

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 430– February 24, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

Good morning! First Thessalonians, Chapter 5, Verse 18 says...

/1TH 5:18

...in everything give thanks; for this is God's will for you (who are) in (union with) Christ Jesus.

God's will is that you enjoy all of the challenges and all of the gifts that He brings to your life...the Lord wants you to learn how to be a great recipient of His blessings. So in preparation for the study of the Word of God, it's time for self-evaluation. You can ask yourself, "Do I have the same thinking in me, that was also in Christ Jesus?" <WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

As you go about your everyday life as a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, at any moment in time, you can choose to tune your soul to the influence of KCOS, operating with the world system of thought, or you can choose to tune your soul to the influence of WGod, operating with the divine system of thought. Bible study is a time to lay aside the spiritual battle of daily life...the internal fight between two kingdoms for control of your soul...it's a time to allow the infiltration of your soul and spirit with the mind of Christ, the Word of God, so you can have a chance, when you return to the world, to operate with the same attitude that was also in Christ Jesus. The Word of God refers to bible study as a time of RENEWING, as you let God the Holy Spirit fill up your deficiency of thought, leading you into the truths of the Word of God, as He unveils the plan of God the Father for your life. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

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

Now is the time to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, prepare 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

Calling You to Freedom\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our God in song, while you let thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ occupy your mind. The opening song is CALLING YOU TO FREEDOM.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...(0:30)

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

Teach us how to gravitate to the freedoms that you are providing for us...

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 thirty of the CREATOR versus CREATURE Conflict series. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/TODAY'S STUDY

THE CREATOR'S Will is for You to Live Free

We continue our study of the CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT.

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

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We are studying our CREATOR...we are learning about God's Person and His Work, so that we can have a great relationship with Him. It's pretty tough to love someone you don't know very well, so we're getting to know our God. We use an encoding device called the CREATOR CLOCK to introduce ourselves 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. It is God's will that you live free.

A few things are certain about Christianity...Christianity is a relationship, not a religion...Christianity is based on grace, not rituals...Christianity is driven by wisdom, not by intellect...Christianity is easy and not hard... Christianity is something you receive, not something that requires you to give...Christianity is freedom, not slavery. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 1 says...

/GAL 5:1

It was for freedom that (the Lord Jesus) Christ set us free (from the slavery of spiritual death); therefore keep standing firm (in the freedom) and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Freedom is a hard pill for a person driven by legalism to swallow. The religious are legalistic. Make no mistake...legalism is a yoke, and it chokes.

<YOKE PICTURE SLIDE>

Legalism turns us into beasts of burden. People who choose legalism as their god reject the relationship based aspect of Christianity because they are obsessed with rules based living. Their focus is to create a set of "have to" rituals that they are obligated to do in order to make God happy with them. They are people pleasers and perfectionists and self-righteous phonies who live unhappy and unfulfilled lives. They want to "make sure" that they are doing everything they can to advance to spiritual maturity, to take in as much doctrine as possible, to avoid reversionism, to gain their rewards in heaven, to stop swearing, to wear the right clothes to church...all the things

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that don't matter in the least to God...they are committed to all the things that make Christianity too much work. They look forward to a future time when God gives them their highest and best because they earned it. They even want to work for their own salvation...but they can't...Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 6 says...

/ROM 11:6

But if (1) it is by grace (and it is), it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace.

Evidently, being indwelt by the entire Trinity, having absolute righteousness, being a royal priest, being a saint, being holy, being blameless, being a new spiritual species, being an ambassador for Christ, being in union with Christ, and being justified by faith aren't quite enough for the legalists. Those things are all well and good, they'd say, but they still want to add the "have to..."

If these "all things" that you Christians already have been given by God don't make it clear that God has already given you, as a believer, the highest and best, what else does the Lord have to do? What else is it that you are striving to attain? In Psalm 46, Verse 10, the Lord tells us to...

/PSA 46:10

"Cease striving and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth."

God brings everything to His people. He is the Sovereign of the Universe. He is the victor valiant. We wait with open arms for His deliverance, which always comes right soon! He merely asks us Christians to trust Him for everything...Matthew, Chapter 21, Verse 22 says...

/MAT 21:22

"And all things you ask in prayer, believing, you will receive."

Do you have faith in your God?

Luke, Chapter 17, Verse 6 says...

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/LUK 17:6

And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea;’ and it would obey you.”

God loves you.

Turn to Lamentations, Chapter 3...we'll look at Verses 21 to 25...

/LAM 3:21

This I (Jeremiah) recall to my mind (during my affliction), therefore I have hope.

/LAM 3:22-23

The Lord's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.//They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.

/LAM 3:24-25

*“The Lord is my portion,” says my soul, “Therefore I have hope in Him.”
//The Lord is good to those who wait for Him, To the person who seeks Him.*

God always sticks by the people He has chosen, and if you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are one of His chosen ones.

The Lord wants you to live free. So here's the question, “What happens to slaves after they have been set free?”

Many of you were slaves to the doctrine of rebound. But now you have been set free. Now what will you do? What is the predisposition of a slave who is set free? Most after being set free, have a deep-seated desire to keep living in the slavery of religion and ritual. Proverbs, Chapter 26, Verse 11 says...

/PRO 26:11

Like a dog that returns to its vomit is a fool who repeats his folly.

Second Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 22 says...

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/2PE 2:22

It has happened to them according to the true proverb, “A DOG RETURNS TO ITS OWN VOMIT,” and, “A sow, after washing, returns to wallowing in the mire.”

Many of you, after hearing the truth about the doctrine of rebound directly from God the Holy Spirit, will then seek confirmation from men...God's Word is not good enough for you...and if the men you consult don't agree with what the bible says...and tell you that rebound is “it,” you are going to dismiss this work we have done, no matter what the bible says...especially if the men you consult are people you respect. Turn in your bibles to Galatians, Chapter 1...

It became apparent to me this week that there is a nice analogy brewing here in Barah Ministries...as we have studied the doctrine of rebound, some of you are like the Jews who were under the Mosaic Law. Those of us who grew up under the Pastors who were teaching the doctrine of rebound were living under a law of legalism. The others of you, who have been here in Barah Ministries for short time, let's say five years...who are new to the Word of God and new to the idea of the doctrine of rebound...you are more like the Gentiles, who learned Christ by means of grace but were dragged back to the legalism by the other believers in the congregation. The indictment and dismissal of rebound levels the playing field. We are all now under grace, not works. Yet again I ask you, “What is the predisposition of a slave who is set free?”

The apostle Paul knew. In His first missionary journey, Paul established many churches throughout a region in Asia Minor, a Roman province called Galatia. The letter I have had you turn to is a letter to the Galatian region churches. There are several churches in the region. On His first missionary journey, Paul goes there to preach a grace gospel message...faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. Ephesians, Chapter 2, verses 8 and 9 say...

/EPH 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith (alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone); and that (grace, and faith and salvation is) not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...

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/EPH 2:9

*... (it is) not as a result of (your) works, so that no one may boast (before the justice of God). *

Paul's gospel message was new, so it was accepted whole-heartedly. The churches in the Galatian region were so excited about the message of grace that they called Paul "an angel sent from heaven." They wanted to make him a god. Yet as soon as he left the region, they forgot everything he taught. Take a five-minute break and I will tell you why...

/BREAK

Shout to The Lord

*When I Think About Home *

Welcome back!

The inhabitants of the Galatian region were from Boston...okay I'm kidding...but they were known as Celts (KELT-TICS)...they were a nomadic tribe of warlike people. The Galatians were described as fickle...they were always looking for "something new," and they were easily bored...they were very curious...thus they were susceptible to distortions. The Emperor of Rome, Julius Caesar, made these comments about them...

/CAESAR DESCRIBES THE GALATIANS

"They are fickle in their resolves, fond of change, and they are not to be trusted. They are frank, impetuous, eminently intelligent, fond of show, but extremely inconstant, the fruit of excessive vanity." \

After Paul's first missionary journey to the Galatian region, Satan sends in his agents, the Judaizers, to pervert and distort Paul's gospel message. In his letter to the Galatian churches, Paul is flippin' mad! The Judaizers were legalists, perhaps Christians, who went in behind Paul to the churches in the Galatian region and undid his accurate gospel message for a distorted one. The problem? The "fickle, bored, looking for something new crowd" was listening.

The Judaizers "agreed" that Jesus Christ is the Messiah...they agreed that salvation came from believing in the Lord Jesus Christ...BUT they also

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believed you had to add works to salvation to be saved. They insisted, that in order for Gentiles to become Christians, they first of all had to become Jews...that the Gentiles must submit themselves to the strictures of the law, especially to circumcision. Sound familiar? Adding works to salvation is like mixing oil and water...the two just don't mix. The Judaisers were distorting the gospel of Christ. Let's read together the first twelve verses of Galatians, Chapter 1, beginning at Verse 1...

<READ GALATIANS, CHAPTER 1, VERSES 1 to 12>

Paul's letter to the Galatian churches is one of the greatest passages on freedom ever written, and is why we stop here for a look. Can you relate? You have just been freed from the doctrine of rebound. What will you do now?

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

“What is the predisposition of a slave who is set free?”\

It is the Creator's will that you live free.

We have modern examples of what happens to slaves when they are set free. On January 1, 1863, President Abraham Lincoln issued **The Emancipation Proclamation**, an executive order to all segments of the executive branch of government including the Army and Navy during the American Civil War. It was a legitimate order based on the president's constitutional authority as commander in chief of the armed forces; it was not a law passed by Congress. It proclaimed all those enslaved in Confederate territory to be forever free, and it ordered all segments of the Executive branch, to treat as free all those people who were enslaved in the ten states that were still in rebellion against the union. The proclamation applied to about four million slaves.

So were the slaves now free? A great movie starring Daniel Day-Lewis, directed by Steven Spielberg, was released recently called *Lincoln*. The answer to the question of whether the freed slaves were indeed free is contained within the movie. Just because you have been set free does not mean you will act like a person who is free.

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The young adults of today are a great example. They become adults at twenty-one years old, yet they are not leaving home, on average, until they are thirty years old. Their parents don't want to free their children slaves and their slave children don't want to be free.

The post-Soviet states, commonly known as the Former Soviet Union, are fifteen independent states that seceded from the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics, in its dissolution in December of 1991. When the dissolution happened, the people in the fifteen independent states were still wondering where they were going to get their vodka and cheese now that the government was not providing it.

Paul's letter to the Galatians was directed to Gentiles of the Galatian region...he wanted them to know what they were to do in light of the Mosaic Law. He answered the question of whether they should follow its practice. For Paul, it was almost understandable if the Jews of this day continued to follow Jewish customs. After all, Paul was a guy who had gone from religion to relationship...from Judaism to Christianity. Romans Chapter 7 was his testimony to the difficulty of shedding the habits of religion. Romans Chapter 7 is a testament to the do-do life. Yet he was still furious about the undoing of his hard work. Look at Galatians, Chapter 1, Verse 6...

/GAL 1:6

I am amazed (astonished) that you are so quickly deserting Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who called you (invited you to the privilege of salvation) by the grace of Christ, for a different gospel...

Look at Galatians, Chapter 3, Verse 1...

/GAL 3:1

*You foolish Galatians, who has bewitched you, before whose eyes Jesus Christ was publicly portrayed as crucified? *

Paul is upset.

Here's the things we as believers in Christ need to entertain more than anything else from this letter...look at Galatians, Chapter 3, Verses 2 and 3...

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/GAL 3:2-3

This is the only thing I want to find out from you (Galatians): did you receive the (baptism by the agency of God the Holy) Spirit by (doing) the works of the (Mosaic) Law, or by hearing (the gospel) with faith (alone in Christ alone)?//Are you so foolish? Having begun (the Christian Life) by the (baptism of God the Holy) Spirit, are you now being perfected by the (deeds you do in the) flesh?

That's my question for those of you who are having trouble letting go of the doctrine of rebound. You are saved by grace. You are forgiven by grace. Do you handle post salvation sinning by works? Ouk! Absolutely not never!

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

“What is the predisposition of a slave who is set free?”\

Many of you asked me a great question, which I didn't have an answer to until last night. You asked, “If God the Holy Spirit knew that rebound was a false doctrine then why would He allow us to do it for so long?” Romans Chapter 7, Verse 7 says...

/ROM 7:7

What shall we say then? Is the Law sin? May it never be! On the contrary, I would not have come to know (about my) sin (nature) except through the Law; for I would not have known about coveting if the Law had not said, “YOU SHALL NOT COVET.”

The Christian Way of Life is not a rules based life. It is a grace-based life. What good is the law then? The law shows us that we are sinful by nature. Rebound made us acutely aware that we are sinful...it made us acutely aware that we are slaves to the sin nature and the personal sins it manufactures.

Most people in the world say, “Hey Jesus...I know you died for me. Thanks but no thanks. I don't need a Savior because I'm not really that bad. I haven't killed anybody. I don't need you Jesus. I'm okay on my own.”

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Trying to follow laws, dead works, legalistic tenants like the doctrine of rebound shows us that we are not as good as we think we are. Gratefully, however there is a time, when the Lord makes us, as slaves, acutely aware in our souls that we are free. For us here at Barah Ministries, the fullness of times is right now.

Your God who loves you is calling you to freedom. Will you come?

/CLOSING SONG

Count It All Joy\