

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

**/Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church
Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher**

Good morning! First John, Chapter 2, Verses 4 to 6 say...

/1JO 2:4-6

The one who says, “I have come to know Him,” and does not keep His commandments (does not do His will), is a liar, and the truth is not in him; //but whoever keeps His word (believers only), in him (this person) the (unconditional) love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in (union with) Him: //the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

The Christian Way of Living is an outward manifestation of an inner reality. As Christians, we seek to obey our God because we know that He knows the things that work. We watch closely as the Lord changes our inner being into creatures who are willing to do all of His will. We come to bible study to learn His will so we can be instruments of His will and reflections of His glory.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time of RENEWING, a time to learn all of the marvelous divine assets that we have at our disposal. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

...that you be renewed (by God) in the spirit of your mind...

This time of renewing is a time to let ourselves be changed by God. In the classroom setting our knowledge is changed...our thoughts are changed... the Word of God gives us new thoughts to think...and these new thoughts show up in the form of a manifest Christianity that shines visibly for all to see. Welcome to the place where our Mentor and Teacher, God the Holy Spirit, uses His enabling power to prepare you to “in humility receive the Word implanted, which is able to save your souls.”

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Worthy\

As God prepares your soul and your thoughts for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. The opening song is WORTHY.

/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 give unconditional love as you give it...selflessly...

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

/Welcome To
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a Christian Church
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 to help you develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

/TODAY'S STUDY

The Challenge Of Giving Unconditional Love

We continue our study of the CREATOR.

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

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

Who is the CREATOR? The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things on the earth and in the universe. The Lord Jesus Christ is God. He is the Governor of the eternal state and we eagerly await the chance to return home to Him. Philippians, Chapter 3, Verse 20 says...

/PHI 3:20

*For our citizenship is in heaven, from which (place) also we eagerly wait (looking for) for (the return visit of) a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ... *

/PHI 3:21

*...who will transform the body of our humble state (our current physical bodies) into conformity with the (resurrection) body of His glory, by the exertion of the (enabling) power that He (the Lord Jesus Christ) has even (the power) to subject all things to Himself. *

We worship the sovereign One of the universe. Our study of the CREATOR has us studying the different parts of His Essence. Tick. Tock. What time is it on the CREATOR CLOCK?

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

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. *

As I looked at a tombstone recently, I realized that the dash represents our lives.

<TOMBSTONE SLIDE>

We are born physically on a certain date, we die physically on a certain date, and a dash separates these two dates. The dash represents our life. We come to bible study to learn how God wants us to live this life. And often, we just scratch our heads.

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

There can be no doubt that our God wants us to live the Zoe Life and to love unconditionally. 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.

I chuckle when I think back to the thought we had that our point of contact with God is justice. Justice is mentioned nine times in the New Testament, not once in the matter of our point of contact with God. But love is mentioned over two hundred times in the New Testament, and there can be little doubt that our Lord expects us to love unconditionally just as He loves unconditionally. First John, Chapter 2, Verses 4 to 6 say...

/1JO 2:4-5

*The one who says, "I have come to know Him," and does not keep His commandments (does not do His will), is a liar, and the truth is not in him; //but whoever keeps His word (believers only), in him (this person) the (unconditional) love of God has truly been perfected. By this we know that we are in (union with) Him... *

/1JO 2:6

...the one who says he abides in Him ought himself to walk in the same manner as He walked.

Do you ever think about your tombstone? (And for those of you who are going to be cremated...like me...don't be wise guys...you know what I mean.) Do you ever think about the dash that is your life? As believers in Christ, that dash is really a short time when viewed in the light of eternity. For men, the average age at physical death is 72...for women 77...not a really long time compared to the light of eternity. As a matter of fact, when you think about yourself as a Church Age believer, this time we spend in the body of our humble state is laughably short...turn to Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 1...after we read the first five verses, we'll direct our focus to Verse 6...

/REV 20:6

Blessed and holy is the one who has a part in the first resurrection (the Church Age believer especially); over these (who take part in the first

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

resurrection) the second death (the Lake of Fire) has no power, but they (the ones in the first resurrection) will be priests of God (the Father) and (priests) of (the Lord Jesus) Christ and will reign with Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) for a thousand years.

Why do we worry so much about the dash of seventy-two or seventy seven years when we are believers in Christ? Why do we worry when indeed we will live on the earth in the future, under Christ's rulership, in resurrection bodies, for a thousand years? We worry, I think...I know I do...because we lose sight of the fact that this brief time we are on this earth is a training program. It is a time of many lessons. It is a time when God allows us to express our uniqueness, in freedom, under His divine plan, under His watchful hand, and under the Holy Spirit's divine guidance. There are many lessons to learn, and we have this short time to learn them.

/This life we live for this brief time...the dash...is a Cross\

Turn to Matthew, Chapter 16, Verse 24. We'll look at Verses 24 to 26...

/MAT 16:24

*Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If (1) anyone wishes to come after Me (and many will), he must deny (disregard) himself (the self life), and (he must) take up his cross (laying aside the old self and everything the world considers important) and follow Me." *

/MAT 16:25

*"For whoever wishes to save his life (setting his mind on earthly things) will lose it (his life); but whoever loses his life (setting his mind on things above) for My sake will find it (his life)." *

/MAT 16:26

*"For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world and forfeits his soul? Or what will a man give in exchange for his soul?" *

The Cross for us is that when we become believers in Christ, the "I" life...the self life...the Old Self has to be laid aside. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 22 to 24, the bible tells Christians that we are to do...

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

/EPH 4:22

*...in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit... *

/EPH 4:23

*...and that you be renewed (by God) in the spirit of your mind... *

/EPH 4:24

*...and put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. *

We also learn in Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20...

/GAL 2:20

*“I have been crucified with (the Lord Jesus) Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives in(dwelling) me; and the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh (in the body) I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me (unconditionally) and gave Himself up for me.” *

Said another way...

/GAL 2:20

The “I” life is crucified with (the Lord Jesus) Christ...

...and it is no longer the “I” life that lives...

but it is the “Christ Life” that lives in(dwelling) me...

...and the “Christ Life...” the (Zoe) life which I now live in the flesh (in the body) I live by faith in (dependence on) the Son of God...

*...who loved me (unconditionally) and gave Himself up for me. *

Laying aside the self-life is a Cross...it’s hard! It’s described as tribulation...as suffering...as affliction...why don’t you walk away? What holds you on this Cross called Christianity? The Lord’s command that we believers give unconditional love is a Cross. Certainly it is one of the lessons we are here on earth to learn. But it’s hard. How are you, believer,

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

at giving unconditional love? How are you at bearing up under this Cross? I, for one, think it is a bit unnatural. Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

Father I Adore You

When I Think About Home

Welcome back! Turn in your bibles to Philippians Chapter 2, Verse 5...I know we have seen this passage before, but I want you to meditate on it...to think about it...to contemplate it...

/PHI 2:5

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in (the Lord) Christ Jesus... *

/PHI 2:6

*...who, although He existed in the form of God (the exact same in essence), did not regard equality with God (the Father) a thing to be grasped (seized and held)... *

Our Lord had no ego in the matter of His Cross...He knew about it, He volunteered for it...and He went to it.

/PHI 2:7

*...but emptied Himself (deprived Himself of the rightful powers of Deity), taking the form of a bond-servant (true humanity), and being made in the likeness of men. *

/PHI 2:8

*Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled (humiliated) Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a Cross. *

Even though He could have at any time the Lord never got down off that Cross.

/PHI 2:9

*For this reason also, God (the Father) highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name... *

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

/PHI 2:10

*...so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth... *

/PHI 2:11

*...and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. *

He stayed on the Cross for love. He humiliated Himself, He denied His Power, and He took abuse...all for Love. Turn to Matthew, Chapter 27, Verse 33...

/MAT 27:33

*And when they came to a place called Golgotha, which means Place of a Skull... *

/MAT 27:34

*...they gave Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) wine to drink mixed with gall; and after tasting it, He was unwilling to drink. *

/MAT 27:35

*And when they had crucified Him, they divided up His garments among themselves by casting lots. *

Why? Because they were expensive!

/MAT 27:36

*And sitting down, they began to keep watch over Him there. *

/MAT 27:37

*And above His head they put up the charge against Him which read, “THIS IS JESUS THE KING OF THE JEWS.” *

/MAT 27:38

*At that time two robbers were crucified with Him, one on the right and one on the left. *

/MAT 27:39

*And those passing by were hurling abuse at Him, wagging their heads... *

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

/MAT 27:40

...and saying, “You who are going to destroy the temple and rebuild it in three days, save Yourself! If You are the Son of God, come down from the Cross.”

/MAT 27:41

In the same way the chief priests also, along with the scribes and elders, were mocking Him and saying...

/MAT 27:42

“He saved others; He cannot save Himself. He is the King of Israel; let Him now come down from the Cross, and we will believe in Him.”

I firmly believe that if what they were saying was true, and the Lord could have saved one of them by coming down, He would have seriously considered it...

/MAT 27:43

“HE TRUSTS IN GOD; LET GOD RESCUE Him now, IF HE DELIGHTS IN HIM; for He said, ‘I am the Son of God.’”

/MAT 27:44

The robbers who had been crucified with Him were also insulting Him with the same words.

The Lord Jesus Christ stayed on the Cross for love. He humiliated Himself, He denied His Power, and He took abuse...all for Love. Or maybe He stayed on the Cross for the rewards. Maybe it was easier for Him because He knew the outcomes if He was to obey all the way. Do we? We know some of the promises, but not all. It has not entered into the eye, nor the ear, nor heart of man, all that God has planned for those who love Him. The Lord's situation was different.

Truly? The Lord didn't stay on the Cross for the rewards. You were His reward. He stayed because He loves you unconditionally, and He gave Himself for you. You don't know your future. You're saved. Why don't you just put down the Cross of Christianity and live it up? Why do you keep picking up the Cross? You have the freedom to stay or to go.

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

I can't speak for you, but it is not my desire to walk away. It is not my desire to put down my Cross. I often think of the Word of Teddy Roosevelt...

/TEDDY ROOSEVELT

It's Not the Critic Who Counts

It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred with dust and sweat and blood...who strives valiantly...who errs...who comes short again and again...because there is no effort without error and shortcoming...\

/TEDDY ROOSEVELT

It's Not the Critic Who Counts

The credit belongs to the man who actually strives to do deeds; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions...who spends himself in a worthy cause...who at the best knows, in the end, the honor of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.\

The challenge of giving unconditional love to others is that it hurts... again...and again...and again. When we love others unconditionally, we look and we feel like a fool. We aren't Christ. We don't love with the self-sufficiency with which He loves.

I've become quite good at giving unconditional love to others. But it leaves me in a quandary. I'm quite angry about it, even though it is a Cross I voluntarily bear, and even though I have no desire to come down off the Cross. I can take the mocking...I can take the pain...I can take the criticism...I can take the hurt. But throughout this study, I have yet to understand the anger about giving unconditional love. All I can say is that I think people who love unconditionally deserve better than they get. I'm looking forward to having God clear it up so that my unconditional love can reflect His, and often I just don't feel that it does. How about you? Lucky for us...the dash isn't really along time.

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT
Lesson 481– June 23, 2013

/CLOSING SONG

How Great You Are\

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 unconditional love, your person, your thinking, your work, 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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