

## THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 477– June 15, 2013

### **/Welcome To BARAH MINISTRIES a Christian Church**

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Pastor-Teacher\

Good morning!

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. It is my pleasure to lay down my life for you as we pursue rigorously the truth of the Word of God. Turn in your bibles to First Peter, Chapter 1...

/1PE 1:1

*Peter, an apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who reside as aliens, scattered throughout Pontus, Galatia, Cappadocia, Asia, and Bithynia, who are (the) chosen (ones...believers in Christ)...\*

/1PE 1:2

*...according to the foreknowledge of God the Father, by the sanctifying work of (God) the (Holy) Spirit, (created) to obey Jesus Christ and (to) be sprinkled with His blood (for the forgiveness of sins): May grace and peace be yours in the fullest measure.*

Welcome to your homecoming! Welcome to the gathering of your chosen family, your chosen congregation...to those of you who live here and to those of you who are scattered all across this great nation...may God's peace, and grace and glory be yours now and always.

All of us, as Christians, are aliens, because we are citizens of heaven, not citizens of Satan's kingdom. For those of you who are not resident to Barah Ministries in Phoenix, you are not aliens. You are every bit a part of the one Body and the one Spirit which all Christians share. We are a unified force. We are part of each other. We are one. And we are delighted to see you face-to-face.

As Peter is telling us in his first letter, it was common that believers of the

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one Body and the one Spirit were scattered throughout several geographies. For those of you who are not resident in Phoenix this is still your situation, a situation brought on by your choice of the Pastor with whom you want to study, and because of your choice of the congregation of which you choose to be a part. But this is not unusual at all. In fact it was quite common in the first century, and it is still common today, more common than we would think. Many believers are scattered throughout geographies, and separated from their church of affiliation. So there is no need feel like a freak. In fact, after a quarter century of biblical study, Barah Ministries was my first resident congregation. First Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

/1PE 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy (and not by our merit) has caused us (believers in Christ) to be born again (in spiritual birth) to a living hope (an absolute confidence) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... \*

/1PE 1:4

*...to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you... \*

/1PE 1:5

*...(you believers in Christ) who are protected by the (enabling) power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. \*

As believers in Christ, our future is secure...our hope is not in vain...our eternal destiny is sealed by the single decision, when we expressed our faith alone in the Lord Jesus Christ alone. First Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 6...

/1PE 1:6

*In this (sanctification...protection...hope) you (believers in Christ) greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials... \*

We are set apart, as believers in Christ, for service to God and for a short time here on earth we suffer through a series of inconveniences on His behalf. First Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 7...

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/1PE 1:7

*...so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ... \*

As Christians...we are to live our faith...and the knowledge of all God has done for us in the past as established and irrevocable facts, we now experience as manifest...a visible evidence of our confidence in our God...not the Christian Way of Life...but the Christian Way of Living. First Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 8...

/1PE 1:8

*...and though you have not seen Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), you love Him (unconditionally), and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him (with the expression of your faith), you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory... \*

/1PE 1:9

*...obtaining as the outcome of your faith (in Christ) the salvation of your souls. \*

Even though you don't see your God face-to-face, even though you don't see your Pastor regularly face-to-face...even though you don't get to interact with your fellow congregation members regularly face-to-face...my sincere hope is that these family gatherings become a regular part of our lives. In fact, I insist on it! God has made it possible for chairs to fly at supersonic speeds through the air. And God has made us able to afford to purchase seats in these chairs. It is my sincere hope, that this weekend makes it clear that there is no need to wait for a special moment to come to see your family. We love you. We welcome you. We want you. First Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 10...

/1PE 1:10

*As to this salvation, the (Old Testament) prophets who prophesied of the (age of) grace that would come to you made careful searches and inquiries (during their study of Scripture)... \*

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/1PE 1:11

*...seeking to know what person or time (God) the (Holy) Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He (the Spirit) predicted (in their writings) the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.\*

/1PE 1:12

*It was revealed to them (the Old Testament prophets) that they were not serving themselves, but (they were serving) you (Church Age believers), in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by (God) the Holy Spirit sent from heaven — things into which angels long to look (by rubbernecking).\*

All angelic creatures looked forward to the age we live in, to see exactly what it is that the Cross of Christ would provide to us believers...and they can't believe their eyes as the greatness of the blessings to the Church unfold. In First Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 13...Peter exhorts us to the Christian Way of Living...

/1PE 1:13

*Therefore, prepare your minds for action, keep sober in spirit, fix your hope completely on the grace to be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ.\*

Obey your God...that's action...control yourself...stop sinning...give your all...take advantage of the hope you have in you...use God's sphere of grace as your playground of freedom...

/1PE 1:14

*As obedient children, do not be conformed to the former lusts which were yours in your ignorance...\*

Don't go back to the old man life...

/1PE 1:15

*...but like the Holy One who called you, be holy yourselves also in all your behavior...\*

Embrace the new man life...

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/1PE 1:16

*...because it is written (in Old Testament Scripture), “YOU SHALL BE HOLY, FOR I AM HOLY.”\*

We don't have to work to be Holy...we don't have to work to be blessed...we don't have to work for salvation...we don't have to work for the Zoe Life...we simply decide to let our God reveal to us daily what He has done for us, and we come to enjoy it.

These are the things you have to look forward to as part of Barah Ministries...you can look forward to spending the rest of your lives learning what the New Testament has to say to you about what Christ has already done for you...and I look forward to learning it with you.