

THE CREATOR-CREATURE CONFLICT

Lesson 487– July 7, 2013

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

Good morning! Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verses 11 to 16 say...

/HEB 4:11

Therefore let us (believers in Christ) be diligent to enter that rest (with faith...total dependence on God through obedience to His Word), so that no one will fall, through following the same example of disobedience (as Israel and unbelievers follow...having faith only in themselves).

/HEB 4:12

For the word of God is living (alive) and active (powerful) and sharper than any two-edged sword, and (the Word of God is) piercing as far as the division of soul(ishness) and (that which is) spirit(ual), of both joints and marrow (the inner being life), and (is) able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart.

/HEB 4:13

And there is no creature (nor a creature's motives that are) hidden from His sight, but all things are open and laid bare to the eyes of Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) with whom we have (much) to do.

/HEB 4:14

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, (the Lord) Jesus (Christ) the Son of God, let us (believers in Christ) hold fast our confession (which is the profession of our faith in God through our priesthood).

/HEB 4:15

For we do not have a high priest (in the Lord Jesus Christ) who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but (we have) One (a high priest) who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet (who is) without sin (the Lord was never sucked in by a lying temptation from the kingdom of darkness).

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/HEB 4:16

Therefore let us (believers in Christ) draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and (so that we may) find grace to help in time of need.

Bible study is a time for rest. In the world, we hear the noisy gong of Satanic distortion and the clanging cymbal of a pack of lies that creates fear, doubt and worry in our souls. But when we come earnestly to biblical study, we can let our guards down and rest with faith, knowing that our Lord and Savior is about to share His mind with us through biblical study as a rudder for our souls. Our Lord loves us unconditionally.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time of RENEWING, a time to learn about the marvelous divine assets that we have at our disposal, especially the asset called Christianity, a relationship with the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. 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. 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.”

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Word of God Speak\

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

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/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 attach the Word of God to our souls as a rudder, and give us direction through our Mentor, God the Holy Spirit...lead us into all the truth...and show us how to accept what You have given us that makes us worthy, and to simply walk in the luxurious blessings that Your Son provided for us at the Cross...among them a life exceeding and abundantly beyond anything we could ever ask or think...

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

**/Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
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. We continue our study of our CREATOR.

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

Who is the CREATOR? The Lord Jesus Christ is the Creator of all things on the earth and in the universe, including you! The Lord Jesus Christ is God. Our study is introducing us to the different parts of God's 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...

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/1CO 13:13

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

We are studying the CREATOR'S unconditional love. Turn in your bibles to Titus, Chapter 3, Verse 1...the Lord Jesus Christ loves you unconditionally...and when someone loves you unconditionally, they show it...they walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called...

/TIT 3:1

Remind them (all believers in Christ of how to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which they have been called, which is) to be subject to rulers, to (be subject to) authorities, to be obedient (both to rulers and authorities), to be ready for every (divine) good deed (reflecting the fruit of the Spirit)...

/TIT 3:2

...to malign no one, to be peaceable, (to be) gentle, showing every consideration for all men.

Christians are to be an influence, and they do it with actions, not words... our actions, as Christians, must reflect God's grace...and when they do, they emanate from the source of our thoughts...the thoughts of the mind of Christ...the Word of God...the Bible...

/TIT 3:3

For we (Paul) also once were foolish ourselves, disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

Paul is outlining his life as an unbeliever, which is the polar opposite of his life and his calling as a believer in Christ...then when the Lord Jesus Christ comes onto the scene of Paul's life, all selfishness in conduct, with worldly thoughts and operation as the source of this conduct, takes a back seat...it is replaced with Christ as the SOURCE of our thinking and with us as the intended RECIPIENTS, beneficiaries of Christ's thinking...

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/TIT 3:4

*But when the kindness of God our Savior and His love for mankind appeared (in action, by means of the Cross)... *

/TIT 3:5

*He (the Lord Jesus Christ) saved us (all mankind...whosoever), not on the basis of deeds which we have done in (self) righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and (by the) renewing by (God) the Holy Spirit... *

/TIT 3:6

*...whom He (God the Father) poured out upon us (beginning on the day of Pentecost) richly through Jesus Christ our Savior... *

/TIT 3:7

*...so that being justified by His grace we would be made heirs according to the hope (the absolute confidence) of (the) eternal (Zoe) life. *

Walking in a manner worthy of our calling is action oriented...it means standing up and engaging in the battle.

/TODAY'S STUDY

Unconditional Love is Filled with Warfare

Our lives, and our daily experiences, are filled with warfare. What is warfare?

/WARFARE

Unrelenting conflict between enemies\

Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 12 says...

/EPH 6:12

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

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We experience this warfare most in relationships. We experience warfare with God. We experience warfare within ourselves. We experience warfare with others, whether we call them friends or enemies. The “our struggle” that Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 12 is talking about is an ongoing warfare that we are tasked with every day of our lives.

We seek rest from this warfare. We imagine that somehow this warfare is going to end. We imagine that there is a rest period. We imagine that we can take a time out. Yet even when we hide ourselves in our homes, even when we watch life from the stands, our struggle with self is there to remind us that we are engaged in a never ending, relentless warfare called “our struggle.” Look at Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 1...Paul exhorts us Christians this way...

/EPH 4:1

*Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called... *

In the midst of the warfare of our daily lives, in the midst of our daily struggle, we wonder if Paul has somehow lost his mind. How is it that he can call us to “walk in a manner worthy?” How can God, through Paul, call us to “walk in a manner worthy,” when we feel so unworthy and so unable to do anything but to get one foot in front of the other most times...in the midst of this warfare?

When engaged in warfare, we need a strategy...we need something that gives us distinctive advantage against the enemy. As Christians, we have such a strategy. First of all, we have a Commander-in-Chief that has already won the war...the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Additionally, He allows us to share in His victory in a unique way, with our own unique lives, and He offers us the distinctive advantage of the Word of God a rudder for our lives. Without the Word of God, men and women struggle with warfare. We find it almost impossible to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which we have been called. But God has the secret...take a five-minute break, and He'll tell you about it in His Word.

/BREAK

Indescribable

*When I Think About Home *

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Welcome back! Turn in your bibles to First Timothy, Chapter 1, Verse 12... unconditional love is filled with warfare...

/1TI 1:12

*I (Paul) thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service... *

/1TI 1:13

*...even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor (of Christians) and a violent aggressor (against God). Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief... *

The German philosopher Nietzsche said...

/NIETZSCHE

“If you could prove God to me, I would believe Him all the less.”\

That is the position of most unbelievers. Even if you prove God to them, they believe less in God after hearing the accurate truth about Him. That's the result of spiritual warfare...it's the kingdom of darkness using and defeating the unbeliever's soul as a casualty in the Creator - Creature conflict...Paul, on the other hand, took advantage of God's grace even though he was ignorant in unbelief...even though he knew himself to be unworthy of the honor God's mercy was bestowing on him...

/1TI 1:14

*...and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and (unconditional) love which are found in (union with) Christ Jesus. *

Everything Paul lacked, God supplied and that made Paul worthy. God the Holy Spirit filled up Paul's deficiency. So it is with you. The less worthy you feel, the more God is compensating for your lack and for your weakness in “our struggle” with an abundance of His grace. The Lord Jesus Christ makes you worthy.

/1TI 1:15

*It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I (Paul) am foremost of all. *

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We must abandon the thought that we will ever be worthy on our own. We will not. We must come to accept the fact that God makes us worthy. What the Lord Jesus Christ has done for us is all we need to be worthy.

/1TI 1:16

Yet for this reason (that I am the foremost sinner) I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost (sinner), (the Lord) Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for (the) eternal (Zoe) life.

Paul introduces an *a fortiori* argument here...if the stronger thing is true...the lesser thing must also be true...if the Lord Jesus Christ saved Paul and made something of his life, as the foremost sinner...as the worst sinner of all time...if the Lord Jesus Christ has a plan for Paul's life...the worst person who ever lived...if that stronger thing is true, and it is...it must also follow that He has a plan for your life even though you are not, nor will you ever be, as bad as Paul. Paul is grateful to God, and so are we...

/1TI 1:17

Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory forever and ever. Amen.

/1TI 1:18

*This command I entrust to you, Timothy, my son, in accordance with the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you fight the good fight ("our struggle")... *

/1TI 1:19

...keeping faith and a good conscience, which some have rejected and (as a result have) suffered shipwreck in regard to their faith.

Paul is one of the greatest believers of all time, yet did he feel worthy? Did he consider himself to be "walking in a manner worthy of the calling to which he had been called?" Of course not! Why? Often, spiritual warfare was louder in Pauls' mind than the voice of his faith. And for various reasons, the same is true of us.

To those of you who are feeling "our struggle" loudly right now, I say press on! We must accept that God makes us worthy through the very thing that

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we struggle with...relationships...and God uses relationships to illustrate that He is at the forefront of the spiritual battle for us, working on our behalf. Only through our union with Christ are we worthy. Understand this...God is warring on your behalf...that is how you became worthy...through His warfare on your behalf. And the bible is full of intimate images that teach you why you are worthy...

/He is your Father...you are His Children

ROM 8:16-17

*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we (believers in Christ) are children of God, //and if (1) children (and we are), heirs also, heirs of God (the Father) and fellow heirs with (the Lord Jesus) Christ, if (1) indeed we suffer with Him (and we do) so that we may also be glorified with Him. *

/He is your Father...you are His Children

EPH 5:1-2

*Therefore be imitators of God (the Father), as beloved children; //and walk in (unconditional) love, just as Christ also loved you and gave Himself up for us, an offering and a sacrifice to God (the Father) as a fragrant aroma. *

/He is your Mother...you are His Children

PSA 131:1-2

*O Lord, my heart is not proud, nor my eyes haughty; Nor do I involve myself in great matters, Or in things too difficult for me. //Surely I have composed and quieted my soul; Like a weaned child rests against his mother, My soul is like a weaned child within me. *

We are sucklings to God as our Mother...we are dependent on Him.

/He is the King...you are His Subjects

1TI 6:15

*He (the Lord Jesus Christ) will bring (it) about at the proper time — He who is the blessed and only Sovereign, the King of kings and Lord of lords... *

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/He is the Groom...you are His bride

REV 19:7

“Let us rejoice and be glad and give the glory to Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), for the marriage of the Lamb (the Groom) has come and His bride has made herself ready.”

/He is the Shepherd...you are His sheep

PSA 23:1

The Lord Jesus Christ is the One who keeps on shepherding me...I cannot lack anything.

What do these intimate images show? Deep...intimate...personal relationship. More importantly, the relationships show dependence. We depend on the Lord Jesus Christ to be worthy. Without Him, we are not worthy. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 1...

/EPH 4:1

Therefore I, the prisoner of the Lord, implore you to walk in a manner worthy of the calling with which you have been called...

If I am going to walk in a manner worthy of the calling to which I have been called, I must be prepared to do battle at all times without rest. The relationship I have with God IS my rest. Therefore, to walk in a manner worthy means warfare...Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 22...

/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...

I have a friend who purchased the car of her dreams. On the day she purchased it she was so happy. Her happiness soon turned to concern when the car became a money pit. It was obvious quickly that the car was suitable only for lemonade...because it was a lemon...but she decided to keep “polishing up her car’s act” by pouring money into repairs hoping things would get better. They did not. Your old self, like this car, is not going to get better. You can spend as much time as you wish listening to it and polishing up its act...but it will not get better.

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Even though my friend was a student of the Word of God, the Word did not profit her because it was not mixed with faith... Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23...

/EPH 4:23

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

Many of us hear the Word of God but do not profit from it because we do not heed its suggestions. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 24...

/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. *

Walking in a manner worthy means putting on the New Self. But what does that mean? For my friend, she needs a new reliable car. For Christians, we need to listen to the New Self. We can either drive our old beat up car and pour money into it, or we can ride in the back seat of a limousine chauffeured by God the Holy Spirit who is leading us into all the truth. This limousine driver knows where He is going. Will you allow Him to take you there? Will you give Him directions from your will?

When you depend on God and His Word, you are letting Him drive. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 16...

/GAL 5:16

*But I say, walk by (means of God) the (Holy) Spirit (and His guidance), and you will not carry out the desire of the flesh. *

In other words, a life without God is not worthy...it's a warfare you cannot win. Ephesians, Chapter 6, Verse 11 and following...

/EPH 6:11

*(Pick up and) Put on the full armor of God, so that you will be able to stand firm against the schemes (tactics) of the devil. *

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/EPH 6:12

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

To walk in a manner worthy of our calling, we must count on God...we must lean on God. His essence is better than our essence at fighting wars. As you listen to the closing song, the essence of God, see if there is anything in God's essence that you have in your essence.

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/CLOSING SONG

Essence of God\

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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