

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 448– April 7, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

Let's Make a Mental Shift

Good morning! Romans, Chapter 15, Verse 4 says...

/ROM 15:4

For whatever was written in earlier times was written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and (through) the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, we learn from the past...we are comforted in the present...and we look forward to the future with hope, the absolute confidence that what the Lord promises He is also able to deliver.

The Word of God gives us hope because it is the exact thinking of our almighty God. As we get to know Him more, we have to allow His unconditional love for us to change us into people who rely on Him to come through every single time. A love like the love God has for us is a bit overwhelming, but it's worth every nuance of feeling it takes to experience it.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

We come to bible study as a time of RENEWING, a time to bring to mind intentionally all of the marvelous things we have at our disposal because of these two miraculous events, crucifixion and resurrection. 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 open yourself to the truth, to let your Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through the power of God the Holy Spirit, prepare you to “in humility receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

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Walk in the Light\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our God in song, while you let thoughts how much the Lord Jesus Christ loves you occupy your mind. The opening song is WALK IN THE LIGHT.

/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 love as you love us...

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, a gift given to me by God for your benefit, for the building up of the body of Christ...God's Royal Family. 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 Greatest of These is Love

Christianity is a life of unconditional love. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

/1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.

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God loves you unconditionally. The wake up song on my alarm clock this morning? I wanna know what love is by Foreigner. Do you want to join me in learning what unconditional love really is?

We continue our study of the second of the twenty-one categories of biblical thought that are part of the CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT series.

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

Let's rock around the CREATOR CLOCK to get a glimpse of the essence of the magnificent God we have. What kind of God do you have?

First of all, there can be little doubt, from a survey of Scripture, that there is indeed a conflict between the CREATOR and His CREATURES. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 25 says...

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ROM 1:25

For they (unbelievers) exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature (Satan or Self) rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 17 says...

/CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT

GAL 5:17

For the flesh (the Old Self and its sin nature) sets its desire against (God) the (Holy) Spirit, and (God) the (Holy) Spirit (sets Himself) against the flesh (the Old Self and its sin nature); for these are in opposition to one another...

Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 12 says...

/CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT

EPH 6:12

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For our struggle is not against flesh and blood (souls and sin natures), but against the rulers, against the powers, against the world forces of this darkness, against the spiritual forces of wickedness in the heavenly places.

In fact, there is no greater testimony to the existence of the CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT than the daily turmoil in our souls. Remember Paul's lament in Romans, Chapter 7, Verse 24?

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ROM 7:24

Wretched man that I am! Who will set me free from the body of this death?

This CREATOR vs. CREATURE CONFLICT series is really a study of the unfolding of the Christian Way of Life, and it investigates twenty-one categories of biblical thought, all beginning with the letter C. We have been learning about the character and nature of our CREATOR at the second of the twenty-one C's. We started our study of the bible right at the SOURCE...the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. 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?

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE one o'clock>

At one o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that there is only one God.

Isaiah, Chapter 45, Verses 5 to 7 say...

/ISA 45:5-7

I am the Lord, and there is no other; Besides Me there is no God. I will gird you, though you have not known Me;//that men may know from the rising to the setting of the sun that there is no one besides Me. I am the Lord, and there is no other,//The One forming light and creating darkness, causing well-being and creating calamity; I am the Lord who does all these.

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We also know that there are pretender gods...counterfeit gods introduced to take our focus off of the Sovereign of the Universe...the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. In Second Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 4, Paul tells us to beware...

/2CO 11:4

For if (1) one comes and preaches another Jesus whom we have not preached (and they do)...

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE two o'clock>

At two o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that there is only one truth. John, Chapter 8, Verses 31 and 32 say...

/JOH 8:31-32

*So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If (3) you continue in My word (may be you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice), then you are truly disciples of Mine; //and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free." *

God tells us the truth.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE three o'clock>

At three o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that there is one God in three separate and distinct persons...God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. Matthew, Chapter 28, Verses 19 and 20 say...

/MAT 28:19-20

*"Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of (God) the Father and (God) the Son and (God) the Holy Spirit, //teaching them to observe all that I commanded (request of) you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." *

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE four o'clock>

At four o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that

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God is fair. He is completely impartial and judicial in all of His dealings with us. Isaiah, Chapter 30, Verse 18 says...

/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.

You can expect to NEVER be treated unfairly by God. Romans, Chapter 2, Verse 11...

/ROM 2:11

For there is no partiality with God.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE five o'clock>

At five o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is gracious...He overlooks our mistakes. Lamentations, Chapter 3, Verses 22 and 23 say...

/LAM 3:22-23

The Lord's lovingkindnesses (graciousnesses) indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.//They are new every morning...

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE six o'clock>

At six o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is knowledgeable. He is the SOURCE of all knowledge, and we are the intended RECIPIENTS. Proverbs, Chapter 2, Verse 6 says...

/PRO 2:6

For the Lord gives wisdom; from His mouth come knowledge and understanding.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE seven o'clock>

At seven o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is willing. First Thessalonians, Chapter 5, Verse 18 says...

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/1TH 5:18

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

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE eight o'clock>

At eight o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is faithful. First Thessalonians, Chapter 5, Verses 23 and 24 say...

/1TH 5:23-24

Now may the God of peace Himself sanctify you entirely; and may your spirit and soul and body be preserved complete, without blame at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ.//Faithful is He who calls you, and He also will bring it to pass.

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE nine o'clock>

At nine o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is present...omnipresent...with us wherever we go...we know He will never leave us...Psalm 139, Verse 7...

/PSA 139:7

Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence?

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

In Your Presence

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE ten o'clock>

At ten o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is perfect. Matthew, Chapter 5, Verse 48 says...

/MAT 5:48

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“Therefore you are to be perfect, as your heavenly Father is perfect.”

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE eleven o'clock>

At eleven o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is powerful...in fact He has all the power to do anything He wills. First Chronicles, Chapter 29, Verses 11 to 13...

/1CH 29:11

“Yours, O Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the victory and the majesty, indeed everything that is in the heavens and the earth; Yours is the dominion, O Lord, and You exalt Yourself as head over all.”

/1CH 29:12

“Both riches and honor come from You, and You rule over all, and in Your hand is power and might; and it lies in Your hand to make great and to strengthen everyone.”

/1CH 29:13

“Now therefore, our God, we thank You, and praise Your glorious name.”

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE twelve o'clock>

At twelve o'clock on the CREATOR CLOCK we believers in Christ know that God is eternal...he has no beginning and no ending. Deuteronomy, Chapter 33, Verse 27 says...

/DEU 33:27

“The eternal God is a dwelling place, and underneath are the everlasting arms...”

John, Chapter 4, Verses 13 and 14 say...

/JOH 4:13

Jesus answered and said to her, “Everyone who drinks of this (well) water will thirst again...”

/JOH 4:14

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“...but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him shall never thirst; but the water that I will give him will become in him a well of water springing up to eternal life.”

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE no dial>

Smack dab in the middle of the CREATOR CLOCK at the hub of the CREATOR CLOCK is one of the most important words in our language... LOVE...unconditional love.

Christianity is a life of unconditional love. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

/1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.

God loves you unconditionally. First John, Chapter 4, Verse 8 says...

/1JO 4:8

The one who does not love (unconditionally) does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.

Before we go on in our study of God's will, I think we need to move to the center of the CREATOR CLOCK to look at God's unconditional love. I can say this without hesitation or equivocation...if you do not know what unconditional love is, you cannot know God... if you do not know what unconditional love is, you cannot know yourself... if you do not know what unconditional love is, you cannot know how to treat others.

Christianity is a life of unconditional love.

/1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.

For the macho, this idea is an easy rejection. Ah...soft...touchy feely... ah...emotions...ah...I eat nails for breakfast. Well I prefer to see God's

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unconditional love as a set of sunglasses...if you can't see life through God's eyes of unconditional love, then you aren't really living.

<SUNGLASSES SLIDE>

The reason that Christians are so often thought of as hypocrites is because our version of legalistic Christianity fails the test of unconditional love. We categorize people...oh she's gay...oh he's an unbeliever...oh she's a Catholic...is that what your Lord would do? Is that how your Lord sees things? Or does He just see people as people...not as categories...not as things...turn in your bibles to Matthew, Chapter 9, Verse 9...

/MAT 9:9

As Jesus went on from there, He saw a man called Matthew, sitting in the tax collector's booth; and He said to him, "Follow Me!" And he got up and followed Him.

/MAT 9:10

Then it happened that as Jesus was reclining at the table in the house, behold, many tax collectors and sinners (prostitutes) came and were dining with Jesus and His disciples.

/MAT 9:11

When the Pharisees saw this, they said to His disciples, "Why is your Teacher eating with the tax collectors and sinners (prostitutes)?"

/MAT 9:12

But when Jesus heard this, He said, "It is not those who are healthy who need a physician, but those who are sick."

/MAT 9:13

"But go and learn what this means: 'I DESIRE COMPASSION, AND NOT SACRIFICE,' for I did not come to call the righteous, but sinners."

I was asked this week what I would think if people who had a lifestyle of engaging in the sin of homosexuality were to begin attending Barah Ministries. The answer came pretty quickly. I'd think the same thing I think when the liars and the judgers and the maligners and the religious come in. I'd think, "Welcome to Barah Ministries!" What was my Lord's attitude? Matthew, Chapter 11, Verse 28...

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/MAT 11:28

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”

I don't have to make a political statement or give my opinions on the subject matter of the world. My God accepts. I simply follow His lead. He is unconditional in His love for us. Look around you at all the broken people in your periphery. Look at yourselves. You are broken. What do you have to do to get yourselves whole so you can earn the right to deserve to be here at wonderful Barah Ministries? The answer...you don't have to do anything except come as you are. Why? Unconditional love...and I look forward to our beautiful future as God continues to assemble a collection of “mutts” from all over the world who agree with Paul's sentiment in First Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 2...

/1CO 2:2

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Christianity is a life of unconditional love.

/1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.

Welcome to an unconditional ministry.

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/CLOSING SONG

How Great You Are\

CLOSING VERSES

/PHI 1:6

For I am confident of this very thing, that He (God the Father) who began a (divine) good work in (the creation of) you will (keep on) perfect(ing) it until the day of Christ Jesus.

/PSA 37:1-2

Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.//For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.

/PHI 4:7

And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard (garrison) your hearts and your minds (for those of you) in (union with) Christ Jesus.

/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!

www.barahministries.com\