

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 471– June 1, 2013

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Good Morning!

**Let's Make a Mental Shift **

Good morning! In Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 7 to 11, the apostle Paul addresses the Christian church at Colossae...

/COL 1:7-8

Epaphras (probable founder of the church at Colossae), our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf...//informed us (during his visit to our prison cell in Rome) of your (unconditional) love in the Spirit (en Pneumati).

/COL 1:9a

*...we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled (pleroo) with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding... *

/COL 1:10-11

*...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God; //strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might... *

It is from the SOURCE of God the Holy Spirit that we are able to love unconditionally...the Spirit is also the One who teaches us how to love our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ...the Spirit also teaches us to love Him, and it is by this love for Him that we are able to manifest the fruit of the Spirit. God the Holy Spirit fills up our deficiencies and the benefit is a wisdom derived from living Christianity and manifesting its total sufficiency to handle anything in this life, to a lost and dying world.

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

Welcome to bible study for the refreshment of RENEWING...Colossians, Chapter 3, Verse 10 says...

/COL 3:10

*...put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him... *

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God the Holy Spirit changes our minds. We tune out the ramblings of KCOS and tune into the direction of WGOD, as the Spirit gives us new thoughts to think which power the New Self Life...we are strengthened with power from the SOURCE of His glorious might. Welcome to a place where you can “in humility receive the Word of God 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

You Own Me\

As God prepares your soul and your thoughts for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song reminds you that you are a possession of God... YOU OWN ME.

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...we're grateful that we are God's property...we're grateful Father to be your prisoner...

...we pray that you enlighten us about the things you have already done to secure our place in eternity...we pray that you inform us about the resurrection life you have given to us in the past, which you are allowing us to live right now...show us the things you want us to reflect to a lost and dying world as we enjoy this marvelous, resplendent New Self Life...show us how to reflect your glory...

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

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Rory Clark

Pastor-Teacher\

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Welcome to Barah Ministries. My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher, a gift given to me by God to help you develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I pray incessantly that the teaching from this pulpit may rub off on you in such a way that your heart is conformed, so that your heart feels the same things that my heart feels for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/TODAY'S STUDY

Unconditional Love is Manifest in New Self Conduct

I have an assignment for you in the coming week. I want you to pull out the New American Standard version of the bible...I want you to sit someplace quiet...and I want you to read Paul's letter to the Colossians.

/ASSIGNMENT THIS WEEK

Read Paul's Letter to the Colossians\

I'm not saying to you this is optional, if you feel like it. I am asking you to do it. For even the slowest readers, this is about a thirty minute read.

I woke up one morning this week depressed in spirit. I was reflecting on all the shaking that has gone on in my life this year. We're nearing the halfway point of the year, so this reflection is in order. This has been a rough year for all of us emotionally, but especially for me. The things we have learned spiritually this year have shaken me to my very core, and that shaking has transitioned into every other area of my life: into intimate relationships, into family, into health, into career, into finances, into time use, into individuality...the Word of God has proven me a fool in all of these areas. I am grateful for the education, and I am happy to be God's fool.

When I feel depressed and express it, please don't worry too much for me, for as it says in First Peter, Chapter 5, Verse 9...I rest...

/1PE 5:9

...knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

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So don't cry for me when I am depressed in spirit, for I know you are as well, at times. And I would have it no other way...because my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ says... in First Peter, Chapter 5, Verse 10...

/1PE 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in (union with) Christ, will HIMSELF perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

I know God is on duty in my life and so I rest in union with Him...I love Him...He loves Me...so I rest...Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 1 says...

/HEB 4:1

Therefore (believers in Christ), let us (if we) fear (anything, fear) if, while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you (believers) may seem to have come short of it.

God grants us His peace...as we know from our study of Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 1...

/ROM 5:1

Therefore, having been justified by faith (alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone for salvation), we have peace with God (the Father) through our Lord Jesus Christ (as His believers)...

As I sat, depressed in spirit, sipping a cup of coffee, my fingers went randomly to the book of Colossians. It is four chapters, and I'm sure it was not my own wisdom that took me there...I am sure it was the "still small voice" of God the Holy Spirit directing me to the place of renewing...to a place of refreshment for my ailing spirit...and I willingly followed His lead and listened to His voice. Proverbs, Chapter 8, Verses 1 to 4 ask...

/PRO 8:1

Does not wisdom (the Word of God) call, and understanding (the Word of God) lift up her voice?

The Word of God is not like a whore...it does not hide, doing its deeds in secret...it is loud and resounding, out in the open, as if from the rooftops...

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/PRO 8:2

*On top of the heights, beside the way, where the paths meet, she (the Word of God) takes her stand... *

Where paths meet...sweet...that is wherever people gather, the Word of God can be heard lifting up her voice...and it is those who live lives in the darkness who attempt to squelch her voice...

/PRO 8:3

*Beside the gates, at the opening to the city, at the entrance of the doors, she (the Word of God) cries out... *

The Word of God is available to anyone...to whosoever...and it is readily available to you believers in Christ as well...do you keep a bible handy and do you have it ready to fill your mind with truth and encouragement at a moment's notice...when you're down and troubled and you need a helping hand, do you reach out to the Word of God?

/PRO 8:4

*“To you, O men, I (the Word of God) call, and my voice (the Word of God) is (freely given) to the sons of men. *

To the fool, to the naïve, to the wise, the Word of God is available for counsel...to give life...to give energy...not five hour energy...twenty four hour energy...available for the taking free of charge at a moment's notice to give life to those who are depressed in spirit. The Word of God revived my spirit, and I invite you to experience what I experienced this week by sitting in a quiet place, reading the letter of Paul to the Colossians, and hearing what the “still small voice” of the Holy Spirit is saying to you through this letter.

Colossae is in modern day Turkey, about 100 miles from Ephesus.

<MAP OF COLOSSAE>

It was a small church like Barah Ministries...founded by a passionate man, Epaphras, like Barah Ministries...and it had its struggles like Barah Ministries. It was a target of the Gnostics, (as was the church at Ephesus addressed by First John), and the Gnostics sought to introduce error into this

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budding and blossoming congregation. Paul's letter to the Colossians, which was written from a prison cell in Rome, had a purpose, as do all the letters of the entire bible, especially the letters of the New Testament. One of the things you may want to do is to see if you can discern the communication of the letter's purpose in the chapters. Sometimes in the letters of the New Testament, the purpose of the letter is clearly stated...like in First John, Chapter 1, Verse 4...

/1JO 1:4

These things we write, so that our joy may be made complete.

First John, Chapter 5, Verse 13...

/1JO 5:13

These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may know that you have eternal life.

John, Chapter 20, Verse 31...

/JOH 20:31

...but these (things written in the bible) have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and (so) that (by) believing you may have (the Zoe) life in His name (in union with His Person).

Second Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 13...

/2PE 1:13

*I (Peter) consider it right, as long as I am in this earthly dwelling (my physical body), to stir you up by way of reminder... *

In the letter to the Colossians, Paul's purpose was to correct some of the errors the Gnostics were spreading within the Church at Colossae. Take a five-minute break and then we'll see a few critical things in the letter you may want to pay attention to...

/BREAK

Be Exalted oh God

When I Think About Home

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Welcome back! As you read the letter, notice its structure...

/STRUCTURE OF COLOSSIANS <reveals>

COL 1:1-2	Greeting
COL 1:3-14	The Power and Purpose of the Gospel Message
COL 1:15-20	The Person of Christ
COL 1:21-23	The Old Self Life and the New Self Life
COL 1:23-COL 2:5	The Dispensation of the Mystery – The Church
COL 2:6-COL 4:6	The Life Lived in Union with Him
COL 4:7-COL 4:18	Summary\

Unconditional love, which is the subject of our study, is manifest in New Self Life conduct, a series of practices that reflect the glory of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The third chapter of Colossians is where we turn our attention to continue our look at what God has done for us in the matter of the New Self Life.

The letter to the Ephesians, a letter to the believers at Ephesus (in modern day Turkey), isn't the only place where we believers in Christ are told to lay aside the Old Self Life and to put on the New Self Life. The letter to the Colossians is descriptive as well. The first four verses of Colossians, Chapter 3, direct us to where we must set our minds...

/COL 3:1

Therefore if (1) you (believers in Christ) have been raised up with Christ (and you have), keep (on) seeking (setting your minds on) the things above, where (the Lord Jesus, the) Christ (Messiah) is, (now) seated at the right hand (side) of God (the Father).

You are seated there with Him.

/COL 3:2

(Keep on) Set(ing) your mind (your affections) on the things above, not on the things that are on earth.

We are to fix our attention on the things of the Zoe Life and not on the things of the cosmos life...on the broadcast of WGOD...not on KCOS.

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< KCOS - WGOD SLIDE >

/COL 3:3

For you have died (to the Old Self Life) and your (New Self) life (the Zoe Life) is hidden (by God, together) with (union to) Christ in (the agency of THE) God (by means of God).

/COL 3:4

When Christ, who is our (Zoe) life, is revealed (made manifest), then you also will be revealed (made manifest) with Him in glory.

We'll be with the Lord Jesus Christ at the Rapture...we'll be with Him at the Wedding Feast of the Groom and His Bride, we'll be with Him at the Second Coming, and we'll be with Him in the Millennial Reign of Christ... what precious and magnificent promises!

As you read the third chapter...notice the descriptions of the Old Self Life.

/OLD SELF LIFE DESCRIPTIONS <reveals across>

Immorality	Impurity	Passion (Lust)	Evil Desires
Greed	Idolatry	Anger	Wrath
Malice	Slander	Abusive Speech\	Lies

All of these things are called “evil practices.” These are things we are to lay aside.

/COL 3:9b

...since you laid aside the old self with its evil practices...

The Old Self Life is not to influence you any longer.

<NEW SPIRITUAL SPECIES SLIDE>

As you read the third chapter...notice the descriptions of the New Self Life.

/NEW SELF LIFE DESCRIPTIONS <reveals down>

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Being renewed to a TRUE knowledge
A heart of compassion
Kindness
Humility
Gentleness
Patience\

/NEW SELF LIFE DESCRIPTIONS <reveals down>

Bearing with one another
Forgive one another
Put on unconditional love
The bond of unity
Peace of Christ rules in your heart
Be thankful\

Notice that unconditional love has to be put on...which implies that we don't have it without God the Holy Spirit.

/NEW SELF LIFE DESCRIPTIONS <reveals down>

Let the Word of Christ richly dwell in your hearts
Teach one another
Admonish one another
Do it in the name of the Lord Jesus Christ
Give thanks\

As you read the third chapter...notice the functions of relationships.

/THE FUNCTIONS OF RELATIONSHIPS <reveals down>

Husbands...Initiators – One Way, Unconditional Love for Your Wives

Wives...Responders – Be Subject...In Submission to Your Husbands

Children...Responders...Obey Your Parents\

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/OLD SELF LIFE DESCRIPTIONS <reveals across>

Bitterness (Husbands to Wives)
Exasperation (Fathers to Kids)

<Read Colossians Chapter 3>

/COL 3:23

*Whatever you do, do your work heartily, as for the Lord rather than for men... *

/COL 3:24

*...knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance. It is the Lord Christ whom you serve. *

/COL 3:25

*For he who does wrong will receive the consequences of the wrong which he has done, and that without partiality. *

Unconditional love is manifest in New Self Life conduct. As we grow, let's continue to act like God's possession.

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/CLOSING SONG

God's Property\

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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