see, with the eyes of my soul, God’s hand on this ministry and God’s leading of our activities. I am reminded of Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

/EPH 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us (believers in Christ) with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ... *

The Creator’s will is that you use context when studying scripture. Many of you have asked me, in light of debunking the doctrine of rebound and declaring it to be false, two questions...

/YOUR QUESTIONS

What is fellowship with God?

What is the function of confession in the Christian Way of Life?\

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In this lesson, we'll be taking a look at First John, Chapter 1, which is the start of shedding some light on these questions for you. Turn there please. These are two great questions from curious students. Let's read the passage of Scripture together...

<READ FIRST JOHN, CHAPTER 1>

Does the English make sense to you? From just reading the English, can you tell what is being said? I can't. Only a few of the verses make sense to me...for example, this one is clear to me without going to the exegesis...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 5...

/1JO 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Do I know the depth of what it means on first glance? NOT AT ALL!

I wanted to introduce you to a way to study passages of Scripture so that you can understand how studying works from the point of view of context, rather than from the point of view of taking individual verses out of context. In other words, I'd like to introduce you to the thought process a Pastor may have when tackling a passage of Scripture.

I ask myself a series of question. I find that asking the great questions typically yields great answers. God the Holy Spirit loves a curious student. Here are some questions that may illuminate this passage for us. This is not the only way to attack a passage, and it may not be the best way, but it is A way. I created it, and after I create a thing, I expect to modify it until it is thorough enough in its development to yield the results I want. I have already modified this list of questions three times before I showed it to you.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the passage under consideration?

Who wrote this passage?

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Since the bible must be interpreted in the time it is written, what is happening in the world at time of writing?

To whom is the passage directed?\

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the purpose of the passage?

What is the structure of the passage?

What does the passage say in the original languages of the bible?

What is the passage teaching us about God and His Plan?\

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What resources give me the best insight into the passage under consideration?

Is the author of the resource known and trusted or unknown and not vetted?\

Let's use these questions to illuminate the messages of this passage.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the passage under consideration?

The passage under consideration is the First Letter of John, Chapter One, Verses 1 through 10. It's really helpful for me to know the starting point and the ending point when I am studying a passage.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Who wrote this passage?

When reviewing biblical resources, like commentaries, there always seems to be an interest in who wrote a passage and then a deep discussion of all the possibilities in the matter of who wrote it. This is one of the things that

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illuminates the possibility of an unbeliever commentary to me. I don't question the Canon of Scripture, nor its veracity, because that issue has been settled in my mind from my biblical study throughout the years. In my mind, the bible is the inerrant Word of God...it closed in AD 90...it cannot be added to or subtracted from...Revelation, Chapter 22, Verse 18 says...

/REV 22:18

I (John) testify to everyone who hears the words of the prophecy of this book: if anyone adds to them, God will add to him the plagues which are written in this book...

/REV 22:19

...and if anyone takes away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God will take away his part from the tree of life and from the holy city, which are written in this book.

It is also settled in my soul that the writers of the books and letters of the bible are known where God wishes that to be so.

There is no doubt in my mind that First John was written by John, an apostle, which means he was an eyewitness of, and a participant in, the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. John, Chapter 21, Verse 20 describes John...

/JOH 21:20

Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved (John) following them; (John is) the one who also had leaned back on His (the Lord Jesus Christ's) bosom at the (last) supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

John wrote five parts of the New Testament...The Gospel of John (concerning the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ), First John, Second John, Third John, and the Book of Revelation.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Since the bible must be interpreted in the time it is written, what is happening in the world at time of writing?

Take a five-minute break, and we'll answer the that question.

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/BREAK

Better Than Life
When I Think About Home

Welcome back...

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Since the bible must be interpreted in the time it is written, what is happening in the world at time of writing?

Many of the letters of the New Testament are written in the context of responding to concerns, doctrinal error, and false teachings by certain groups of people. First John was written, in response to a Pastor from a confused church in Asia asking John, “How do we deal with this doctrinal heresy of *Gnosticism?*”

Gnosticism, one of the many “isms,” comes from the Greek word “gnosis,” which means knowledge. The Gnostics were a group of people who believed they possessed superior spiritual knowledge. The Gnostics believed that all flesh is evil and that only spirit is good. Because they believed that, they didn’t believe that the Lord Jesus Christ really came in the flesh - they believed He was an illusion.

The Gnostics also believed that because sin had to do with our flesh, there really wasn’t sin. They believed sin was also just an illusion. The church in Ephesus was filled with people who not only didn’t believe the Lord Jesus Christ came in the flesh, but also they didn’t believe sin was real.

As you can imagine, when there is a legitimate church that seeks to teach the Word of God accurately, the kingdom of darkness always sends agents to pervert and distort the accuracy of the church’s message...to sew the seeds of fear and confusion and doubt in the veracity of the Word. Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 3 and 4 say...

/MAT 13:3-4

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) spoke many things to them in parables, saying, “Behold, the sower went out to sow//and as he sowed, some seeds fell beside the road, and the birds came and ate them up.

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Now the explanation...

/MAT 13:19

“When anyone hears the word of the kingdom and does not understand it, the evil one comes and snatches away what has been sown in his heart. This is the one on whom seed was sown beside the road.”

What’s happening at the time of John’s writing is that he is eliminating the confusion that has been sewn in the Church at Ephesus by the kingdom of darkness.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

To whom is the passage directed?

The passage is directed to believers in the Church at Ephesus who were dealing with the problem of Gnosticism, a false view of God and an attempted distortion of God’s Word. The letter was designed to remind them of some basic truths about God and about the Christian Way of Life.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the purpose of the passage?

One of the great things about John’s writing is that he is always making clear why he is writing. First John, Chapter 1, Verse 4 says...

/1JO 1:4

These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

The next question...

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the structure of the passage?

The passage can be broken into parts...

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/STRUCTURE OF FIRST JOHN

Verses	1 to 3	John's Credentials
Verse	4	John's Purpose in Writing
Verses	5 to 10	Illuminates fellowship with God\

Let's go back to the passage and see if we can see the structure.

<READ FIRST JOHN, CHAPTER 1>

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What does the passage say in the original languages of the bible?

We'll save that for the first lesson next week. So if you "sleep in" folks want to hear that live, you may want to come to the early lesson next week. Let's take one verse and illuminate it, because it answers one of your questions. Look at First John, Chapter 1, Verse 5...

/1JO 1:5

This is the message we have heard from Him and announce to you, that God is Light, and in Him there is no darkness at all.

Your question, "What is fellowship with God?" This verse offers an analogy.

/God = Light

Everything Else = Darkness\

This illuminates fellowship with God. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are in fellowship with Him, thus you are in the light. If you are an unbeliever, you are not in fellowship with God, thus you are in the darkness. The bible uses the terms light and darkness in many places to indicate fellowship with God.

Believers in the Lord Jesus Christ are instructed not to marry unbelievers. Why? No fellowship. Second Corinthians, Chapter 6, Verse 14 says...

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/2CO 6:14

Do not be bound together with unbelievers; for what partnership have righteousness and lawlessness, or what fellowship has light with darkness?

If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are in fellowship with God once and for all time. An immutable God put you in fellowship with Him, and you cannot lose it. Yet here is a description of rebound...

/REBOUND

Rebound is a grace function to the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, which accomplishes the following:

Restoration to Fellowship

Recovery of the Filling of God the Holy Spirit

Reentry into the Pre-designed Plan of God\

Now I ask you...is this accurate? Can you lose fellowship with God? Can you lose the filling of the Spirit? Can you get out of the Plan of God once you are in it? Psalm 139, Verse 7 asks...

/PSA 139:7

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

I say NO! An omnipresent God will never let you out of His plan, a faithful God will never take His Holy Spirit from you, and a Loving God will never be out of fellowship with you. That's God's perspective.

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

/2TI 2:13

If (I) 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).

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/CLOSING SONG

Your Word Takes Me\