

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

Good morning!

Colossians, Chapter 3, Verse 16a says...

/COL 3:16a

*Let the word of Christ richly dwell within you... *

This is why we come to church. So that in the tough times, God's Word dwells within us. So in preparation for the study of the Word of God, it's time for self-evaluation. You can ask yourself, "What thought pattern am I allowing to influence my life?"

<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. Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

/ROM 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect. \

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."

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Nothing Else I Need\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear Jeremy Camp worship our Lord in song, while you concentrate on your Lord and Savior. The opening song is... NOTHING ELSE I NEED.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

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

Please help us to distinguish your Word from Satan's distractions as we go about our daily lives...

We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit... in Christ's name... Amen.

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Deacon Caleb Alburn\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Deacon Caleb Alburn. You're listening to lesson four hundred and thirty-five 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 that you Change the Station

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

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

We are studying our CREATOR... we are learning about God's Person and His Work, so that we can have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with Him. It's pretty tough to love someone you don't know very well, so we're getting to

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

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's God's will that you know about Satan's schemes.

One of Satan's schemes that he uses so well is to suck your time away from you. Yes, that can only mean one thing. Satan is indeed...

/Satan is a Time Vampire
<Time Vampire Picture>\

...a time vampire!

It's true! Satan sucks time away from you all day, every day. He does this through distractions. He has done such a fantastic job of getting us to buy the lie that we "don't have enough time." Every time we find ourselves saying this, we have indeed purchased that lie.

Satan knows we have 24 hours in a day, so he does anything and everything he can to split that up and disperse it out so that there's no time for God. Satan uses eating, sleeping, working, family, friends, fun, vacation, "Facebook," cell phones, games, sports, television, and movies to distract...I can keep going, but I think you have the point.

Satan will use any distraction he can, and he does it quite well. But the cool thing about God though, is that...He kind of knew this would happen.

In fact, He even tells us how to combat this in the Bible.

Psalm 119, Verse 15 says...

/PSA 119:15
I will meditate on Your precepts and regard Your ways.\

We hear Philippians, Chapter 4, Verse 8 often enough...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

/PHI 4:8

Finally, brethren, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is of good repute, if there is any excellence and if anything worthy of praise, (let your mind) dwell on these things.\

In other words...in all things, we are to focus on Christ.

/Let God manage your time... not Satan.\

That's my challenge to you.

We can wake up earlier, so we can study in the morning to prepare us for the rest of the day. We can listen in our cars on the way to work. We can study on our breaks. On our way home from work, we can listen in our cars again. We can study as a family when we're all home together.

This is what is meant when we read in First Thessalonians, Chapter 5, Verse 17...

/1TH 5:17

...pray without ceasing..\

Or as the Greek of the New Testaments says...make it a habit to pray. Make God number one in all things. Make God your focus.

/We donate so much of the time that we're blessed with by God, to Satan.\

Pastor Rory introduced me to a great short video on time management. Just type in Big Rocks into YouTube and watch it.

Another one of Satan's schemes is his use of temptation.

/Satan uses legitimate offers for his benefit... not yours.\

Satan gives us sexy offers. There's no reason to beat around this bush. If they weren't sexy, we wouldn't even have this lesson.

He promises us third place for quitting competitions. That's a pretty attractive offer. Think about that. We get a prize, and we don't have to do anything. There's no cost to us at all...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

Let's watch Satan in action. We'll use my life as an example...I'm just kidding. Let's turn in our bibles to Matthew, Chapter 4, Verse 3...

/MAT 4:3

*And the tempter came and said to Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), "If (1) You are the Son of God (and of course you are), command that these stones become bread." *

I'm telling you... I would have failed the God test right here. Jesus is hungry! I would have popped out an entire bakery right there on the spot! I would look up to the sky... sorry God... the Cross is going to have to wait. But, Jesus didn't give in, so Satan tempted again. Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 5 and 6...

/MAT 4:5-6

*Then the devil took Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) into the holy city (Jerusalem) and had Him stand on the pinnacle of the temple, //and (Satan) said to Him, "If (1) You are the Son of God (and you are), throw Yourself down, for it is written, 'He (God the Father) will command His angels concerning You;' and 'On their hands they will bear You up, so that You will not strike Your foot against a stone.'" *

And again, Jesus didn't budge. But you've got to applaud Satan's perseverance here. He went for it again. Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 8 and 9...

/MAT 4:8-9

*Again, the devil took Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory; //and he said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me." *

You see what I mean? Satan will give you third place... But you've got to give up first place... Satan offered Him the world, but Jesus was focused on eternity. But, the world is a sexy offer though! Satan does the same thing to us.

"Hey, have sex before you're married. Try before you buy. Move in together, so you can test if it will even work out..."

There you go... that's Satan's third place promise for you. What he doesn't tell you is that couples that have premarital sex have a higher divorce rate...as do couples who move in together before marriage...not to mention that virtually every single financial statistic is worse for children born out of wedlock. They have higher dropout rates, and on average make less money as a result.

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

That's something to think about. Do you want God's first place promise? Or, do you want Satan's third place temptation? Just remember that in every single situation...

/God has something better planned for you.\

And that brings us to point 3...

/Satan is a liar\

So, just in case you didn't get that. Point 1.

/Satan is a Time Vampire\

Point 2...

/Satan uses legitimate offers for his benefit... not yours.\

And, point 3...

/Satan is a liar\

Satan continuously lies to us as we read in John, Chapter 8, Verse 44...

/JOH 8:44

"You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies."\

We get a good example of this in Genesis, Chapter 3, Verses 4 and 5...

/GEN 3:4-5

The serpent said to the woman, "You surely will not die! //For God knows that in the day you eat from it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil."\

Wow! You see, that's beautiful. You can hear Satan right now... "What!? I didn't lie...did I? Well, I may have not told the whole truth, and I may have left out some of the consequences, but I didn't lie..." That's a lie, too!

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

It's these beautiful deceptions that we all fall for all of the time. This is what Satan does. He deceives all of us, like we read in Revelation, Chapter 12, Verse 9a...

/REV 12:9

And the great dragon was thrown down, the serpent of old who is called the devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world

One of Satan's best weapons of deception is the media. People believe EVERYTHING they hear on the news or read on Facebook. People don't think for themselves anymore. And yet we wonder how can people fall victim to religion. People don't ask questions. And, if they do, many are not searching for answers.

But God tells us in Matthew, Chapter 7, verses 7 and 8...

/MAT 7:7-8

Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. //For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened.

So when you encounter these situations in your life ask the questions; search the answers; knock on every door you have to. You want to remember to check the source and motivation of the information you're receiving.

Let's take a five-minute break as we listen to...

/BREAK

*You Do All Things Well - Chris Tomlin
When I Think About Home*

Welcome back!

On to point 4...

/If you resist the devil, he will flee from you.\

This is where it gets fun. Hopefully someone figured out we were missing something earlier while we were in Matthew. Yes, I did this on purpose. Sometimes, there's a method to my madness. Now, I want to focus on Jesus during this interaction. So, hopefully we're still in Matthew, so it shouldn't be hard to turn to. Let's look at Matthew, Chapter 4, Verse 4...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

/MAT 4:4

But He (the Lord Jesus Christ) answered and said, “It is written, ‘Man shall not live on bread (physical food) alone, but on every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God.’”

Now, this is the part that I would have failed at... remember? Satan just gave Jesus a tempting offer, and the first thing Jesus does is refute it with God’s Word.

I think it’s safe to say that God used this as an example for us. We too, when tempted to do something, can use the Word of God to make a different decision. But, just in case we’re still not convinced let’s move on to verse 7...

/MAT 4:7

Jesus said to him, “On the other hand, it is written, ‘You shall not put the Lord your God to the test.’”

Here, Jesus does it again. Satan keeps tempting, and Jesus is ready. Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 10 and 11...

/MAT 4:10-11

Then Jesus said to him, ‘Go, Satan! For it is written, ‘You shall worship the Lord your God, and serve Him only.’” //Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.\

<Read the entire Matthew, Chapter 4, Verses 1-11 passage straight through>

Wow... I love this story. Jesus gave us a perfect example of what to do when we’re being tempted. Jesus made quick, short work of it. He left no room for conversation at all. He used the Word of God to refute something He knew wasn’t in His best interest.

What’s so great about this story is verse 11... then the devil left Him... that’s awesome! Satan saw there was no success, so he moved on to someone else. We get reassurance of this in James, Chapter 4, Verse 7...

/JAM 4:7

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

In other words... make God your focus... stop entertaining the “suck out your time” proposals that Satan offers us. He’s like a car salesman...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

/Satan is a car salesman.\

Sorry to anyone out there who sells cars, but you'll see what I mean. Most of us have gone out and bought a car from a dealership. If you go in ill prepared, you come out feeling like you just got taken for all your worth...but hey... at least you got your car. Or some of us do what I do. I do ALL my research. I talk to multiple dealerships. I check out every website available. I talk everyone down to ridiculous prices. I go in wearing my best clothes. And then... I come out feeling like I just got taken for all I'm worth, but hey... at least I got the car.

That's Satan! I'm sorry, but it's true. He's good. It doesn't matter what your game plan is, you're not going to win. He knows what he's doing. No matter what, he's going to make a profit, and it's going to be at your expense!

I probably could have used a casino analogy to make the same point, but the car salesman example is good enough. The bottom line...no matter how smart we think we are, we're not going to outsmart Satan. The best strategy we have is to copy Jesus in the desert, to refute Satan's temptations with the Word of God, and to move on.

So what's the point of all of this? Why learn about Satan? We're doing it because Satan does everything he can to steal our serenity. And, I can't seem to meet a content person to save my life.

And, this brings us to our fifth and final point...

/When we give into the devil, we voluntarily give up our contentment.\

Staying focused on God is our only hope of having contentment in this life. Paul tells us in Philippians, Chapter 4, verses 11 through 13...

/PHI 4:11-13

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am. //I know how to get along with humble means, and I also know how to live in prosperity, in any and every circumstance I have learned the secret of being filled and going hungry, both of having abundance and suffering need. //I can do all things through Him who strengthens me.

Paul again stresses this point in First Timothy, Chapter 6, Verse 8...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

/1 TI 6:8

If we have food and covering, with these we shall be content.

When I hear verses like these, I can see why the author of Psalm 46 tells us to...

/PSA 46:10a

“Cease striving and know that I am God...”

It’s because he knows that God takes care of everything for us. But for whatever reason, we feel the need to try everything out ourselves first. And of course, when everything we try fails, we then turn to God, instead of just leaning on God’s promises from the beginning. We read in Hebrews, Chapter 13, Verse 5...

/HEB 13:5

Make sure that your character is free from the love of money, being content with what you have; for He Himself has said, “I will never desert you, nor will I ever forsake you.”\

When we talk with others, it’s always so surprising that everyone “knows” about all of these promises that God has for them. But no one seems to believe them. And, I’m talking about Christians. This is a question that I often bring up to God. Why is it that Christians walk around so stressed and so confused? And this time He led me to First Peter, Chapter 5, Verse 8...

/1 PE 5:8

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

Well, maybe I’m just greedy, but that wasn’t good enough for me. I’ve heard this verse before. Fine, I get it. Christians walk around confused, because Satan’s out to get us. But, God led me here for a reason, so I kept going. First Peter, Chapter 5, Verses 9 and 10...

/1 PE 5:9-10

But resist him, firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world. //After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

Oh... wow! Well, there’s a lesson I think we miss sometimes. We’re not the only ones going through the things we go through. We have an enemy who uses

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

anything and everything he can to stir us up and to make us unstable. He wants to make us stressed. And one of the ways he does it is to give us more questions than answers.

I don't know how many of us remember the TV show LOST. But for those of us who do, it's another example of Satan. I liked it at first, but every episode had more questions than answers in it. It made me so stressed to watch it that I eventually stopped. I couldn't keep up. That's what Satan does to us throughout our lives. He keeps piling more and more on until we get too worn out and we quit. He tries to get us to split our attention on everything except the one thing that works...the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

So, think about that the next time a coworker is driving you crazy. Or when you get cut off while you're driving. Or when you hear a fear based news story. Or think about this the next time you're offered a shortcut in life. Just think about what place you're playing for...ask yourself, in every situation in which you find yourself...

/Am I going for first place?\

If you are, follow God. Resist Satan.

Our closing song is Sea of Faces by Kutless...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 435 – March 10, 2013

/CLOSING SONG

Sea of Faces - Kutless\

/JER 29:11

‘For I know the plans that I have for you,’ declares the LORD, ‘plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.’\

/1 PE 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, //casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.\

/JUD 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, //to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.\

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

God, thank you for teaching us that there are better options than what Satan offers us. Thank you for continuously building our faith in You through perseverance in Your Word. And, I pray that those who hear these messages continue to change the station in their souls and tune into WGOD. We pray that You continue to shape the messages from this pulpit that are an accurate reflection of Your person, Your thinking, Your work, Your reputation, and Your essence. And we ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, and in Christ’s name... Amen.

/Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

www.barahministries.com\