

**ROMANS**  
**Lesson 22– September 8, 2013**

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

Good morning! Second Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 16 and 17 say...

/2TI 3:16-17

*All Scripture is inspired by God (theoneustos...God breathed) and (is) profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training (instruction) in righteousness;//so that the man of God may be adequate (mature), equipped (thoroughly furnished) for every good work.\*

We are always learning, but from whom?

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED? no verse...let the verse pop in on the next click>

Welcome to bible study for the refreshment of RENEWING. This is a place where you can learn from God...Colossians, Chapter 3, Verse 10 says...

/COL 3:10

*...put on the new self who is being renewed to a true knowledge according to the image of the One who created him...\*

God the Holy Spirit was given to renew your mind. Are you listening? Are you tuning out the ramblings of KCOS, the world system of thought? Are you tuning in the guidance of WGOD, as God the Holy Spirit broadcasts new thoughts for you to think during bible study which power the New Self Life? Once you hear the Word of God, are you living what you are learning?

We are strengthened with power from the SOURCE of God the Holy Spirit's glorious might as He leads us into all the truth. Welcome to a place where you can "in humility receive the Word of God implanted, which is able to save your souls."

**/MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

*Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*

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Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

You Don't Have to Beg\

As God prepares you believers in Christ for the RENEWING of your mind, let's listen to June Murphy worship our Lord in song...the opening song is YOU DON'T HAVE TO BEG.

**/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 renew our trust in people, and to discard old notions which teach us to reject having faith in human beings...

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 for the building up of God's Royal Family.

The Lord Jesus Christ is God. The Bible is His exact thinking and it the Bible is the absolute truth.

**/TODAY'S STUDY**

**If You Miss The Person, You Miss Everything\**

What makes Barah Ministries a place someone would want to come when there are so many churches to choose from?

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It was a great question from the “cat who swallowed the canary,” a man also known as Larry Collins. He always asks great questions, and it was the second time he had asked me this question. I knew the question would persist, if not from him, then within my own soul. So it was time for answers. By asking this question, he was asking me what Barah Ministries stands for.

In my business life, I have ready answers for the question, “What does Focus Selling stand for?” I know why Focus Selling, the customer development system I created, exists. I know what it is designed to do. I know what makes it different.

Barah Ministries’ first slogan is, “Pursuing Truth from the Word of God.” It is truly our aim, and it is certainly what which has been our focus for the first five years of our existence. We have been pursuing a single truth...we have asked ourselves, “Who is our God?” We created a way of learning about Him...the CREATOR CLOCK...tick tock...what time is it on the Creator Clock?

<CREATOR CLOCK SLIDE>

Our study of God led us to the center of the CREATOR CLOCK and to the center of God’s person...unconditional love. First John, Chapter 4, Verse 8 says...

/1JO 4:8

*The one who does not love (unconditionally) does not know God, for God is (unconditional) love.\*

In His very person, God IS unconditional love. Unconditional love is not just something that God does...it’s who He is in His very Person.

If you miss the Person, you miss everything.

This is true with God. It is more true with people. This idea lies at the core of what Barah Ministries stands for...the Person...the People. When this ministry forgets that, it has forgotten everything. When the Pastor of this ministry forgets that, he has forgotten everything.

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If you miss the Person, you miss everything.

Luckily I have Pastor Jenifer Brumbach and her High Priestess Van Brumbach to remind me of this. They are friends as well as congregation members, and they feel the comfort of rapping me upside the head sharply if one of my rants about a subject includes a bit too much harshness in the matter of the people involved. I appreciate their comfort with reproving me, and I count their willingness to do so as being a critical component of being my friend and of being great students of the Word of God.

All kidding aside, one thing that Barah Ministries stands for is the Person... the People. Why?

/Barah Ministries exist to create an environment where every member reflects the Person and the Work of the Lord Jesus Christ in their daily lives.\

What are the members of this ministry doing when they reflect the Person and the Work of the Lord Jesus Christ? They are welcoming...Matthew, Chapter 11, Verses 28 to 30 say...

/MAT 11:28

*“(The Lord Jesus Christ says...) Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.”\*

/MAT 11:29

*“Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and YOU WILL FIND REST FOR YOUR SOULS.”\*

/MAT 11:30

*“For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”\*

Everyone is welcome to worship with us. When we are welcoming as a ministry, we reflect God’s unconditional love. Sinners are welcome here. We are not looking for members with the sins we like. We are open to “whosoever,” just as our Lord is welcoming of “whosoever” ... and we invite everyone to come as they are...poorly dressed and broken.

I had an interesting experience recently. I met a lovely young lady. After a

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Brief series of interactions, for whatever reason, I do not know...perhaps she knows...she “came out” to me and let me know that her sexual preference is homosexuality. I don’t think I handled the revelation particularly well... although I don’t think I handled it poorly...she may think I handled it poorly...but I let her know that in my mind there is separation between a doer and a deed...there is a separation between a person and the things a person does. I don’t think our personal sins define who we are. If I lie a lot, it doesn’t make me a liar. It doesn’t connect to my person. It remains an action. The world turns our actions into an identity. To the world, if I lie a lot, I am a liar. A liar is a person...not an action...the lie.

So it is with people who prefer sexual experiences with members of the same sex. The world system of thought encourages them to do sexual experiences with members of the same sex, then turns on them and gives them an identity...gay, lesbian, homosexual, or worse, a host of hateful and slang terms.

To me, and to the members of this congregation, this young woman is a person. We don’t care what her personal sins are. In fact, we are more worried about our own personal sins, and we hope she is accepting of ours.

A few things occurred to me after being away from her from a few hours. First, it occurred to me that I would not introduce myself by my own personal sins. I have engaged in pre-marital sex, and it would not occur to me to introduce myself as a heterosexual, nor would it occur to me to introduce myself as a fornicator. As a heterosexual fornicator, I don’t have to come out of the closet. I have “acceptable sins.” For the first time in my life I am starting to see how unfair we are in the treatment of people who commit the sins we don’t like.

I genuinely don’t care what your sins are. You having the right sins is not a prerequisite for a friendship with me. It never has been. So I want it to be clear that one thing Barah Ministries stands for is the Person.

If you miss the Person, you miss everything.

The Lord Jesus Christ makes this clear throughout the New Testament. In Luke, Chapter 15, we notice the prodigal son...

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/LUK 15:13

*“And not many days later, the younger son (the prodigal) gathered everything together and went on a journey into a distant country, and there he squandered his estate with loose living.”\*

/LUK 15:17

*“But when he came to his senses, he said, ‘How many of my father’s hired men have more than enough bread, but I am dying here with hunger!’”\*

/LUK 15:18

*‘I will get up and go to my father, and will say to him, “Father, I have sinned against heaven, and in your sight...”’\*

/LUK 15:19

*“I am no longer worthy to be called your son; make me as one of your hired men.””\*

/LUK 15:20

*“So he (the prodigal son) got up and came to his father. But while he (the prodigal son) was still a long way off, his father saw him and felt compassion for him, and ran and embraced him and kissed him.\*

I wonder if the members of Barah Ministries reflect the thinking of the Lord, and the thinking of its Pastor, by welcoming all who come here. I don’t think human beings should have to introduce themselves by their sins to be acceptable. I’ve asked you many times, if I bring a woman here who is a prostitute, and introducer of my girlfriend, would you be accepting? Little did I know that in doing that I was asserting something with this ministry stands for...People...the Person.

If you miss the Person, you miss everything.

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

*Your Love is Extravagant  
When I Think About Home\*

Welcome back! If you miss the Person, you miss everything.

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Now the passage currently under study...Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 8 to 15...the Prayer for the Purpose of Paul's Ministry...

/Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 8 to 15  
Prayer for the Purpose of Paul's Ministry\

/ROM 1:8

*First, I thank my God (the Father in prayer) through Jesus Christ('s name) for you all (believers in Rome), because your faith is being proclaimed throughout the whole world (all over the Roman Empire).\*

/ROM 1:9

*For God (the Father), whom I (Paul) serve in my (human) spirit in the preaching of the gospel of His Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), is my witness as to how unceasingly I make mention of you (believers in Rome...in intercessory prayer)...\*

/ROM 1:10

*...always in my prayers making request (in petition for myself as well), if perhaps now at last by the will of God I may succeed in coming to (visit) you.\*

/ROM 1:11

*For I (Paul) long to see you (believers in Rome) so that I may impart some spiritual gift to you, that you may be established...\*

/ROM 1:12

*...that is, that I (Paul) may be encouraged together with you while among you, (as) each of us (is encouraged) by the other's faith, both yours (encouraging me) and mine (encouraging you).\*

/ROM 1:13

*I do not want you to be unaware, brethren (believers in Rome), that often I have planned to come to you (and have been prevented so far...even though I wanted to come) so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as (I obtain fruit) among the rest of the Gentiles.\*

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/ROM 1:14

*I (Paul) am under obligation both to Greeks (people who speak Greek) and to barbarians (people who don't speak Greek), both to the wise (believers in Christ) and to the foolish (unbelievers). \*

/ROM 1:15

*So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel (as a minister) to you also who are in Rome. \*

A new Church Pastor, Pastor Jeremiah Steepok transformed himself into a homeless person and went to the 10,000 member church at which he was to be introduced as the head Pastor that morning. He walked around his soon to be church for thirty minutes while it was filling with people for service, and only three people out of the seven to ten thousand people said hello to him. He asked people for change to buy food and no one in the church gave him change. He went into the sanctuary to sit down in the front of the church and was asked by the ushers if he would please sit in the back. He greeted people only to be greeted back with the stares and dirty looks of people looking down on him and judging him.

As he sat in the back of the church, he listened to the church announcements. When all that was done, the elders went up and were excited to introduce the new Pastor of the church to the congregation. “We would like to introduce to you Pastor Jeremiah Steepok.” The congregation looked around clapping with joy and anticipation. The homeless man sitting in the back stood up and started walking down the aisle. The clapping stopped with ALL eyes on him. He walked up the altar and took the microphone from the elders (who were in on this) and paused for a moment. Then he recited, “Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or when did you need clothes and we clothed you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you?’” The King will reply, “Truly I tell you,

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whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.”

After he recited this, he looked towards the congregation and told them all what he had experienced that morning. Many began to cry and many heads were bowed in shame. He then said, “Today I see a gathering of people, not a church of Jesus Christ. The world has enough people, but not enough disciples. When will YOU decide to become disciples?” He then dismissed service until next week.

I don’t think we should have to be shamed into living Christianity. If you miss the Person, you miss everything.

Our Lord made it pretty clear that people are important to Him.

/LUK 5:27

*After that He (the Lord Jesus Christ) went out and noticed a tax collector named Levi (Matthew) sitting in the tax booth, and He said to him, “Follow Me.”\*

/LUK 5:28

*And he (Matthew) left everything behind, and got up and began to follow Him (the Lord Jesus Christ).*

/LUK 5:29

*And Levi gave a big reception for Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) in his house; and there was a great crowd of tax collectors and other people who were reclining at the table with them.\*

/LUK 5:30

*The Pharisees and their scribes began grumbling at His disciples, saying, “Why do you eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners (prostitutes)?”*

/LUK 5:31

*And Jesus answered and said to them, “It is not those who are well who need a physician, but those who are sick.”\*

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Turn to John, Chapter 4...

/JOH 4:17-18

*The woman answered and said, “I have no husband.” Jesus said to her, “You have correctly said, ‘I have no husband;’ for you have had five husbands, and the one whom you now have is not your husband; this you have said truly.”\*

Turn to John, Chapter 8...

/JOH 8:7

*But when they persisted in asking Him, He straightened up, and said to them, “He who is without sin among you, let him be the first to throw a stone at her.”\*

/JOH 8:10

*Straightening up, Jesus said to her, “Woman, where are they? Did no one condemn you?”\*

One thing Barah Ministries stands for us people. And I dedicate this lesson to the lovely young lady I met recently who reminded me to stand up for what we believe...and for Larry Collins for asking the questions that are stimulating our move at Barah Ministries to becoming a body of Christ.

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**/CLOSING SONG**

You Own Me\

**CLOSING VERSES**

/PHI 1:6

*For I am confident of this very thing, that He (God the Father) who began a (divine) good work in (the creation of) you will (keep on) perfect(ing) it until the day of Christ Jesus.\*

/PSA 37:1-2

*Do not fret because of evildoers, Be not envious toward wrongdoers.//For they will wither quickly like the grass And fade like the green herb.\*

/PHI 4:7

*And the peace of God, which surpasses all comprehension, will guard (garrison) your hearts and your minds (for those of you) in (union with) Christ Jesus.\*

**/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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