

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 467 – May 19, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

**Let's Make a Mental Shift **

Good Morning! Revelation, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 4 say...

/REV 2:1

“To the angel (Pastor) of the church in Ephesus write: The One who holds the seven stars in His right hand, the One who walks among the seven golden lampstands, says this... ”

/REV 2:2

“I know your deeds and your toil and perseverance, and that you cannot tolerate evil men, and you put to the test those who call themselves apostles, and they are not, and you found them to be false... ”

/REV 2:3

“...and you have perseverance and have endured for My name's sake, and have not grown weary. ”

/REV 2:4

“But I have this against you, that you have left your first love (the Word of God). ”

How easy it is for us to toil away, every day, and then to subtly slip away from our most important love, the truth of the Word of God.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED? no verse...let the verse pop in on the next click>

The Word of God refers to bible study as a time of RENEWING, a great time to let God change your thinking. Isaiah, Chapter 40, Verse 31 says...

/ISA 40:31

...those who wait for the Lord Will gain new strength; They will mount up with wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary.

The Lord fills up our deficiencies with new thinking that gives us the strength to endure, regardless of the difficulty of the circumstances that are

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our present reality. The Lord has made perfect provision for our strength. We simply choose to depend on Him. We enjoy the freedom He offers and we enjoy the blessings that our Lord obtained for us at the Cross. Welcome to a place where you can “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

I Am Beautiful\

As God prepares you for the RENEWING of your mind, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song, as you think about what your Lord thinks about you. The opening song is...I AM BEAUTIFUL.

/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 to listen to your voice, and to ignore the voices that seek to hurt 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 the purpose of equipping you believers in Christ for the work of service. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

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/TODAY'S STUDY

Unconditional Love is a Different Voice

First, a few announcements....

/ANNOUNCEMENTS

/Congratulations Graduate!

Deanna Lemon

Cum Laude

Mansfield University\

/Congratulations Graduate!

Ashley Lapinski

Buffalo State College\

/Mark Your Calendars!

The next Lord's Supper Celebration is June 9, 2013\

/Mark Your Calendars!

HOMECOMING

for the

“Soon to Be Resident” Congregation

June 15-16\

/Mark Your Calendars!

No Face-to-Face Bible Study

June 30

August 25

September 1

December 8

December 29\

/Happy Birthday!

Emilie Goodall

May 23\

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/Happy Birthday!
Bad Brad Inman
May 26\

/Happy Anniversary!
Deacon Denny & Emilie Goodall
May 27\

/BARAH MINISTRIES
ON Pal Talk!\

Barah Ministries is on Pal Monday to Friday at 7PM CDT. Tuning into these lessons is easy to do. Here's the process...

/BARAH MINISTRIES ON PAL TALK revealing

www.paltalk.com

Download the software

Choose a nickname

Sign into the Royal Family Room

Listen!\

Next, let's take the offering.

/THE OFFERING
Deacon Elliott Clark\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

No price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

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/PHI 2:3-5

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves; // do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others. // Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus... *

/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

2CO 9:7

*Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver. *

/OFFERING SONG

*Father I Adore You *

/TODAY'S STUDY

**Unconditional Love is a Different Voice **

We continue our study of the CREATOR.

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

Who is the CREATOR? Our Creator is Jesus Christ...our Lord, our Savior and our God...the One who always had time for children...Matthew, Chapter 18, Verses 1 to 6 say...

/MAT 18:1-2

*At that time the disciples came to Jesus and said, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" // And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) called a child to Himself and set him (the child) before them... *

/MAT 18:3-4

*...and said, "Truly I say to you, unless you are converted and become like children, you will not enter the kingdom of heaven. // Whoever then humbles himself as this child, he is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. *

/MAT 18:5-6

"And whoever receives one such child in My name receives Me; // but whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to stumble, it

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would be better for him to have a heavy millstone hung around his neck, and to be drowned in the depth of the sea.”

How can a Lord who loves unconditionally have the attitude that is reflected in Matthew, Chapter 18, Verses 5 and 6? Our Creator isn't all talk. He's action, too! His mind shows up in His actions. Tick Tock...what time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK?

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE no dial>

It's First Corinthians Thirteen O'clock on the Creator Clock! 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.

Our study of unconditional love turns our focus to relationships. Perhaps more than anything in the Christian Way of Life, our relationships reflect our mentality and our actions. Another way to say faith and hope and love is to say trust and truth and treatment. These things are foundational to relationships. The question is this...does trust, truth and treatment show up in visibly manifest ways in your life?

It's easy for us, as we study unconditional love, and the topics connected with it, like forgiveness, to beat our breasts and to ask, "What does God want from us?" Maybe we ask this question because we don't want to have to give our what we receive. We know how to receive unconditional love and forgiveness but we don't want to give it out. Well that's understandable. Christianity is great when we can talk about all the blessings we receive but it's not so great when we have to talk about the times when God is removing the defects of character that hinder our spiritual growth. Those times of tribulation aren't welcomed in Christian circles quite as readily as apparent blessings. Yet they are every bit of the Christian Way of Living.

What does God want from us? He wants faith and hope and love...trust and truth and treatment, to show up as manifest in our lives. Does it? Does your life reflect faith, and hope and love...trust and truth and treatment? Does your life reflect Christ? Do you have the same attitude? Does it show?

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Our God wants us to have faith in Him. He wants us to trust Him. Do you?

/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.

Do you trust Him for everything? When we have faith in Him, we are obedient to Him. We align our will with His will. We trust what He thinks. We trust what He has to say. We trust that He has our best interest in mind. We trust that He is not out to get us. We trust that He will always come through for us. Trust is an important component in relationships, and it's a component that a lot of people take for granted. Do you? Do you trust our God? Do you trust people?

Are you confident in yourself? When we have faith in God, we have hope...the absolute confidence that comes from knowing the truth. The truth truly sets us free. When we live a lifestyle filled with truth we are trustworthy. We can be counted on. This is no small matter in relationships.

/JOH 1:17

For the Law was given through Moses; grace and truth were realized through (the Lord) Jesus Christ.

Does your confident expectation that everything will go well for you show up? What difference would it make that we have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ if we couldn't trust Him to tell us the truth? Can you be trusted to tell the truth? Can you be trusted to reflect the truth? Do you reflect your faith in God with actions that indicate confident expectation?

Take a five minute break.

/BREAK

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

Faith and hope and love...said another way, trust and truth and treatment... are big keys in relationships. Do they show up in your life?

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How about treatment? Do you treat others well? Unconditional love toward others is a form of treatment. Our Lord was a treatment fanatic. He didn't like seeing people treated poorly. Matthew, Chapter 26, Verses 6 to 13...

/MAT 26:6-7

Now when Jesus was in Bethany, at the home of Simon the leper, a woman came to Him with an alabaster vial of very costly perfume, and she poured it on His head as He reclined at the table.

/MAT 26:8-9

But the disciples were indignant when they saw this, and said, "Why this waste? For this perfume might have been sold for a high price and the money given to the poor."

/MAT 26:10-11

But Jesus, aware of this, said to them, "Why do you bother the woman? For she has done a good deed to Me. For you always have the poor with you; but you do not always have Me."

/MAT 26:12-13

"For when she poured this perfume on My body, she did it to prepare Me for burial. Truly I say to you, wherever this gospel is preached in the whole world, what this woman has done will also be spoken of in memory of her."

I ask these as questions, but I know the answers...and I think you do, too. Trust is the absolute foundation of relationships...but I see Christians who have adopted an "I don't trust anyone" philosophy. Now granted, it's easier to run that philosophy than it is to hurt when your trust is breached...but does running this "I don't trust anyone" philosophy reflect Christ? And if not, why bother being a Christian? Being a Christian has to make a difference!

Truth is the foundation of the Christian Way of Life...it is foundational in relationships...yet I see Christians with a complete disregard and disdain for the truth. They run a "sin's not so bad" philosophy. It's the Christian sales pitch that there are parts of the devil's system that constitute "fun." Well I say it is not fun to possess and ingest illegal substances. I say that regular intoxication should never be described as fun. I say having idols like sex and pornography and tobacco is not fun. They are not needs. So why do we

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describe these things this way? Why do we engage in these things as Christians when they clearly are not supportive of us? No condemnation intended here by the way...we're not preaching sin. But let's be clear on one thing. God does not want us to have anything to do with sin, or with things that hurt us. Sinless perfection? We will never attain it. Sinless performance. I say we can do it, one choice at a time. Like an alcoholic who takes one day at a time for thirty years in abstinence from alcohol, knowing that one drink leads to two, and two to three...so they choose to stay completely away from alcohol...I say Christians must learn the same lesson and stay completely away from the things that the truth tells us are out of bounds in God's plan...sins. The truth of God's Word is not designed to restrict us...it's designed to teach us how to use our freedom...and that teaching must be reflected in our choices. Otherwise being a Christian is not different than being an unbeliever. James, Chapter 2, Verse 20 asks...

/JAM 2:20

But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?\

How do you treat others? I think many Christians corner the market on shabby treatment of others. They don't trust...they don't live the truth...and that has to be reflected in treatment of others. I think it's practically impossible to see life from another person's perspective. Yet I don't think it is impossible to empathize with others...to stop once in a while and to ask ourselves

/QUESTION FOR REFLECTION

“What it is like to be on the other side of me.”\

I can tell you, it's not a fun question to ask, because you have to be honest about the answer. In our study of relationships and unconditional love and forgiveness, it's great to concentrate on receiving them. But do you think of all the times you come to bible study in a dissociative state? Bible study isn't what's good for you...bible study is a constant, “Ain't it awful that so and so isn't here...because he really needs to hear this?!”

Trust and truth and treatment. In our “post-rebound” life, I wonder if we have considered how okay it isn't to have the washing machine mentality as

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a Christian. “God has forgiven me, so everything I do is okay. Therefore if I don't trust, if my life doesn't reflect truth, and if I treat people poorly, it's okay because my sins are covered!” Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 1 says...

/ROM 6:1-2

What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin so that grace may increase?//May it never be! How shall we who died to sin still live in it?

/ROM 6:11

Even so consider yourselves to be dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus.

Our “post rebound” life calls us, as Christians, to a new standard...a real standard. I for one, would like to be on the receiving end of some of that newness...that trust, and truth, and treatment. I'd like to see our trust of God show up. I'd like to see us like ourselves a bit. I'd like to see us treat each other well. Because ultimately, Christianity has to make a difference, and that difference is showing up when Christianity is showing up as manifest in our lives...manifest faith...manifest hope...manifest love. Second Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 5a says...

/2CO 13:5

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith; examine yourselves!

Yes...this means you.

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/CLOSING SONG

O Happy Day\

CLOSING VERSES

/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.”

/1PE 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...\

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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