

ROMANS
Lesson 6– July 28, 2013

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

Good morning! Proverbs, Chapter 30, Verses 1 and 6 say...

/PRO 30:1a
*The words of Agur... *

/PRO 30:2-3
Surely I am more stupid than any man, And I do not have the understanding of a man.//Neither have I learned wisdom, Nor do I have the knowledge of the Holy One.

/PRO 30:4
Who has ascended into heaven and descended? Who has gathered the wind in His fists? Who has wrapped the waters in His garment? Who has established all the ends of the earth? What is His name or His Son's name? Surely you know!

/PRO 30:5-6
Every word of God is tested; He is a shield to those who take refuge in Him. //Do not add to His words Or He will reprove you, and you will be proved a liar.

The only way for us to know God in this Church Age is through His written Word. Thankfully, God reveals His written Word to us and we come together in this bible study to hear God's revelation and to enjoy our personal relationship with Him. The Lord Jesus Christ is God...He is our shield...His Word is protection for us and a rudder for our souls...and by teaching us the infallible words of Scripture, through God the Holy Spirit's mentoring ministry, we as believers in Christ are being steered away from the wisdom of the world and into the truth that sets us free.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Bible study is a time of RENEWING, a time to learn about the divine assets

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at your disposal...Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

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

Thank you for coming to receive this renewing and thank you in advance for sharing this message with everyone you know.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

I Am\

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

/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 use the lesson of Paul in our own lives...help us to see how You led him from the depths of evil to the power of Your enabling Holy Spirit... let us live our lives through Your wisdom, and not through the wisdom of the world...give us the courage to be "bravehearts" in our own lives... influencing one person at a time...and help us to lead all the people we know to You and to Your Word...

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

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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. The Lord Jesus Christ is God. The Bible is His infallible Word...it is an exact communication of His mind...it is a book with no errors...with no contradictions...with no lies...the Bible is the truth...and it is my pleasure to lay down my life for you, my sheep, and to protect your souls with the Word of God implanted.

/TODAY'S STUDY

Paul's Transition from Bully to Braveheart is a Message for Your Life

We are studying Chapter 1 of Paul's letter to the Romans. In Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 1, the first Word is Paul...

/ROM 1:1

*Paul, a bond-servant (slave) of Christ Jesus, called as an apostle, set apart (by God) for the (dissemination of the) gospel (message) of God... *

We think it's important to take a look at a few aspects of Paul's resume...his credentials...so we can get to know this very important man in biblical history. Paul is worth getting to know because he wrote about two-thirds of the letters in the New Testament, which is God's set of instructions to the Church Age believer...

<DISPENSATIONS SLIDE>

You are a Church Age believer...and the New Testament is His set of instructions to all of you... the New Testament gives you His instructions to the "new spiritual species" which God the Father created to defeat, once and for all time, the sins of imperfect and fallen man that broke the relationship between God and Man. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17 says...

/2CO 5:17

*Therefore if (I) anyone is in (union with) Christ (and all believers in Christ are), he is a new creature (a new spiritual species); the (sovereignty of the) old (self) things (have) passed away (have lost their power); behold, new (spiritual species) things have come. *

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If you are a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you are in union with the Lord Jesus Christ, which means you have an unbreakable relationship with the Sovereign God of the Universe. When you close your eyes in this life, you will be absent from your mortal body and face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ forever, in a place of no more sorrow, no more tears...the old self things have passed away forever...the new spiritual species things have come...you will be in heaven, which is a place described as “exceeding and abundantly more than you could every ask or think.”

In the last few lessons we began our look at the apostle Paul...and the first credential we have examined is that Paul is a PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH.

/PAUL’S RESUME

Persecutor of the Church\

In short...Paul is a bully. We reviewed the life transition of Paul the bully in Acts, Chapter 9...Acts, Chapter 22...and Philippians, Chapter 3. Do you remember this? Philippians, Chapter 3, Verses 4 to 6...

/PHI 3:4-6

*I (Paul) myself might have confidence even in the flesh (even though we should not have confidence in the flesh). If anyone else has a mind to put confidence in the flesh, I (should have that confidence) far more...// (I was circumcised (on) the eighth day, (I am) of the nation of Israel, (I am) of the tribe of Benjamin, (I am) a Hebrew of Hebrews; as to the (Mosaic) Law, (I am) a Pharisee;//as to zeal, (I am) a persecutor of the church... *

As to zeal...Paul is a persecutor of the church...what a great description of a bully! What is a bully?

/BULLY

A blustering, quarrelsome, overbearing person who habitually badgers and intimidates smaller or weaker people.\

Paul, before his Damascus Road experience in Acts, Chapter 9 was a bully of the greatest magnitude, perched atop his “high horse.” In short, there has been no greater bully than him in divine history except Satan. How did Paul

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make the transition from BULLY to BRAVEHEART? What is a braveheart?

/BRAVEHEART

Someone who leads captive slaves to freedom\

How did Paul make the transition from bully to braveheart...from habitually badgering and intimidating weaker people to become a person who is a champion for the underdog and who leads weak people to freedom? I'd like to share a story with you and then look at this idea...because before we go on to the other parts of Paul's resume, I don't want one irrevocable fact to be lost on you...no matter how bad you are...you are not Paul...you are not a persecutor of the Church...it is not your goal to singlehandedly wipe out the Christian Church. You don't wake up every day looking to kill people. Paul did. Yet this worst man of all time is the one the Lord Jesus Christ selected to be the greatest believer of all time. Why? Because God can do anything with positive volition! When you are positive to God and His Word...as was Paul...the sky is the limit for you. I don't want that point to get lost on you in all the details of our discussion of Romans and in our learning about Paul. You are not as bad as Paul!

Now...let me share a story with you...written by Stu Weber, an American Pastor and an author of several books on Christian living. He co-founded Good Shepherd Community Church near Gresham, Oregon, and served as Lead Pastor there for more than thirty years before retiring. During the Vietnam War, Weber served as a Group Intelligence Operations Officer in the Special Forces of the United States Army, with service in Vietnam. For his service, he received three bronze stars. He graduated from Wheaton College and earned a Master of Divinity degree from Western Seminary in Portland, Oregon following his time in the Army. Here is one of his many stories...

/STUART WEBER

No kidding. The ROTC changed my life. It opened the door for me to the single most potent educational experience of my life...a brief stint on active duty in the United States Army. In retrospect, military service proved to be more mind shaping for me than four years of college, and more soul strengthening than the seminary.\

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/STUART WEBER

As I write these words, I glance up at the wall above my computer, and I smile. There are no sheepskins there...but there is a faded Ranger School diploma, and old set of Vietnam jump wings, and pictures of young men. Hal Moore said it best, “We were soldiers once...and young.”\

/STUART WEBER

We were soldiers for a lot of reasons. One of them was “the bully syndrome.” Many years ago, as a young boy in a cozy little neighborhood in central Washington state, I learned a valuable lesson. Our neighborhood bully, Jimmy, would never stop throwing dirt clods and using strong-arm tactics to terrorize smaller children.\

/STUART WEBER

Yes. We complained. In fact, we begged. But time after time our “negotiation” attempts failed. Nothing seemed to work. Until one day, one of us gathered the courage to stand up to him. Lying flat on his back, Jimmy experienced an amazing change of perspective. He suddenly saw the logic of leaving the little people alone.\

/STUART WEBER

Bullies never seem to quit until someone takes the initiative to stand between them and their victims. Recall Goliath, or Adolf Hitler, or Saddam Hussein, or the devil himself?\

/STUART WEBER

The Christian is “the man in between.” With mind and heart committed to righteous principles, the Christian offers to shield others. When the Philistines occupied the south ridge of the valley of Elah, and the Israeli army the opposite ridge, each day the giant of Gath, Goliath, a bully, descended to the valley floor and taunted the champions of Israel.\

/STUART WEBER

Saul, the king of Israel, head and shoulders above his people, had no heart for being “the man in between” ... the position between the bully and Saul’s Israeli army. But Jesse’s kid, David, did have the heart. To David, it was a straightforward proposition. For the good of others, the giant had to be called to account. Packing his simple shepherd’s equipment, a slingshot,

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David voluntarily stepped between his countryman and those who would harm them. You know the story. The giant fell...the enemy fled.\

/STUART WEBER

Every sane person seeks peace. For that very reason, we must also be anti-bully. On occasion, conflict...yes, even the shedding of blood...is necessary in securing peace. So it was for the Jews entering the Promised Land...so it was at Christ's first coming...and so it will be at Christ's second coming.\

/STUART WEBER

That's at least part of the reason why, on a lesser plane of course, we need military services. The total depravity of man...and "the bully syndrome..." will be with us until the Lord Jesus Christ comes back again. Hence the warrior spirit must be righteously nourished in all of us Christians. There is a necessary place for being a warrior from a biblical perspective.\

/STUART WEBER

A thousand years after David faced Goliath at Elah, the Greater Son of David, the Lord Jesus Christ, demonstrated the warrior spirit when He claimed a piece of high ground at Calvary on a Cross, when He faced off with the champion of evil, the bully of bullies, Satan.\

/STUART WEBER

Warrior that He is, the Lord Jesus Christ stood between us and all that would destroy us, deliberately taking the full fury and shedding His own blood for the rest of us. And while the outcome was secured at Calvary on a Cross, our Savior's days of battle are not over.\

/STUART WEBER

On a day still future, the Lion of Judah, the Lord Jesus Christ, will don a blood-spattered robe, mount a war horse, summon His saints, and take up a sword. Then and only then will there be peace and safety on our battered planet. In the meantime, there is the place for the warrior spirit among Christians...a necessary and respected place.\

Paul was a bully...Acts, Chapter 9, verse 3 says...

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/ACT 9:3

*As he was traveling, it happened that he (Saul of Tarsus...Paul) was approaching Damascus, and suddenly a light from heaven flashed around him... *

/ACT 9:4

*...and he fell to the ground and heard a voice saying to him, “Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me (the Lord Jesus Christ)?” *

The Lord Jesus Christ stood as “the man in between” Paul the bully and His believers...the Lord Jesus Christ took Paul’s persecution of Christians personally, and He stopped it. Eventually, even miraculously, Paul took the Lord’s place as “the man in between,” and became the protector of the very Church he was persecuting. Take a five minute break...

/BREAK

Here I Am to Worship
*When I Think About Home *

Welcome back!

<BULLY CHART>

The world is full of bullies like Paul...those who seek to take advantage of “the little people.” God sends “the man in between” to protect the little people from bullies.

Who are the bullies that are taking advantage of you?

I actually like bullies like Paul because they are so obvious in their approach. But I have witnessed the subtle bullies...I have seen young men in our congregation... “our little people” ... my college pukes...be subtly bullied away from the study of the Word of God...young men who start out hot for Christ...young men who are positive to God’s word...and then they meet a girl...and of course they want the girl to share in their love of Christ, and in the study of the Word...but she is not interested...and they do all manner of things to get her interested...but she is not interested...yet they persist, thinking they will be able to convert her...and they of course never do...but she converts them...and they turn lukewarm to God and lukewarm to the

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Word at first...and eventually they are in the world and completely separated from God and His Word. Then at a later point, they break up with the girl, but they don't come back to God and His Word. She devastates their spiritual life and then leaves. Of course, I'm sure that is a coincidence and has nothing to do with the kingdom or darkness.

During the subtle bullying, my college pukes, no matter how much they are warned, never think to ask themselves, "Is she positive to God...is she receptive to His Word...is she influenced by His Word?" If the answers are no, then RUN! If you want to know what it is like to be married to someone like that, ask around our congregation...many of us have been, and we'll tell you one thing for sure...we didn't convert them. They left our lives in a shambles and we didn't convert them. Be forewarned...and it hasn't just happened to young *men* in the congregation...it has happened to young women as well. Subtle bullies are a lot more dangerous than overt ones.

Luckily God sends people like me to be "the man in between" ... to warn you of the subtlety of the enemy's attacks against you. Are you listening?

God took advantage of Paul's zeal as PERSECUTOR OF THE CHURCH, and God, knowing Paul's heart was to genuinely get to know the real God, turned Paul from BULLY to BRAVEHEART. Turn in your bibles to Acts, Chapter 26...

/ACT 26:1

*Agrippa said to Paul, "You are permitted to speak for yourself." Then Paul stretched out his hand and proceeded to make his defense... *

/ACT 26:2

*"In regard to all the things of which I am accused by the Jews, I consider myself fortunate, King Agrippa, that I am about to make my defense before you today..." *

/ACT 26:3

*"...especially because you are an expert in all customs and questions among the Jews; therefore I beg you to listen to me patiently." *

King Agrippa was a practicing religious Jew, just as Paul had been.

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/ACT 26:4

“So then, all Jews know my manner of life from my youth up, which from the beginning was spent among my own nation and at Jerusalem...”

/ACT 26:5

“...since they have known about me for a long time, if they are willing to testify, that I lived as a Pharisee according to the strictest sect of our religion.”

/ACT 26:6

“And now I am standing trial for the hope of the promise made by God to our fathers...”

/ACT 26:7

“...the promise to which our twelve tribes hope to attain, as they earnestly serve God night and day. And for this hope, O King, I am being accused by Jews.”

Paul cited his religiosity, his early life in Judaism, tied it to things religious Jews would know, and then proceeds to make his current case...

/ACT 26:8

“Why is it considered incredible among you people if God does raise the dead (in resurrection)?”

/ACT 26:9

“So then, I thought to myself that I had to do many things hostile to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.”

/ACT 26: 10

“And this is just what I did in Jerusalem; not only did I lock up many of the saints (believers in Christ) in prisons, having received authority from the chief priests, but also when they were being put to death I cast my vote against them.”

/ACT 26:11

“And as I punished them often in all the synagogues, I tried to force them to blaspheme; and being furiously enraged at them, I kept pursuing them even to foreign cities.”

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Paul pursued Christians to kill them, even to places outside of his jurisdiction...

/ACT 26:12

“While so engaged as I was journeying to Damascus with the authority and commission of the chief priests...”

/ACT 26:13

“...at midday, O King, I saw on the way a light from heaven, brighter than the sun, shining all around me and those who were journeying with me.”

/ACT 26:14

“And when we had all fallen to the ground, I heard a voice saying to me in the Hebrew dialect, ‘Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting Me? It is hard for you to kick against the goads.’”

/ACT 26:15

“And I said, ‘Who are You, Lord?’ And the Lord said, ‘I am Jesus whom you are persecuting.’”

/ACT 26:16

““But get up and stand on your feet; for this purpose I have appeared to you, to appoint you a minister and a witness not only to the things which you have seen, but also to the things in which I will appear to you...”

/ACT 26:17

““...rescuing you from the Jewish people and from the Gentiles, to whom I am sending you...”

/ACT 26:18

““...to open their eyes so that they may turn from darkness to light and from the dominion of Satan to (the dominion of) God, that they may receive forgiveness of sins and an inheritance among those who have been sanctified by faith in Me.”

Bully to Braveheart...Paul was turned from the dominion of Satan to the dominion of God. How about you? Will you turn around? Here’s an *a fortiori* argument...if the stronger thing is true, the lesser thing must also be true, even more...if God can turn Paul around, the worst person of all

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time...if it was easy for God to do that, and it was...doesn't it follow that God can turn you around if you let him? What is there in your life that needs turning around? Are you letting God do it? Are you positive toward His doing it? You're not as bad as Paul. Let God turn you into a Braveheart. And when He does, what captives will you lead to freedom.

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/CLOSING SONG

Light of Fellowship\

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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