

Romans
Lesson 20- August 25th, 2013

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/Welcome to Barah Ministries a Christian Church
– Good Morning Royal Family!
Let's shift our minds away from the issues of life and focus
on the message from God the Holy Spirit\

We come to bible study for RENEWING, to allow God the Holy Spirit to guide us by the Truth in the Word of God, so we can know the plan of God the Father, the compassion of His Son, and the amazing sacrifice of the uniquely born One, the Lord Jesus Christ.

ADLIB – Large Crowd present:/

As believers we know the Good News already. Faith alone in Christ alone is the irrevocable ticket to salvation. God did and is still doing all the work on behalf of each one of you. The ghetto boy from Nazareth took care of salvation on the cross and the subsequent renovation of our soul. Our free will gives us tremendous power and when we decide to be obedient to the plan of God that power becomes divine. The fact that you're watching or listening shows that you want to take full advantage of your position in Christ. It's time to focus you mindset by concentrating on God rather than self.

/Where is your soul tuned slide, Romans 12:2 verse/

We see this slide each week but I hope you think about it every day. This slide should flash through your mind each morning because your soul is guaranteed to encounter counterfeit truths. Alcohol, drugs, sex, TV, iPhones, ipads, androids, tablets, radio, movies, football, video games, all

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these things bombard our souls on a daily basis. They're constantly vying for our attention. Its crazy to think there are about 1500 newspapers, 1100 magazines, 9000 radio stations, 1500 TV stations, 2400 major publishers, and they're all owned by only 3 corporations. That's over 15,000 companies trying to steal your focus. We need to remember to tune our soul to WGOD as much as possible. Where is your soul tuned?

/2 PE 3:17

You therefore, beloved, knowing this beforehand, be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness\

Now I'll admit that boom box image may be a little misleading. I mean it has a tape player on it. The teenagers probably don't even know what it is. While the more distinguished ones most likely see it as a nuisance. Well that boom box represents all electronic devices in our lives. For me it's the phone first thing then the radio in the truck on the way to work. Then at work the iPod and ear buds. Well I can spend the day listening to music on Pandora or listening to podcasts from Barah Ministries.com.

I choose to orient and adjust to the transmissions from God. So thank you for turning off Sports Center, or Call of Duty or even your tape player and tuning into Barah Ministries.com

Let's begin the study with some music as you fix your mind on the lesson from God the Holy Spirit and away from the world.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

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/Toby Mac - Lose My Soul\

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

We're grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute truth...the Word of God...

Thank You for making us Your possession because I know that no one will treat me better than You.

Thank You for using real, broken, and imperfect people to accomplish Your perfect plan.

Help us to use Your unconditional love everyday of our lives, starting with others but remembering to include ourselves.

I pray that You continue to give strength and alleviate pain to those working through health issues.

Remind them that they are not alone because You know them by name.

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

/WELCOME TO BARAH MINISTRIES

Denny Goodall - Deacon\

Welcome to Barah Ministries. We are pursuing Truth from the Word of God found in the Bible. My name is Deacon Denny Goodall. You're listening to lesson twenty of the Romans series. Welcome to a ministry designed for people who want to develop a deep, intimate and personal

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relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Welcome to a place where you can let your guard down because The Lord Jesus Christ is God. The Bible is His infallible Word...and His exact thinking...a book with no errors...with no contradictions...with no lies...the Bible is the truth. Welcome to the place where you can receive the Word of God. There is no better guide for our lives.

Unfortunately I have bad news. I recently found out that it's too late to accomplish our salvation. Yep, too late. There's nothing you can do. No matter what you do, you can never satisfy the perfect righteousness of God. But the good news is that The Lord Jesus Christ already took care of our salvation. He simply lived a sinless life, died spiritually on the Cross, was resurrected, and ascended to heaven so that we can, through Faith, have an eternal relationship with Him.

We see in

/ROM 6:4-5

Therefore we have been buried with Him through baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we too might walk in newness of life.// For if we have become united with *Him* in the likeness of His death, certainly we shall also be *in the likeness* of His resurrection\

I really like the New Living Translation of these verses.

/ROM 6:4

[New Living Translation](#)

For we died and were buried with Christ by baptism. And just as Christ was raised from the dead by the glorious power of the Father, now we also may live new lives\

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So you find yourself on another weekend where our gracious Pastor is taking a well-deserved vacation. After preparing a couple of these lessons now I truly understand how emotional you can get reading the Truth in the bible. I realize how draining it can be trying to stay focused on your main message. It is clear to me that our Pastor works very hard for God and his sheep

What I'm getting at is that these lessons can be taxing for numerous reasons. There are so many good verses to use. There are so many suitable and worthy topics. Focus becomes difficult. You can easily start chasing rabbits just to satisfy your curiosity and lose sight of your objective for the lesson. So mahalo Pastor and enjoy the beach.

So let's get going with today's lesson...

/Today's Study
An Apple a Day Keeps the Doctor Away\

I was thinking about what my focus used to be during my daily bible study. I can remember a time where I was obsessed with the intake of "bible doctrine" but my focus was academic. I wasn't building a relationship with God. I never really asked any extra question about the study. Nope, just check the box and feel good cause I had listened that day.

But did I really hear anything if I didn't apply it? Did I really believe God if I never told anyone about Him? I mean generally when you believe in something you tell others about it. Like recommending good food or a dentist you trust.

I think my study had turned into just building knowledge in a

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defensive manner. An apple a day will keep the doctor away. A study a day will keep the devil away. I was learning just to protect and support myself.

I mean don't get me wrong I would always hope and pray for those around me. I would witness to friends and family but never really anyone outside those groups. You could say I was just learning in order to prove myself rather than living in Christ in order for Him to prove me.

So is that how a Christian should live? The light of the world stuck trying to learn but not share the learning. Getting to know God and not introducing others? Pastor Rory helped me to step out of the box. He pushed me to ask more questions, re-read my notes and really contemplate what the Word of God is saying to the believer.

I was stuck in a misconception. I was caught in a mistaken belief or a false impression. An apple a day does not actually keep the doctor away. Ask my stepdad Mike or my friend Norbert. I'm sure they had their share of apples over the course of their lives yet they are both seeing a little too much of doctors lately.

My friend Rory helped me to see that the ZOE life is not simply an academic pursuit but a time to be fishers of men. God gives us the knowledge and logistical grace to spread the gospel to the Glory of the Christ. God used Rory to open my eyes to the importance of people and relationships.

I want to open eyes as well. I want to help believers to live ZOE without limits, and for Unbelievers to challenge their way of thinking and investigate the Truth. Both groups need to give it an honest hearing. The believer in Christ needs to focus on God and not life. They need to listen to their Pastor and then check it out. Really think about it... So what... how

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does this help when life seems to be a train wreck?

And in the case of the unbeliever an honest hearing is tuning in more than once. Your comfort zone will be challenged and your feelings will most likely get hurt. Just remember the bible is the Word of God. What you're hearing is absolute Truth not the opinions of man.

Well lately my mind has been focused on misconceptions. God has me focused on the misconceptions of life. Just like me studying to hold the Word of God rather than spread it. There are just so many publically held fallacies in life. We have historical ones to personal ones to religious ones to ones about Christianity. We often become a product of our environment because of the misconceptions that we hold...misconceptions that we never even investigate. We just accept things as fact.

When you think of Vikings what picture comes to mind? The helmets with the horns right... Well there is no evidence that they wore such helmets. The image actually stems from the production of an 1876 opera.

Or how about Cinco de Mayo? This is a popular day for celebration here in Arizona. It is Mexican Independence Day right? Actually no it's not. It's really the celebration of the Mexican Army's victory over the French in the Battle of Puebla on May 5, 1862. Mexico's Independence from Spain is celebrated on September 16.

Here's a good one. Who knows what the word Sushi means? Most people say raw fish. Well they would be wrong. The real definition is sour rice.

Lastly bats are blind right? They only use echolocation to fly around. Bats actually have fairly normal eyesight, although

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they are very photosensitive and often dazzled by excessive light. However, bats do often use echolocation in situations where their eyesight fails them, such as times of darkness.

Don't believe me? Look it up for yourself. It only takes a ten-minute search to gain tremendous knowledge on a subject. See you can investigate the Word of God and it fortifies your knowledge of God. I think Pastor is a genius for telling us how he studies the bible. He welcomes our inspection of the Word. He learns from us as we learn from him.

In Matthew 22:29 the Lord Jesus Christ reminds us that misunderstanding the bible causes us to be mistaken.

/MAT 22:29

But Jesus answered and said to them, "You are mistaken, not understanding the Scriptures nor the power of God\

Second Timothy reinforces the need for the Word of God and its ability to correct our misconceptions.

/2 TI 3:16

All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; so that the man of God may be adequate, equipped for every good work\

There are so many misconceptions that surround us...fallacies about self, others, cops, presidents, locals, foreigners, pit bulls, races, genders...I can keep going...Paul, David, Relationships, Church, God, Christianity, religion, love, best of all TLJC. All these things have distortions that exist in public discourse. There are just

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too many to discuss or even count them all.

Misconception affects unbelievers and believers both. Just because you're a believer doesn't mean you have it all figured out or that you have all the knowledge. That's not really the worst part. The worst is that we just sit idly by and let ourselves become a product of history rather than influencing it.

So I have mentioned some historical misconceptions but those don't really affect you as you lie there waiting for surgery or sit impatiently wondering in a waiting room. I want to focus on misconceptions about the bible and Christianity. People all too often judge churches, Christians and even God by the actions of a few.

We can't control people's perspectives but we can influence them. We have to be mindful of our actions what we say, what we do, who we decide to be around. Misconceptions of who and what Christians are supposed to be leads to misconceptions of who and what God is.

Let's take a five-minute break before we jump into some biblical examples.

/BREAK

Kutless – Strong Tower\

So welcome back. I've been talking about misconceptions of life. I went through couple of historical myths that most people simply hear and believe. Well I want us to fact check. I want to open our eyes to the fact that a lost and dying world is clawing at our souls. This world wants to think for us. Or even better have us just stare at the TV and don't think at all.

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It's funny because Pastor often says, "How can a kid sit and play video games endlessly but when it comes to learning about God they can't sit still for ten minutes." I love video games. I'm that person. Now I only play a fraction of the time I used to play but I could play all day if I had time for it. Well how would that wasted day of games help me when I find out a friend's sister is being committed to a mental hospital. Or when a co-worker has to deal with a tumor on his spine. I would have nothing to say.

The Lord Jesus Christ needs to be at the forefront of our thought process. Let's be on guard and give God to people by telling them what the bible says about the obstacles of life.

Well let's see some misconceptions from this world. I hear people say that God is a mystery and you can't really know God. Oh yeah. The bible says otherwise...

We see in Romans 1:20...

/ROM 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they are without excuse\

Wow, that one is pretty clear.

Another one I get is you need to go to Church. "You need to be in a Holy building." Maybe they're right? There are a lot of Church buildings out there. We don't have a building. Okay well lemme check my bible...First Corinthians 6 verse 19 says

/1 COR 6:19

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Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and that you are not your own\

Oh and then there's Ephesians 1 verse 4..

/EPH 1:4

just as He chose us in Him before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before Him. In love\

So I'm a temple of the Holy Spirit and I'm holy and blameless...what was that about a holy building again?

Or ask someone about David from the Bible. Who was he, what did he do? You get, oh yeah; David faced a giant without armor and killed him with a slingshot. He is a real role model for us all.

But we know there is more to David the man. He was also an adulterer and murderer. He had feet of clay.

/2 SAM 11:14-15

Now in the morning David wrote a letter to Joab and sent *it* by the hand of Uriah. // He had written in the letter, saying, "Place Uriah in the front line of the fiercest battle and withdraw from him, so that he may be struck down and die\

The very same David is having someone killed. He thinks the death of Uriah can be a fig leaf to cover his poor decisions.

Misconceptions are everywhere. How about something more close to home. What about misconception about a pastor? They are always being maligned, mistrusted, and gossiped about. Yet no one ever seeks out the truth they

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just sit idly by in the misconception.

What about our Pastor Rory? He is an open book. He lives the Lord Jesus Christ. Yeah I said lived. When you love something you live it. My Pastor Rory loves The Lord Jesus Christ. And they both love you. We can get in touch with him through email or phone...very easy.

Well aren't Pastor's supposed to be married? Single or married but not divorced right? They can't really be a man of God and be a casualty of marriage can they? Well I have a question back? How can people even ask that after learning Paul's resume? As we learned from Caleb most biblical role models were some hard-core scumbags at a time in their lives. These times were always when there soul was tuned away from WGOD and onto KCOS.

The final example is the best...The Lord Jesus Christ. Our Rock.

He is attacked day and night around the globe. Misconceptions abound for the Lord. Only the bible can clear up any questions. The Lord Jesus Christ has given us the Bible as a gift. It is a gift of sight. When we accept and open that gift, we can see into His mind through the Word of God.

Some religions say that Jesus was not the Savior. They say He was not God. They think he was just a prophet. Well let's check the bible.

/JOH 10:29-30

My Father, who has given *them* to Me (The Lord Jesus Christ), is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch *them* out of the Father's hand. // "I and the Father are one"

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Jesus asserts His deity all over the bible. There is really no debate. Yet people still challenge that fact all the time. The attacks are relentless.

*Insert if needed...Misconception about life events. We make a plan or timeline and when it doesn't go how we planned we blame God or ourselves. When it doesn't go how we thought we assume it's all-wrong. Life gets messy for a reason. It happens so we can use God and His word.

*/ISA 40:31

Yet those who wait for the LORD...Will gain new strength; They will mount up *with* wings like eagles, They will run and not get tired, They will walk and not become weary\

So a guy at work tried to use the bible against me the other day. He pulled out Mark 1 verse 17.

/MAR 1:17

And Jesus said to them, "Follow Me, and I will make you become fishers of men\

His thought is that Jesus pulled people aside and talked privately to each person. You see he doesn't like that I freely talk about God in front of a group of people. He sees the fisherman like you and I fishing with a pole and a single line. One on one to be private... I used my bible app to check out the full chapter so he couldn't take it out of context. And it's kind of funny because if you look at the very next verse. Mark 1 verse 18 says...

/MAR 1:18

Immediately they left their nets and followed Him\

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These guys were not amateur line fisherman. The kind of fishing envisioned in this text was not line fishing, but net fishing. These guys were using nets. Sometime multi line nets requiring many men organized with common objectives.

Fishermen would either stand on the shore and repeatedly cast their nets into the water, or drop their nets from a boat. In Matthew 4, the nets used were those tossed from the shoreline. The occupation of fisherman was rather labor-intensive.

The imagery of using a lure and a line (and waiting for the fish to strike!) is thus foreign to this text. Jesus is not speaking about finesse (as in fly fishing), or using the right kind of bait. The imagery has nothing to do with “hooking” the unbeliever with the gospel. Further, the picture is not individualistic: the point is not one person being reeled in at a time. All of this has to do with line fishing, but this is not the picture seen in this text.

Rather, the imagery of a fisherman involved much strain, long hours, and often little results. Jesus’ was probably emphasizing net fishing is labor intensive, requiring persistence and dedication in spite of minimal results. The fishers of men most certainly used to fish big and out loud, because you may perhaps be snatching people from judgment. The fish would be caught people would be caught so as to remove them from the eternal flames of hell and to give them new life.

Look at what fishermen do to their catch. They would cover, protect, and preserve it. They would keep it at its highest and best.

Biblical imagery is rather rich—but it often is different from what our preconceived notions are. This lesson points out

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the need to read the Bible carefully and think through the correspondences in the figurative language embedded in the text. This, of course, requires an understanding of the historical context. A good Bible dictionary will often be very useful in this endeavor. When we study the scriptures this way, it will often be like reading the Bible for the first time.

When we first learn we fish with a pole, but when we live the Word of God we fish with nets. We can cast a larger pool of water and have more effect in this lost and dying world.

So after a little extra research, google on my phone, I understand more clearly what the Lord meant by fishers of men and the bible silenced the debate.

I hope that I have opened some eyes out there. Misconceptions are serious because they are subtle. They sneak in and take hold. They slow you down and distract you. The Truth will set you free and help you to live ZOE without limits, and to challenge your way of thinking and investigate what you hear. The believer in Christ needs to focus on God and not life. Listen to their Pastor and then check it out. Think about it and use it. Put it to the test. Your comfort zone will be challenged and your feelings will most likely get hurt. Just remember the bible is the mind of Christ.

You're here because you want to know what the bible says about life you know it's the perfect guidebook to use. Truth is freedom. Truth is clear.

/ROM 1:20

For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made, so that they

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are without excuse\

It shows the way to live the highest and best life you can have. You can live the Zoe life now and for eternity. So I think still eating an apple a day is good policy but just do your research. Some other vegetables and less sweets will help to keep the doctor away.

So lets hear our closing song and remember that when we use God's love it will never fail.

/CLOSING SONG

Your Love Never Fails – Jesus Culture\

/1 COR 2:16

For WHO HAS KNOWN THE MIND OF THE LORD, THAT HE WILL INSTRUCT HIM? But we have the mind of Christ\

/COL 2:9-10

For in Him all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form, // and in Him you have been made complete, and He is the head over all rule and authority\

/ISA 48:17

Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel, "I am the LORD your God, who teaches you to profit, who leads you in the way you should go\

/ MAR 3:30

AND YOU SHALL LOVE THE LORD YOUR GOD WITH ALL YOUR HEART, AND WITH ALL YOUR SOUL, AND WITH ALL YOUR MIND, AND WITH ALL YOUR STRENGTH\

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/1 JOH 4:7-9

Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God; and everyone who loves is born of God and knows God. // The one who does not love does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.// By this the love of God was manifested in us, that God has sent His only begotten Son into the world so that we might live through Him\

/2 COR 4:14-15

Knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will raise us also with Jesus and will present us with you. // For all things *are* for your sakes, so that the grace which is spreading to more and more people may cause the giving of thanks to abound to the glory of God.\

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

Father in Heaven; thank You for having an absolute and unrestricted love for us all.

Thank You for loving us no matter what we have done or will do.

Thank You for loving us even when we forget to love ourselves.

I pray that You continue to shock and amaze the doctors by healing your sheep faster than their percentages had projected.

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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!

Thanks for giving!

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