

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 427– February 17, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

/EPH 1:3 and EPH 1:18

*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 (union with) Christ...//I pray that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened, so that you will know what is the hope of His calling, what are the riches of the glory of His inheritance in the saints... *

It is my sincere prayer that the significance of all the things the Lord Jesus Christ has done for you becomes a reality in your soul. 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.

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

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

God's Property\

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 GOD'S PROPERTY.

/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 understand the power of simply agreeing with you...

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-seven 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 Completely Agree with Him

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.

In the last lesson we reviewed answers to several of the ten questions that will help you explore a biblical passage.

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

What is the passage under consideration?

Who wrote this passage?

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 us the best insight into the passage under consideration?

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

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In this lesson we'll get right into the exegesis of First John Chapter 1.

<Read First John, Chapter 1, Verse 1-10>

In the first three verses of First John, Chapter 1, John uses His credentials to refute one of three Gnostic lies...the Gnostics believed...

/GNOSTIC BELIEFS

There is no sin nature

There is no personal sinning

The true humanity of Christ did not exist\

John takes on the most important lie first...the Gnostic lie that the true humanity of Christ was merely an illusion... the Gnostic lie that the true humanity of Christ did not exist. First John, Chapter 1, Verse 1...

/1JO 1:1

What was from the beginning, what we have heard, what we have seen with our eyes, what we have looked at and touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life —

John immediately rejects the Gnostic claim, by guaranteeing that the true humanity of Christ did indeed exist. As an apostle, John had empirical knowledge of the Lord Jesus Christ. Empirical knowledge involves the senses...**hearing, seeing, feeling**, tasting, and touching. The NET bible adds some words to the Greek that makes this verse much more understandable...

/1JO 1:1 (The NET Bible Translation)

(This is what we proclaim to you...we proclaim to you) What was from the beginning (at the first advent of the Lord Jesus Christ...Jesus Christ...true humanity)...(we proclaim to you) what we have heard...(we proclaim to you) what we have seen with our eyes...(we proclaim to you) what we have looked at (a reference to perceiving something after observation...a reference to thinking)...and (we proclaim to you what we have) touched with

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our hands... (concerning the subject matter)...the Word (logos) of (the Zoe) Life (of the Resurrected Christ).\

What is John saying? He's saying, "The Gnostics say the true humanity of the Lord Jesus Christ did not exist. I say they are lying. I know He was born of a virgin, I know He was here because I lived with Him, I heard Him speak, I saw Him with my own eyes, I thought about things He said to me, I touched Him in His resurrection body with my hands. Therefore, what the Gnostics are saying is a lie." Luke, Chapter 24, Verse 39 offers further evidence...

/LUK 24:39

"See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself (the resurrected Lord Jesus Christ); touch Me and see, for a spirit does not have flesh and bones as you see that I have."\

The Lord Jesus Christ gave His Apostles empirical knowledge of the resurrection. If He hadn't, He would be just like every other human who made outlandish claims and then died, never to be heard from again. The Lord Jesus Christ was different. He is God and man in one Person, the uniquely born One. John, Chapter 20, Verse 27...

/JOH 20:27

Then He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to (doubting) 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."\

Continuing with the exegesis, here's First John, Chapter 1, Verse 2...

/1JO 1:2

...and the (Zoe) life was manifested (we beheld His glory), and we have seen and testify and proclaim to you the eternal life (of Him with no beginning and no ending), which was with (God) the Father (in the beginning not a beginning) and was manifested to us (John and the other apostles) —

John is now explaining who *logos* is, the Word (*logos*) of Life (*Zoe*), by referring back to two verses in his gospel that also refute the lie of the Gnostics...John, Chapter 1, Verse 1...

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/JOH 1:1

In the beginning was the Word (ho logos...the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ...the Son of God), and the Word (ho logos...the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ...the Son of God) was with God (the Father), and the Word (ho logos...the Deity of the Lord Jesus Christ...the Son) was God.

Then John says, “See what had happened was...the Hypostatic Union of the Lord Jesus Christ...100% undiminished Deity and 100% True Humanity in one person forever...” John, Chapter 1, Verse 14...

/JOH 1:14

“And the Word (the Deity of Christ) became flesh (true humanity) and tabernacled among us (during the first incarnation), and we saw (beheld) His glory, glory as of the unique one from (God) the Father, full of grace and (and full of) truth (the Word of God).”

One lie down...two to go...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

/1JO 1:3

...what we have seen and heard we proclaim to you also (Gnostics), so that you too may have fellowship with us (believers in Christ); and indeed our fellowship is with (God) the Father, and with His Son (the Lord) Jesus Christ.

Now John, after calling out the lie, begins to evangelize. In my mind, this sets up the fact that John is directing this letter to believers, but first, in this first chapter, he is dealing with the unbelieving Gnostics who are infiltrating the church at Ephesus. Look again at First John, Chapter 1, Verse 4. Now here’s an alternative translation...

/1JO 1:4 (alternative translation)

These things we write, so that our joy may continue to be fully supplied by God.

Here’s the Wuest translation...

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/1JO 1:4 (Wuest)

And these things, as for us, we are writing in order that our joy, having been filled completely full in times past may persist in that state of fullness through present time.

John is happy to keep on representing his Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. After a short break we'll see how John refutes the other two Gnostic lies.

/BREAK

Always and Forever

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

/QUESTIONS TO ILLUMINATE A BIBLICAL PASSAGE

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

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.

You asked, "What is fellowship with God?" This verse offers an analogy.

/God = Light

Everything Else = Darkness\

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. John, Chapter 1, Verse 5...

/JOH 1:5

The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not (never...ouk) comprehend it (the Light).

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An omnipresent God will never let you out of His plan or His sight; a faithful God will never take His Holy Spirit from you, nor will He take away anything once He gives it to you including your salvation; and a loving God will never be out of fellowship with you nor will He let you be out of fellowship with Him. That's God's perspective. If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are in fellowship with God once and for all time. You didn't do anything meritorious to get into fellowship with God. An immutable God put you in fellowship with Himself. Fortunately for you, you can't undo what God has done. Can a believer in Christ ever be out of fellowship with God? Ouk! No. Not never! Next, John refutes the other two Gnostic lies.

/GNOSTIC BELIEFS

There is no sin nature

There is no personal sinning

The true humanity of Christ did not exist\

First John, Chapter 1, Verse 6...

/1JO 1:6

*If (3) we say (assert) that we have fellowship with Him (that we are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ) and yet walk in the darkness (of unbelief... living the Gnostic lies...rejecting His true humanity, rejecting the Word of God concerning the sin nature and personal sinning...you have a choice), we lie and do not practice the truth... *

The Gnostics claimed to be believers, and they claimed to be saved, yet they reject the true Person of the Lord Jesus Christ by saying that His true humanity was an illusion. First John, Chapter 1, Verse 7...

/1JO 1:7

...but if (3) we walk in the Light as He Himself is in the Light (maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice), (but if we do) we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus His Son (through His substitutionary spiritual death at the Cross) cleanses us from all sin.

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For the Gnostics to become believers in Christ, they would have to choose to change their views about all three of their beliefs, and instead choose to believe the Word of God...with faith alone in Christ alone as the ticket to eternal life.

/ACT 16:31

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

John continues to refute the lies of Gnosticism...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 8...

/1JO 1:8

If (1) we say that we have no sin (nature and Gnostics do), we are deceiving ourselves and the truth (of God’s Word) is not in us.

Now your favorite verse...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 9...

/1JO 1:9

If (3) we confess our sins (maybe you will and maybe you won’t you have a choice), He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

I have struggled with this verse for weeks...I have consulted those I respect and we differ in the interpretation I will express here...but in keeping with the context of this passage, I think this is a passage directed to believers, but this chapter and this verse is specifically refuting the contentions of unbelieving Gnostics. I believe this verse applies to unbelievers, and not to believers.

The Greek word *homologeō* means to admit, name or cite as the doctrine of rebound claimed. But it also means to completely agree with God in a matter. Let’s insert that meaning and see if it lends any clarity to the verse...

/1JO 1:9

*If (3) we *homologeō*...completely agree with God in the mater of our sins... maybe you will and maybe you won’t you have a choice, He (God the Father) is faithful (he always does the same thing) and righteous (free from*

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sin Himself and thus completely qualified) to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (relative righteousness...missing absolute righteousness).

I've tried every variation of thought about this, and in context, this is the only thing that makes sense to me. In short, confessing is something unbelievers do.

Christians evaluate themselves...First Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 31...

/1CO 11:31

But if (2) we judged (evaluated) ourselves rightly (and we don't), we would not be judged (disciplined).

Second Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 5...

/2CO 13:5

(Make it a habit to) Test yourselves to see if you are (living) in the (sphere) 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)?

What I see in the New Testament when I look at the use of *homologeō* is that salvation is almost always in view...Matthew, Chapter 3, Verse 6...

/MAT 3:6

...and they were being baptized by him in the Jordan River, as they confessed (exomologeō) their sins.

This form in Greek is *ek* plus *homologeō*...which means to express agreement with something. Romans, Chapter 10, Verse 9...

/ROM 10:9

...that if (3) you confess (homologeō) with your mouth Jesus as Lord (maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice), and (if you) believe in your heart that God (the Father) raised Him from the dead (maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice), you will be saved...

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John closes out the chapter by refuting the final Gnostic lie...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 10...

/1JO 1:10

If (3) we say that we have not sinned (maybe you do and maybe you don't), (if you do) we make Him a liar and His word is not in us.

What is confession? It's completely agreeing with God about the sin matter. It's something, in this case, that unbelievers need to do to be saved. When you think about it though, *homologeo* is all we can do as human creatures. Anything we do that does not completely agree with God is a mistake. The Doctrine of Rebound contends that ...

/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\

...yet there is nothing about rebound that resembles grace, or fellowship with God or the filling of the Spirit. It is a dead work. It does not fill up any deficiency. How can we, who did not put ourselves in fellowship with God, command Him through personal sinning and confessing, to go into and out of fellowship with us? It's impossible.

If an immutable and omnipotent God put us in His plan at the moment of salvation, and He did...and if He never changes, and He doesn't, how are we powerful enough to walk ourselves into and out of God's plan? We can't.

How can we lose the filling of God the Holy Spirit? When we sin, is an omniscient God disappointed with us? Hardly. That wouldn't be unconditional love, would it?

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Here's my hope...I hope this opens your eyes, like it did mine, to how much we underestimate God's love for us. If we don't get God's unconditional love, we won't get anything about God or His plan or the Christian Way of Life or freedom.

/CLOSING SONG

The Light of Fellowship\