

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 447– April 7, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

**Let's Make a Mental Shift **

Good morning! Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 33 says...

/ROM 11:33

Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable (incapable of being traced by footprints) are His judgments and unfathomable (beyond being exhausted are) His ways!\

In this doxology, Paul bursts forth with an expression of praise toward God. What is it that makes a man like Paul make these comments from the depths of his soul? It's the Lord Jesus Christ. Welcome to bible study where you get the chance to fill your souls with the truth of the Word of God that will make you shout with joy as well.

There is nothing we can do to exhaust the blessings that God has planned for us. When the magnificence of our relationship with the Lord becomes apparent to our souls, we have no choice but to shout out with joy in words of praise about the depth and the riches that this relationship with Him provides.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

We come to bible study for RENEWING, to allow God the Holy Spirit to lead us into the truths of the Word of God, so we can know all the details of the Predetermined Plan of God the Father...so we can know the voluntary compassion and sacrifice of God the Son...and so we can know the amazing resurrection life of the uniquely born One, the Lord Jesus Christ. Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2 says...

ROM 12:2

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

Now is the time to let God 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

Word of God Speak\

As God prepares you for this RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is...WORD OF GOD SPEAK.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

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

Help us to change our thoughts about the access we have to you...

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

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Rory Clark

Pastor-Teacher\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher, given to me by God for your benefit, so I might serve you. 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

God Wants You to Take Advantage of Your Direct Access to Him

Turn in your bibles to Ephesians, Chapter 2...as a Church Age believer you have direct access to God...the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...His rising from the dead...is one of the most significant things about Him, and it could easily be called the most significant event in divine history...everything changed when that tomb was empty on Resurrection Day...Ephesians Chapter 2, beginning at Verse 11...

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<Read Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 11 to 18 directly from the bible>

/EPH 2:11

Therefore remember that formerly you, the Gentiles in the flesh, who are called “Uncircumcision” by the so-called “Circumcision (the Jews),” (a circumcision) which is performed in the flesh by human hands —

Paul is trashing his kinsmen a bit here...the Jews, a specially selected racial species, who were chosen by God to evangelize the world, distorted the responsibility of world evangelism into a system of legalism...they contended that if you were not physically circumcised you were not special...they set up a spiritual boundary between themselves and the Gentiles...the Gentiles lacked the promises given to the Jews and their spiritual father Abraham...

/EPH 2:12

...remember that you (Gentiles) were at that time separate from Christ (without the hope of a Messiah as promised to the Jews), excluded from the commonwealth of Israel (not citizens), and strangers to the covenants of promise (with no hope of the future blessing the Jews had through Abraham), having no hope (because they were unbelievers) and without (a relationship with) God in the world.

The Gentiles were in bad shape...physically alive...spiritual dead...and on the wrong side of a barrier...without a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ...this was the same situation for many unregenerate Jews as well, even though they were under the delusion that they were saved even if they didn't believe in Christ.

/EPH 2:13

But now in (union with) Christ Jesus you who formerly were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ's spiritual death on the Cross...the shedding of His blood changed everything...it removed the sin barrier that kept God and men out of relationship...

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/EPH 2:14

*For He Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) is our peace, who made both groups into one (group...unity) and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall... *

/EPH 2:15

*...by abolishing in His flesh (physical death) the enmity, which is the (Mosaic) Law of commandments contained in ordinances, so that in Himself He (the Lord Jesus Christ) might make the two (groups) into one new man (the new spiritual species...the Church Age believer), thus establishing peace... *

The Lord Jesus Christ's work on the Cross and His Resurrection broke down the spiritual barrier between Jews and Gentiles...in doing so, the Lord Jesus Christ created direct access to God for all mankind...

/EPH 2:16

*...and might reconcile them both in one body (the Church Age believers...the body of Christ) to God through the Cross, by it (the Cross) having put to death the enmity. *

/EPH 2:17

*AND HE (the Lord Jesus Christ) CAME AND PREACHED PEACE TO YOU (Gentiles) WHO WERE FAR AWAY, AND PEACE TO THOSE WHO WERE NEAR (the Jews)... *

/EPH 2:18

*...for through Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) we both (Jews and Gentiles) have our access in one Spirit (en Pneumati) to (God) the Father. *

God the Holy Spirit is the agent of this peace between Jews and Gentiles... He is the one who gives us the direct access to God. Is the Holy Spirit important to the Church Age believer? May anyone who thinks otherwise be accursed! There is no way that God would ever let God the Holy Spirit depart from you based on ANYTHING, much less based on you committing personal sins after salvation. The work of God the Holy Spirit on your behalf is just too important. Turn in your bibles to Ephesians, Chapter 3...

<Read Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verses 1 to 12 directly from the bible>

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/EPH 3:1

For this reason I, Paul, the prisoner of (the Lord Jesus) Christ Jesus (in a Roman jail as well as in the “imprisonment” of a bond servant) for the sake of you Gentiles —

Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles...the replacement apostle for Judas Iscariot...and he was in jail in Rome as of this writing...

/EPH 3:2

...if (I) indeed you have heard of the stewardship (dispensation) of God’s grace which was given to me for you (and you have because I have taught it to you before)...

The age we are in, the Church Age, is called the dispensation of God’s grace...the Age of Grace...

/EPH 3:3

...that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery, as I wrote before in brief (in chapter two).

The Church Age is also know as the dispensation of the mystery...

/EPH 3:4

*By referring to this, when you read you can understand my insight into the mystery of Christ... *

/EPH 3:5

*...which in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit (en Pneumati)... *

God the Holy Spirit revealed the mystery through the apostles and prophets...through believers who are filled with the Spirit...

/EPH 3:6

*...to be specific, that the Gentiles are fellow heirs and fellow members of the body (of Christ...the Church Age Royal family), and fellow partakers of the promise in (union with) Christ Jesus through the gospel... *

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/EPH 3:7

...of which I (Paul) was made a minister, according to the gift of God's grace which was given to me according to the working of His power.

/EPH 3:8

To me (Paul), the very least of all saints (believers in Christ), this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable (incapable of being traced by footprints) riches of Christ...

/EPH 3:9

...and to bring to light what is the administration (dispensation) of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in (the) God (the Lord Jesus Christ) who created (the) all things (John 1:3)...

/EPH 3:10

...so that the manifold wisdom of God (the Father) might now be made known through the church (age believers) to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

/EPH 3:11

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He (God the Father) carried out in (union with) Christ Jesus our Lord...

/EPH 3:12

...in whom we (believers in Christ) have boldness and confident (direct) access (to God) through faith in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ).

Our focus in this passage is on the last two verses...you have direct access to God...

/EPH 3:11

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He carried out in (union with) Christ Jesus our Lord...

/EPH 3:12

...in whom we (believers in Christ) have boldness and confident (direct) access (to God) through faith in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ).

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In these two passages in the book of Ephesians we have a huge message. Because of the Cross, and because of the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, everything has changed. You, a Church Age believer, have direct access to God. What is the significance of your direct access to God? It's something you must learn to take advantage of. Take a five-minute break and we'll tell you how.

/BREAK

Shout to the Lord

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

God wants you to take advantage of your direct access to Him. In the past, I have taught this spiritual chain of command...

<SPIRITUAL CHAIN OF COMMAND SLIDE revealing...God...the Word of God...Human Authors of Scripture...Instructors for Pastors...Pastors...YOU>

That's anything but direct access! Here's the real spiritual chain of command!

<REAL SPIRITUAL CHAIN OF COMMAND SLIDE first of two slides>

You have a relationship with the Godhead. You have the truth of the Word of God to set you free. You are in union with the Lord Jesus Christ. Your view of life comes from the back seat of your spiritual limousine. The Lord Jesus Christ is the driver and you are the passenger. Turn in your bibles to Matthew, Chapter 16, Verse 21...

/MAT 16:21

From that time Jesus began to show His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised up (in resurrection) on the third day.

/MAT 16:22

*Peter took Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) aside and began to rebuke Him, saying, "God forbid it, Lord! This shall never happen to You." *

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/MAT 16:23

But He (the Lord Jesus Christ) turned and said to Peter, “Get behind Me, Satan! You are a stumbling block to Me; for you are not setting your mind on God’s interests, but (you are setting your mind on) man’s (interests).”

I certainly see this comment from the Lord to Peter as a rebuke. Mark, Chapter 8, Verses 27 to 33 confirm it. But I also see the power of another meaning here. If Peter is to see life accurately, he has to see life as God sees it, not as man sees it, and that is a perspective that can only be had from behind the Lord’s eyes. “Get behind Me Satan” also has a third meaning...it’s all Satan and the fallen angels had to do after the fall of creatures...it was to get back behind the Lord, and they didn’t.

The Christian viewpoint of life comes from behind God’s eyes. You have a relationship with God’s Person...you have God’s Word...His exact thinking...you have the mind of Christ at your disposal. You are to see things in this life as God sees them. First Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 16 says...

/1CO 2:16

For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD (so well), THAT HE WILL (be qualified to) INSTRUCT HIM? But we (believers) have the mind of Christ.

You have an example to follow from the Lord Jesus Christ, who as the God-Man came to earth to prove to you that the Christian Way of Living for the Church Age believer works in any and every circumstance.

In Philippians, Chapter 4, Verse 11, Paul says “I have learned...”

/PHI 4:11

Not that I speak from want, for I have learned to be content in whatever circumstances I am.

In Philippians, Chapter 4, Verse 12, Paul says what he has learned...

/PHI 4:12

I have learned the secret...

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Being content is something you can learn...the secret in the Christian Way of Living comes through the expression of your faith in the Lord...

Philippians, Chapter 4, Verse 13...

/PHI 4:13

I can do all things through Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who strengthens me.\

Turn to Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 17...let's look at the "B" part...

/ROM 1:17b

...as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH."\

What is faith?

/FAITH

Placing your confidence in the object of your faith after an examination of the evidence.\

God does not expect us to take everything He says at face value, although we would do well to do just that! He lets us learn through experience. After an examination of the facts of a situation, after an examination of the evidence, we can make an assessment of whether what God says works, or whether it does not work.

What is the role of the Pastor in lives of the Church Age believer? Turn to First Peter, Chapter 5...

<Read First Peter, Chapter 5, Verses 1-11>

/1PE 5:2

...shepherd the flock of God among you, exercising oversight (and do) not (shepherd) under compulsion, but (shepherd) voluntarily, according to the will of God; and not for sordid gain (greedy for money), but with eagerness (to serve)...\

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/1PE 5:3

...nor (shepherd) yet as lording it over those allotted to your charge, but (shepherd by) proving to be examples (of character) to the flock.

A Pastor is given people into his charge who come to learn voluntarily, and who want to be a part of the Pastor's ministry. It is smart to have one Pastor to whom you are committed. The Pastor's job is to shepherd you...which means to care for you, to lead you, to guide you, to protect you (many times from yourselves)...here's how that looks in the spiritual chain of command.

<REAL SPIRITUAL CHAIN OF COMMAND SLIDE second of two slides>

The Pastor acts as an advisor to you. <slide pop in> When the Pastor teaches something to you, you have a responsibility to go to God with the information and let God and His Word clarify things for you. You are to do as the Berean believers did. Acts, Chapter 17, Verse 11 says...

/ACT 17:11

Now these (Berean believers) were more noble-minded than those in Thessalonica, for they received the word with great eagerness, examining the Scriptures daily to see whether these things were so.

This is not an invitation to go off on your own...it's not an invitation to say you don't need a Pastor...it's an invitation to be free...it's an invitation to think...it's an invitation to love as God loves...unconditionally. And the most important place to start with unconditional love is with yourself...to realize that you can put all the burdens of the past aside...and you can write an amazing future, as God's pen directs your hand. Loving yourself unconditionally means you can trust that God has your back...that God wants the best for you...that God is perfecting you. It's great to know that God will not allow you to be fooled for long and that He will use the times when you are fooled for your good.

Isn't it wonderful that God considers your problems to be His responsibility?

God truly does want you to have an amazing and happy life.

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/CLOSING SONG

Calling You to Freedom\

CLOSING VERSES

/PRO 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart And do not lean on your own understanding.//In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He will make your paths straight.

/DEU 31:8

The LORD is the one who goes ahead of you; He will be with you. He will not fail you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed

/ISA 30:18

Therefore the LORD longs to be gracious to you, And therefore He waits on high to have compassion on you. For the LORD is a God of justice; How blessed are all those who long for Him.

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

THANKS
INTERCESSION
PETITION

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

/Thanks for coming!
Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!

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