

**ROMANS**  
**Lesson 31– September 29, 2013**

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

Good morning! Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20 says...

/GAL 2:20

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

Death is the beginning of everything.

Physical birth starts with a death. We are born physically alive but spiritually dead. The spiritual life starts with a death. We, as believers in Christ, are crucified with Christ. Yet in God’s plan, life always follows death. Another way to look at Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20 is this...

/GAL 2:20

“The ‘I life’ has been crucified with Christ

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

...but the “Christ life” lives with Christ Himself indwelling me...

...and the Zoe life which I now live in the flesh

...I live by faith in the Son of God, the Lord Jesus Christ

...who loved me unconditionally

...and who gave Himself up for me.”\

Bible study is a time for believers in Christ to be reminded again and again about the magnificent inheritance they have been given from the moment of salvation. This inheritance is called the Zoe Life...the resurrection life...the

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eternal life. We also need to be reminded that as believers in Christ we are the Lord Jesus Christ's adult sons...and that means we have a destiny that is not death...but life...and we live this life by faith...by placing our confidence in our Almighty Savior...knowing, with absolute confidence and absolute certainty that what He has planned for us He is able to do, even when we are not able, and no matter how hard we try to screw our lives up. Isn't it wonderful to live in the sphere of His grace, and to know that we are surrounded on all sides by His unconditional love and care for us?

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

Welcome to bible study, a place for refreshment and 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... \*

As believers in Christ we are to lay aside the influence of the dead old self, and to develop a lifestyle in the newness of the new self. God the Holy Spirit was given to us to renew our minds. 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*  
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Come See a Man\

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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 COME SEE A MAN.

**/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 live the life You intended for us...help us to put aside the gloom and doom that is promoted here in Satan's kingdom, planet earth...banish these thoughts from our souls...open our eyes to the truth in a way that only You can...put us on the path of righteousness...remind us that You have always, even from eternity past before You even created us, considered our problems to be Your responsibility...help us to see life from Your eyes...soothe our souls...relax our muscles...help us put aside our cares...open our ears to what Your Holy Spirit is saying to the churches all over the world today...restore our hope...

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...a Christian Church...a congregation of faith. 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. We have faith that the Lord Jesus Christ is God. We have faith that the Bible is His exact thinking and that the Bible is the absolute truth. We have faith in the life He planned for each of us as individuals.

**/TODAY'S STUDY**  
**In God's Plan, Life Follows Death\**

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Let's begin with the gospel message, the good news to unbelievers concerning Jesus Christ. One of the big changes you will see in Barah Ministries in the coming year is that we will fulfill our decision to evangelize to unbelievers and to expose them incessantly to the truth about how to get to heaven and how to have a relationship with the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**/THE GOSPEL MESSAGE**

**The Good News to Unbelievers Concerning Jesus Christ\**

I've got a question for you...

**/If today, you take your final breath on this earth, what will happen to you?\**

Are you simply dead and that's it, as many claim?

Is there no real way of knowing what will happen to you?

Is it, "Wait and see?"

Is it, "I hope so?"

For the mother of a friend, who was in her last days on earth in hospice care, a reflective lament said to her daughter was, "I wonder how much time I'm going to have to spend burning in purgatory to pay for my sins..." That's not the question you want to be asking yourself when you are on your deathbed. You want answers. You need answers. You deserve answers. God give us answers. Now!

Can you answer these questions?

**/DO YOU HAVE ANSWERS ? <reveal>**

Who are you?

Where did you come from?

What is your purpose on this earth?

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Where are you going after this life?

How will you get there?\

These questions demand answers from every human being, no matter how old...no matter how young...and if you are breathing, there is still time to get the answers.

We dedicate the opening moments of this bible study to anyone who is listening to this message who is unsure about the answers to these questions. The real question we want you able to answer at the end of this gospel message is...

**/How do I get to heaven?\**

You may not have answers to the questions we're asking, but the bible does! You may not know much about yourself, but the One who created you, the Lord Jesus Christ, knows you, and knows the answers to these questions concerning you. John, Chapter 1, Verse 3 says...

/JOH 1:3

*All things (including you) came into being through Him (God the Son), and apart from Him (God the Son) nothing came into being that has come into being.\*

God created you and He provides answers for your life. So let's get some answers for you from a biblical perspective on the questions we're asking you today. First...

**/Who are you?\**

From God's perspective, you are someone for whom God the Father constructed a predetermined plan in eternity past. Acts, Chapter 2, Verse 23 says...

/ACT 2:23

*...this Man (the Lord Jesus Christ), delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God (the Father)...\*

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And God's plan for you was constructed for you when you even when you didn't believe in God...and maybe you don't believe in Him right now...but Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8 says...

/ROM 5:8

*But God (the Father) demonstrates His own (unconditional) love toward us (all mankind), in that while we were yet sinners (while unbelievers), Christ died for us.* \

**/Where did you come from?\**

You come from your CREATOR, God the Son, who took on the form of true humanity...who became the visible member of a Triune Godhead...who became the Lord Jesus Christ. John, Chapter 1, Verse 14 says...

/JOH 1:14

*And the Word (God the Son...the Lord) became flesh (Jesus Christ), and dwelt (tabernacled) among us, and we saw (beheld) His glory, glory as of the only begotten (uniquely born One...the Lord Jesus Christ) from (God) the Father, full of grace and (full of) truth.* \

The Lord Jesus Christ, who created you, knows you personally...Matthew, Chapter 10, Verse 30 says...

/MAT 10:30

*"But the very hairs of your head are all numbered."* \

...and the Lord Jesus Christ has a personal plan for your life. His personal plan for you is waiting for you to claim it.

**/What is your purpose on this earth?\**

Among the facets of your personal purpose, you are to know what the CREATOR wants from you. It is highlighted in First Timothy, Chapter 2, Verses 3 and 4 which say...

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/1TI 2:3-4

*This is good and acceptable in the sight of God our Savior (the Lord Jesus Christ), who desires all men to be saved and (who desires all men) to come to the knowledge of the truth.*

Your CREATOR wants you know Him...and He wants you to go to heaven.

**/What is your purpose on this earth?**

There are three issues you must understand in the matter of your salvation. It's God the Holy Spirit's job to make you aware of the three issues. John, Chapter 16, Verse 8 says...

/JOH 16:8

*“And He (God the Holy Spirit), when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”*

The issue of SIN is this...you were born physically alive, but spiritually dead. First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22 says...

/1CO 15:22

*For as (a result of your position) in Adam all die (the second death)...*

You were born condemned to the Lake of Fire from physical birth, and God placed you in this position...it is not your fault, but it is your circumstance. John, Chapter 3, Verse 7 says...

/JOH 3:7

*“Do not be amazed that I (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”*

Your spiritual death demands a spiritual birth as your admission ticket to heaven. You must be born again. In God's plan, death is always followed but the chance for life. He gives you that chance! Even though you are born with a sin nature that manufactures personal sins, and as a result you are separated from God at birth...even though you're born on the wrong side of a barrier, and you are helpless to get across the barrier on your own...the Lord Jesus Christ's sacrifice at the Cross on your behalf provided the way

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across the barrier for you, free of charge. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 14 says...

/EPH 2:14

*For He Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) is our peace, who made both groups (Jews and Gentiles) into one (group) and broke down the barrier of the dividing wall... \*

**/What is your purpose on this earth?\**

Part of your purpose on this earth is to understand the need for absolute righteousness as your admission ticket to heaven. John, Chapter 16, Verse 8 says...

/JOH 16:8

*“And He (God the Holy Spirit), when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and (absolute) righteousness and judgment... ”\*

Absolute righteousness is yours free of charge at the moment you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ. Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31 says...

/ACT 16:31

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes). ”\*

The Lord Jesus Christ says there is only ONE WAY to get to heaven (which means God is not confused or confusing), in John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

/JOH 14:6

*(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to him (doubting Thomas), “I am the way (to salvation), and (I am) the truth (the Word of God), and (I am) the (Zoe) life; no one comes to the Father but through (believing in) Me. ”\*

The way to heaven is free of charge to you through believing in the Lord Jesus Christ. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 21 says...



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/2CO 5:21

*He (God the Father) made Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who knew no sin (nature) to be (a) sin (substitute) on our behalf, so that we might become (owners of) the (absolute) righteousness of God (by believing) in Him.\*

When you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you are given absolute righteousness as a free gift.

God gives you multiple opportunities during your lifetime to understand the issues of salvation...concerning how to be saved. He schedules divine appointments for you on a regular basis. This is one of them. Are you paying attention? John, Chapter 16, Verse 8 says...

/JOH 16:8

*“And He (God the Holy Spirit), when He comes, will convict the world concerning sin and righteousness and judgment...”\*

You will meet the Lord Jesus Christ one day face to face. Your life on earth will be evaluated...it's called judgment...a simple evaluation. The evaluation is this...if you refuse the Lord Jesus Christ's salvation offer, you will meet him at the Last Judgment. Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 11 says...

/REV 20:11

*Then I saw a great white throne and Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who sat upon it, from whose presence earth and heaven fled away, and no place was found for them (to live).\*

Revelation, Chapter 20, Verse 15...

/REV 20:15

*And if anyone's name was not found written in the book of life (at the Last Judgment), he was thrown into the lake of fire.\*

Matthew, Chapter 13, Verses 41 and 42 say...

/MAT 13:41-42

*“The Son of Man (the Lord Jesus Christ) will send forth His (elect) angels, and they will gather out of His kingdom all stumbling blocks (unbelievers)...*

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*//and will throw them into the furnace of fire; in that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.”\*

There is a literal place called the Lake of Fire, and it is a gracious creation of a gracious God who makes a place to live for all those who want nothing to do with Him. And yes...there are those who want nothing to do with God.

**/Where am I going?\**

When you close your eyes in this life, where are you going? Will you go to heaven? It's up to you. It's your choice. You have volition, the ability to choose. There are only two places to go...to heaven...or to the Lake of Fire...John, Chapter 3, Verse 36 says...

*/JOH 3:36*

*“He who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life; but he who does not obey the (command to believe in the) Son will not see (eternal) life (in heaven), but the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him.”\*

**/How will you get there (to heaven)?\**

A short conversation with God the Father gets you to heaven...

**/HOW DO I GET TO HEAVEN?**

A five-word conversation with God the Father

“Father, I believe in Christ.”\

Or if you are a little more verbal, like one of the thieves on the Cross who was crucified next to the Lord Jesus Christ at Calvary...it's a nine-word conversation...Luke, Chapter 23, Verse 42 says...

*/LUK 23:42*

*And he (the repentant thief) was saying, “Jesus, remember me when You come in Your kingdom!”\*

When you have that conversation with God the Father, it's the moment of eternal life for you.

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/LUK 23:43

*And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) said to him (the repentant thief), “Truly I say to you, today you shall be with Me in Paradise.”\*

**/If today, you take your final breath on this earth, what will happen to you?\**

If you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ you will be saved once and for all time. Once you have salvation you cannot lose it...John, Chapter 10, Verse 28 says...

/JOH 10:28

*...and I (the Lord Jesus Christ) give eternal life to them (believers in Christ), and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.\*

What’s your choice? It’s a matter of privacy between you and your God, and no one can make the decision for you. If I could make the decision for you, I’d insist that you to join me in heaven!

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

When I Think About Home\

Welcome back!

**/TODAY’S STUDY**

**In God’s Plan, Life Follows Death\**

Are you living an abundant life? John, Chapter 10, Verse 10 says...

/JOH 10:10

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy; I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that they may have (the Zoe) life, and have it (the Zoe Life) abundantly.”\*

Would the Lord Jesus Christ be proud of the life you’re living?

That question may sound like condemnation...but we know this...if you are

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a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no condemnation...Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1 says...

/ROM 8:1

*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are in (union with) Christ Jesus.\*

All believers in Christ are in union with Christ, so there is now no condemnation for us...so the question is a question for reflection, not condemnation...

/Would the Lord Jesus Christ be proud of the life you're living?\

Here's what I mean...in light of John, Chapter 10, Verse 10 in the "b" part...

/JOH 10:10b

*"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that they may have (the Zoe) life, and have it (the Zoe Life) abundantly."*\

...would the Lord think you're living a life of abundance, or would the Lord think you're settling? I don't think you'll have to think long before you answer this question. Most of us are settling.

Our young people who are in school are perfectly content with B's and C's, as if the Lord Jesus Christ went to the Cross to provide you with the mediocre life instead of the abundant life.

/JOH 10:10b

*"I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that they may have (the Zoe) life, and have it (the Zoe Life) abundantly."*\

In relationships, we settle for "I got mine...you get yours..." I see so much unhappiness in relationships and I have always wondered why people allow themselves to settle in relationships...and as one of the great relationship flops of all time I am certainly not pointing fingers...I have settled for relationships and for treatment that is less than stellar...

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/JOH 10:10b

*“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that they may have (the Zoe) life, and have it (the Zoe Life) abundantly.”\*

A lot of the relationships we allow ourselves to be in rob us of joy...they steal our hope...

/JOH 10:10a

*“The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy... \*

I have a friend who is contemplating divorce...and in listening to her struggle, one thing kept coming up...“This is the only man I’ve ever known...he’s a good man, but maybe there is something better for me out there...maybe this isn’t meant to be.” I don’t have enough details about her life and her relationship to make either accurate assessment or judgment, but I can hear clearly a couple of viewpoints that are Satan inspired...the fairy tale called “meant to be” and the thought that “the grass is always greener on the other side of the fence.” One thing I learned early in my career after switching jobs three times in five years...is that whenever I would get to the “other side of the fence,” the one constant is that I would show up and screwed up everything that looked so beautiful before I got there.

Are you taking care of your health? God certainly didn’t intend for you to be ill. Yet quite often we neglect our bodies...we have time for everything else, but not for great nutrition...not for exercise...not for massages...not for vacations...not for relaxation...would the Lord Jesus Christ think you are taking care of your body? You certainly have his permission to do so.

Would the Lord Jesus Christ think you are taking care of yourself spiritually?

/JOH 10:10b

*“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that they may have (the Zoe) life, and have it (the Zoe Life) abundantly.”\*

Do you have an abundant spiritual life? Are you feeding yourself with the Word of God daily to renovate your thinking so you can handle with grace the unfairness and the contradictions that you encounter in the world? God warns us in romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2...

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/ROM 12:2

*And do not be conformed to this world (Satan's world system of thought), but (keep on) be(ing) transformed by the renewing of your mind (the renovation of your thinking by the Word of God), so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.\*

Here's the truth...when we assess our lives we will see a lot of inadequacies...a lot of things we aren't happy with...a lot of little deaths...and this weekend I wanted to remind you that these deaths are the beginning of everything. But in God's plan, death is ALWAYS followed by life.

Our lives are filled with crises, most often caused by own human failures. And just at the time when we feel things are completely hopeless, our God steps in, and with His divine grace gives a reason to hope. If you are looking, you will see His steady guiding hand in your life.

Tony LoGrasso did such a magnificent job of highlighting this in his very moving talk yesterday about his bout with cancer. Was there a dry eye in the place as he was telling his story? I doubt it. I want to turn his story into a Barah Ministries publication. What I saw in his story was five things...

/TONY LOGRASSO'S STORY <reveals>

Circumstance

Unbelief

Tribulation

Faith

Deliverance\

...a story that took him from death to life. Tony's story gives us hope. But his story is not singular. God is working the same pattern in your life. Death is the beginning of everything. But in Gods plan, life always follows death. The Zoe Life...a life of abundance.

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For the most part, God is silent in this age...the Age of the Church. We have to be listening intently for His still small voice to come through to our senses. But God's actions are unmistakable. Yesterday I was amazed to hear what I wrote to Tony during his bout with cancer, mostly because I didn't remember what I had written...but I am certain that it was God's hand guiding mine in the writing so that Tony would be clear on his fate...clear that life was going to follow this momentary death.

I want you to be clear on the same things. I want you to have hope. I want the messages that emanate from this pulpit to turn your attention to Christ...our amazing and gracious Savior...I want your thoughts to be occupied with His promises...I want you to remember all the things that you are in union with Him...Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 15 to 17 say...

/ROM 8:15

*For you have not received a spirit of slavery leading to fear again, but you have received a spirit of adoption as sons by which we cry out, "Abba! (Our) Father!"*\

/ROM 8:16

*(God) The (Holy) Spirit Himself testifies with our (human) spirit that we are children of God... \*

/ROM 8:17

*...and if (I) children (of God as believers in Christ, and we are), (then we are) heirs also, heirs of God (the father) and fellow heirs with (the Lord Jesus) Christ, if (I) indeed we suffer with Him (and we do) so that we may also be glorified with Him. \*

We have hope. We have friends in high places.

Yet being a son of God...an eternal son...a son for all eternity as a believer in Christ...being a child of God...being an heir of God...is meaningless to us if we don't see God's hand in our lives. God knows this. So how does God let us know that we are sons of the living God? He lets us know we are His sons by continually giving us experiences of being raised from the dead.

The Lord Jesus Christ died. The Lord Jesus was resurrected from the dead. Death was the beginning of everything. In God's plan, life always follows

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death. So it is in the way God deals with us. Peter puts it well in First Peter, Chapter 1, beginning at Verse 3...

/1PE 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy (and not by our merit) has caused us (believers in Christ) to be born again (in spiritual birth) to a living hope (an absolute confidence) through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead... \*

/1PE 1:4

*...to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you... \*

/1PE 1:5

*...(you believers in Christ) who are protected by the (enabling) power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. \*

/1PE 1:6

*In this (sanctification...protection...hope) you (believers in Christ) greatly rejoice, even though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been distressed by various trials... \*

/1PE 1:7

*...so that the proof of your faith, being more precious than gold which is perishable, even though tested by fire, may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ... \*

/1PE 1:8

*...and though you have not seen Him (the Lord Jesus Christ), you love Him (unconditionally), and though you do not see Him now, but believe in Him (with the expression of your faith), you greatly rejoice with joy inexpressible and full of glory... \*

/1PE 1:9

*...obtaining as the outcome of your faith (in Christ) the salvation of your souls. \*

We know we are sons because no matter how we think we screw up our lives, our God comes through for us again and again and again. I encourage



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you, through this weekend to change your viewpoint of self. You are not self sufficient. I encourage you to have faith. I encourage you to remember that faith is active. I warn you that unbelief is passive and insidious. I remind you that faith is the antidote for unbelief. I encourage you to live the life you have always wanted to live. I encourage you to rearrange your life to accommodate Christ. I remind you that God wants you to have an abundant life.

/JOH 10:10b

*“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that they may have (the Zoe) life, and have it (the Zoe Life) abundantly.”\*

Your Lord lives...Job, Chapter 19, Verse 25 says...

/JOB 19:25

*“As for me, I know that my Redeemer lives, and at the last He will take His stand on the earth.”\*

...your Lord wants you to live as well. Death is the beginning of everything. But in God’s plan, life always follows death. So live!

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**/CLOSING SONG**

Calling You to Freedom\

**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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