

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 426– February 17, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

**Let's Make a Mental Shift **

The Lord Jesus Christ knows His believers because He is intimately involved in their lives and in their daily struggles. He is omniscient and omnipresent and omnipotent...Psalm 37, Verses 18 and 19 say...

/PSA 37:18-19

The Lord knows the days of the blameless (believers in Christ), and their inheritance will be forever.//They will not be ashamed in the time of evil, and in the days of famine they will have abundance.

In preparation for your study of the Word of God, it's time to evaluate yourselves by inspecting 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 the influence of KCOS, the world system of thought, or is it tuned to the influence of WGod, the divine system of thought? Bible study is a time to tune your soul to the reception of biblical thought, which the bible refers to as RENEWING, as you let God the Holy Spirit fill up your deficiencies with the truth of the mind of Christ, the Word of God.

Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

ROM 12:2

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

Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 says...

EPH 4:23

...(keep on) be(ing) RENEWED (by God) in the spirit of your mind...

Now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ renew your mind, preparing 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

His Strength is Perfect\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. God prepared divine good works for you in eternity past, so you could create a lifestyle around them. The opening song is... HIS STRENGTH IS PERFECT.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\b(0:30)

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

Help us to know the power of listening to you through your Word...

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-six of the CREATOR versus 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 Listen to His Word

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.

When your soul is listening to and concentrating on God and His Word, you will find it easy to discard the lies that you have purchased and hung in your spiritual closets. Are you sick of the lies? I am. Are you tired of being deceived? I am. Yet God allows us to be in this kingdom of darkness...this kingdom of lies...because His plan gives us the victory in the midst of deception.

We have spent quite a bit of time this year debunking the doctrine of rebound. Those of you who haven't been traumatized by this doctrine, or those of you who **never** believed the doctrine of rebound, and easily cast it aside (even though you were hiding in your own spiritual closet and not letting anyone know you didn't believe it)...you may be wondering, "What's the big deal? Why are we spending so much time on this?"

The big deal is whom you make it a habit to listen to. Here's a question I have for you...if you make a habit out of something, does it mean that it is good for you? As human beings, we make habits all the time, yet all habits are not good for us...smoking...drinking...pornography...excessive use of the internet...incessant concentration on electronic devices are just of the few of the many ways we voluntarily give control of our souls over to the kingdom of darkness. We dismiss our responsibility in the matter by describing our destructive habits as "not that bad." Yet Scripture paints a different picture. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 27 says...

/EPH 4:27

...and do not give the devil an opportunity (a room in your soul).\

James, Chapter 4, Verse 7 says...

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/JAM 4:7

Submit therefore to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

The big deal is how easily we adopt things that are false. Here's a note from a member of our non-resident congregation...

/QUESTION FROM A NON-RESIDENT CONGREGATION MEMBER

How does what we're studying relate to human good versus divine good? I have been taught that even if you change a baby's diaper, you will receive rewards (in heaven) if you are filled with the Spirit. I have changed an extremely large amount of diapers! How can you be sure if you are doing divine good? I really want a crown! Worse than me believing this (rebound), I taught my children this...\

The letter was light hearted and fun, yet I didn't laugh. I didn't laugh because the big deal is I had taught my kids some of the same things. When you're teaching false things to the next generation, it's not so funny is it? How do we know we are doing divine good works? It has nothing to do with us...that's one of the ways to know...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 the Lord) Christ Jesus for (divine) good works, which God (the Father) prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them (the divine good works).

Sorry to say this...but I don't think diapers are on that list. By the way, I changed a few, so I'm bummed. God the Father provides us with the set of divine good works that we are to walk in... evangelizing to your children probably comes under that heading...teaching your kids the truth of the Word of God comes under that heading. Proverbs, Chapter 22, Verse 6 says...

/PRO 22:6

Train up a child in the way he should go, Even when he is old he will not depart from it.

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For those of you wondering, “What’s the big deal?” The big deal is how easily we are deceived. For those of you who don’t see rebound as a big deal, you would do well to look at what deceptions you have purchased. It may not be this one. What are some of the things you use to cope with life that are not in line with the Plan of God for your life?

The big deal is that we better fix our eyes on God and His Word so that we can see clearly enough to debunk the lies that are stored as doctrinal coat hangers in the spiritual closet of our souls. We’ve been spending some time this year, in biblical study, to do some early spring cleaning. God is shaking the things in our souls that are false, to make room for the truth He plans to put there in the coming days. I urge you not to be complacent. In Second Corinthians, Chapter 7, Verses 1 and 2, Paul exhorts the believers at Corinth...

/2CO 7:1-2

*Therefore, having these promises, beloved (believers in Christ), let us cleanse ourselves from all defilement of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God.//Make room for us in your hearts... *

What does it mean to debunk something? It means...

/DEBUNK

To expose falseness and pretense\

By raising questions in our souls, we are discarding falsehoods to make room for the things God planned in eternity past to place inside of you...the simple biblical truths that will set you free. James, Chapter 1, Verse 21 says we are to be...

/JAM 1:21

...putting aside all filthiness and all that remains of wickedness, in humility receive the word implanted, which is able to save your souls.

The Word of God is the tradition to which we hold...Second Thessalonians, Chapter 2, Verse 15 says...

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/2TH 2:15

So then, brethren, stand firm and hold to the traditions which you were taught, whether by word of mouth or by letter from us.

Many of you have asked many questions, in light of debunking the doctrine of rebound and declaring it to be false. Among them...

/YOUR QUESTIONS

What is the filling of the Spirit?

What is the indwelling of the Spirit?

What does it mean to be spiritual?

What does it mean to be carnal?\

/YOUR QUESTIONS

What about rewards in heaven?

What does it mean to abide (as in John, Chapter 15)?

What is fellowship with God?

What is confession?\

All of these are great questions. However, I am sure you know that the answers to these questions are not instant. As I mentioned in an earlier lesson this year, when we question one biblical doctrine, we have to question them all. Since you are asking these questions, God the Holy Spirit is obligated to answer them, and He will in due time. He has assured me in my soul that He will, and I'd like to pass along that assurance to you.

In the last lesson, we began to take a look at First John, Chapter 1, which is the start of seeking answers to these questions you are asking. Turn to First John, Chapter 1 if you please. Let's read this passage of Scripture together...

<READ FIRST JOHN, CHAPTER 1>

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/BREAK

Arms of Love

When I Think About Home

Welcome back...

I gave you a set of questions last week that would help you look at a biblical passage...here's how we applied it to First John, Chapter 1...

/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.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

Who wrote this passage?

It is settled in my soul that the writer of First John is the apostle John, who is an eyewitness of, and a participant in, the Lord Jesus Christ's earthly ministry. John wrote five parts of the New Testament...The Gospel of John, First John, Second John, Third John, and the Book of Revelation. First John reportedly was written in AD 95, just before the Canon of Scripture closed in AD 96.

/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 letters of the New Testament are written to respond to concerns about false teachers and false teachings by certain groups of people. First John was written in response to a question to John from a Pastor at the Church at Ephesus...“How do we deal with the doctrinal heresy called *Gnosticism*?”

The Gnostics were a group of people who believed they possessed superior spiritual knowledge. Whenever there is a legitimate church that seeks to

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teach the Word of God accurately, the kingdom of darkness always sends in agents to pervert and distort the accuracy of the church's message. The Gnostics were the agents of Satan. The Gnostics believed...

/GNOSTIC BELIEFS

There is no sin nature

There is no personal sinning

The true humanity of Christ did not exist\

Can you see the brilliance of these lies? Look at how liars use the truth to advance their lies. The Lord Jesus Christ did exist in true humanity...the Lord Jesus Christ did not commit a single personal sin during His lifetime...the Lord Jesus Christ did not have a sin nature. The kingdom of darkness used these biblical truths to create the Gnostic lie.

/GNOSTIC BELIEFS

There is no sin nature (Christ didn't have one)

There is no personal sinning (Christ didn't ever sin)

The true humanity of Christ did not exist\

Can you see the absolutely subtle beauty of these lies, especially the last one? Lies are so close to the truth as to be imperceptible. Insidious is the word that best describes lies...seemingly harmless, yet with a devastating affect. What if these three things are true? Or worse yet, what if I can get you to BELIEVE in your soul that these three things are true? What if I can get you to place your faith, your absolute confidence in these lies? If there is no true humanity of Christ, then there is no Cross. Without the true humanity of Christ there is no target for God the Father to impute your sins to, because the sins of the world were imputed to the Lord Jesus Christ's true humanity on the Cross. One verse dismisses these three lies. First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 24 says...

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/1PE 2:24

...and He Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) bore our sins in His (own) body (true humanity) on the Cross, so that we might die to (the sovereignty of the) sin (nature) and live to (absolute) righteousness; for by His wounds you were healed.

/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 perverted perception of the Lord Jesus Christ and an attempted distortion of God's Word. As I see it, this first chapter of First John teaches believers in Christ, but it is speaking directly to the lies of Gnosticism. We'll see this as we get into the exegesis of the ten verses of Chapter 1.

Look at First John, Chapter 4, beginning at Verse 1...

/1JO 4:1

Beloved (believers in Christ), (it is imperative that you) do not believe every spirit, but (it is imperative that you) test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world.

/1JO 4:2

By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit that confesses (homologeō) that Jesus Christ has come in the flesh (as true humanity) is from God...

/1JO 4:3

...and every spirit that does not confess (homologeō) Jesus is not from God; this is the spirit of the antichrist, of which you have heard that it is coming, and now it is already in the world).

The uses of the Greek word *homologeō* in scripture almost always reference salvation, which should give us a hint concerning the proper function of confession in the Christian Way of Life. More on this in our exegesis as well.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

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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.

Later in First John, he gives other reasons for writing... First John, Chapter 2, Verse 26 says...

/1JO 2:26

These things I have written to you concerning those who are trying to deceive you.

First John, Chapter 5, Verse 13 says...

/1JO 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the structure of the passage?

This passage in First John can be broken into parts...

/THE STRUCTURE OF FIRST JOHN CHAPTER ONE

Verses	1 to 3	John’s Credentials Which Refute the Gnostic Lies
Verse	4	John’s Purpose in Writing
Verses	5 to 10	Illumination of fellowship with God\

In the next lesson, we’ll take a look at the last question...

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/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

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

/CLOSING SONG

Fear Not\