

ROMANS
Lesson 33– October 6, 2013

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

Good morning! John, Chapter 8, Verses 42 to 47 say...

/JOH 8:42

(The Lord) Jesus (Christ) said to them (the unbelieving religious Jews), “If (2) God were your Father (and He is not), you would love Me, for I proceeded forth and have come from God (the Father), for I have not even come on My own initiative, but He (God the Father) sent Me.”

/JOH 8:43

“Why do you not understand what I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am saying? It is because you cannot hear My word.”

/JOH 8:44

“You are of your father the devil, and you want to do the desires of your father. He was a murderer from the beginning, and does not stand in the truth because there is no truth in him. Whenever he speaks a lie, he speaks from his own nature, for he is a liar and the father of lies.”

/JOH 8:45

“But because I (the Lord Jesus Christ) speak the truth, you do not believe Me.”

/JOH 8:46

“Which one of you convicts Me of sin? If (1) I speak truth (and I do), why do you not believe Me?”

/JOH 8:47

“He who is of God hears the words of God; for this reason you do not hear them, because you are not of God.”

Unbelief is a disease that robs us of hope. For the unbeliever, it robs him of salvation...for the believer in Christ it robs him of the Zoe Life, a life of abundance here on earth. How does a believer in Christ lose the power of

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the resurrection life? It easy...he hears the Word of God but he doesn't believe it.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

Welcome to bible study, a chance for you to RENEW your faith...a time to let God the Holy Spirit remind you about the Zoe Life...the resurrection life... Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

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

It's a chance to renew your confidence in your Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, and to listen to Him. Matthew, Chapter 17, Verse 5...

/MAT 17:5

While he (Peter) was still speaking, a bright cloud overshadowed them (those on the mountain where Jesus' transfiguration occurred), and behold, a voice (of God the Father) out of the cloud said, "This is My beloved Son, with whom I am well-pleased; listen to Him!"

Thank you for coming to listen to the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

Destiny\

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

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

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

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We believe...help our unbelief...help us to look at ourselves through Your eyes...help us to rid our thoughts of unbelief and to have total confidence in You...

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

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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. The Lord Jesus Christ is God. The Bible is His exact thinking...the absolute truth. Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 6 says...

/HEB 11:6

And without faith it is impossible to please Him, for he who comes to God must believe that He is (that He exists) and that He is a rewarder of those who seek Him.

Welcome to the place where you, as a seeker, can receive the Word of God implanted, which is able to deliver your souls.

**/TODAY'S STUDY
Romans Chapter 1- Faith or Unbelief is an Issue for the Innermost
Being**

Turn in your bibles to Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 8...Paul's letter to the Romans is the sixth book of the New Testament. Paul stands alone in writing this letter to us believers in Christ. We continue our look at the issue of faith, and of course its antithesis...unbelief...

/Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 8 to 15

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Paul's Prayer for the Purpose of his Ministry\

/ROM 1:8

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

/ROM 1:9

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

/ROM 1:10

...and I always, in my prayers, keep on making requests, even praying in petition for myself as well, if perhaps now at last by the will of God the Father 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 your faith encouraging me and mine encouraging you.

/ROM 1:13

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

/ROM 1:14

I, Paul, as a bond-servant am under obligation both to people who speak Greek and to the barbarians...the people who don't speak Greek...I am under obligation both to the wise, whom we know are believers in Christ, and to the foolish, whom we know are unbelievers.

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/ROM 1:15

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

We are studying faith and unbelief. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verse 8 says...

/EPH 2:8

For by grace you have been saved through faith; and that (faith is) not of yourselves, it is the gift of God...

Faith is mentioned in Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 5 and 8 and 12...so what is faith?

/FAITH

A mental power given to each person at physical birth as a gift from a gracious God, which through freedom of choice, allows you to place your absolute confidence in a person, a place, or a thing...an active power which, when placed in God, offers an uncompromising inner assurance that things not seen will occur, and that things which seem impossible, can be accomplished.\

As believers in Christ...

/2CO 5:7

*...we walk by faith, not by sight — *

...according to Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 7.

Faith is the antidote to unbelief...it counteracts the injurious and unwanted effects of unbelief. What is unbelief?

/UNBELIEF

An incapacitating, paralyzing and enslaving mental power offered to all mankind by the kingdom of darkness, and chosen by some as a lifestyle, designed to steal our salvation, to kill our faith, to destroy our hope, to turn our love cold, and to keep our lives in constant crises.\

How is unbelief ruining your life? Turn in your bibles to Hebrews, Chapter 3, Verse 12...

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/HEB 3:12

Take care, brethren (believers in Christ), that there not be in any one of you an evil, unbelieving heart that falls away from the living God.

This verse is directed to believers in Christ...and you need to know that this can happen to you. You can construct a lifestyle that is powered by an unbelieving heart. We are not talking about a temporary state here...we are not talking about a temporary condition of unbelief...we are talking about a lifestyle...we are talking about a practice. Is this a description of you?

/THE THOUGHTS OF AN UNBELIEVING HEART <reveals>

“I don’t get in relationships because I don’t want to get hurt.”

“I don’t trust anyone.”

“I doubt it.”

“I hope so...”\

Yes...believers in Christ can choose to victimize themselves with these thoughts, even when we believers have the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ, on our side. Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 31 asks...

/ROM 8:31

If (I) God is for us (and He is), who is against us?

Look at Hebrews, Chapter 3, Verse 13...instead of cultivating an evil and unbelieving heart, we might...

/HEB 3:13

...encourage one another day after day, as long as it is still called “Today,” so that none of you will be hardened by the deceitfulness of sin.

Encourage one another...that’s what people in a real church do. Do we? Sin is the production of unbelief. When we sin, we are engaging in unbelief by rejecting God’s solution to our problems.

Take a five-minute break.

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/BREAK

*Awesome is the Lord Most High
When I Think About Home*

Welcome back!

Many people are Christians, but they don't practice Christianity, because it requires the continuing expression of faith. Rather than bathing in the calm assurance of faith...described in Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 1...

/HEB 11:1

Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.

...there are many Christians who cower in unbelief. Faith is a way of viewing the universe...it is the lens through which we believers in Christ see every circumstance.

When you're in a relationship, faith or unbelief?

When you have a health issue, faith or unbelief?

When you have a dream, faith or unbelief?

In your career, faith or unbelief?

In school, faith or unbelief?

In your finances, faith or unbelief?

In your church, faith or unbelief?

Unbelief is powered by fear, uncertainty and doubt. Unbelief is fueled by fret and worry. Unbelief pushes the now into the future as if waiting is the answer to all of our problems.

Unbelief steals our individual ministries. Each of you have a spiritual gift. Are you using it, or are you ravaged by unbelief? Do you have the faith that if you begin a thing, the Lord will show you how to use your gift?

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As Christians, we should always be looking for the tough thing, knowing that our God will come through for us. Faith is called for ALL OVER THE NEW TESTAMENT. Look at Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verse 14...

/EPH 3:14-15

*For this reason I bow my knees before (God) the Father, //from whom every family in heaven (angelic) and on earth (human) derives its name... *

/EPH 3:16

*...that He (God the Father) would grant you (believers in Christ), according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with power through His (Holy) Spirit in the inner man, //so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith... *

Through the inner man, God is working everything out for our benefit. It is not our environment that dictates our fate. It is not our circumstances that dictate our fate. Our choices determine our destiny. Our choices come from the inner man. We have a choice...faith or unbelief. God would have it that we believe in Him, and that we have absolute confidence in Him for everything...FAITH. Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 32 says...

/ROM 8:32

*He (God the Father) who did not spare His own Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), but delivered Him over for us all, how will He (God the Father) not also with (our union with) Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) freely give us all things? *

Do you have faith? I do.

Look at this list of sports teams I root for...

/SPORTS TEAMS I ROOT FOR

Chicago White Sox

Chicago Blackhawks

Chicago Bulls

Chicago Bears \

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/SPORTS TEAMS I ROOT FOR

Phoenix Suns

Arizona Cardinals

Northwestern Wildcats

Southern Illinois Salukis\

In that list, you don't see any New York Yankees, or Montreal Canadians, or Kentucky Wildcats, or Alabama Crimson Tide...perennial dynastic powerhouses...no instead you see how God shapes His servants by giving us teams which break our hearts and our faith again and again.

God takes every opportunity to ask us a simple question...faith or unbelief. The obedience of faith unlocks for us the real riches of the Christian Way of Life.

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

During the month of October each year, it is good to remember the spark that ignited the Reformation 496 years ago. It was October 31, 1517, when Martin Luther nailed his ninety-five theses to the Castle Church door of Wittenberg.\

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

That church had over 1900 relics of dead saints on display. Catholics were granted indulgences for the remission of sins if they viewed the relics and made a confession. Luther became the center of a great controversy when his theses were copied and distributed throughout Europe. His initial protest exposed the pope's abominable practice of selling salvation from purgatory's fire for the price of indulgences.\

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
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Many evangelicals today have either forgotten the Reformation or believe it was a mistake to divide the church. Others are denying that his first thesis, affirmed by Scripture, is not necessary for salvation. Luther's first thesis was, "When our Lord and Master, Jesus Christ, said 'Repent,' He called for the entire life of believers to be one of repentance." \

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

Seven years earlier in 1510, Luther was sent to Rome. While there, he climbed Pilate's staircase on his knees, believing each step would take away one year in purgatory. Then God's Word gave him understanding of the Scripture, "The righteous shall live by faith." Eventually Luther's study of Scripture led him to oppose Roman Catholicism on issues pertaining to the supreme authority of Scripture and the Doctrine of Justification. \

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

Catholic bishops had perverted the way a sinner can be made right with God by denying it is by grace through faith in Jesus Christ alone. Luther rebuked them with the clear teaching from God's Word. Justification, which is God's declaration that believers are forgiven of sin and counted righteous in His sight, occurs at the moment God imputes the righteousness of Christ to the believer. \

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

2CO 5:21

*He (God the Father) made Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the (absolute) righteousness of God in (union with) Him. *

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

In August of 1518, Luther was pronounced a heretic without a defense. On the same day he was accused, judged and condemned by the so-called "Holy

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Father,” the only supreme, infallible authority in church or state! Indeed the true spirit of popery was on display. Not a trace of Christian principle, or even of common justice, was witnessed in the process. In October of that year, Luther’s trial began at Augsburg, and Cardinal Cajetan ordered Luther to recant his views on indulgences and papal infallibility. If he refused, he was to be excommunicated and share the same brutal fate as Jon Huss.\

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

Luther frustrated the Cardinal by answering all objections using Scripture as his authority. Needless to say, the large assembly of people had the opportunity to compare the two men, and to judge the spirit manifested in them. What a stark contrast! Luther was humble, firm and steadfast in the strength of God and with truth on his side. The Cardinal was self-important, overbearing, haughty, and unreasonable, without a single argument from Scripture.\

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

In March of 1521, the emperor called Luther to the Diet of Worms to plead his case. Knowing his life would be in danger, Luther responded, “I place the matter in the Lord’s hands. If He will not save me, my life is of little consequence. Let us only prevent the Gospel from being exposed to the scorn of the wicked, and let us shed our blood for it, for fear they should triumph. It is not for me to decide whether my life or my death will contribute most to the salvation of all. You may expect everything from me except flight and recantation.”\

/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

A month later at the Diet of Worms, Charles V asked Luther to recant his heretical doctrines. He responded, “I cannot submit my faith either to the Pope or to the Councils, because it is clear as day, they have frequently erred and contradicted each other. Unless therefore, I am convinced by the testimony of Scripture...I cannot and will not retract. Here I stand, I can do no other. So help me God, Amen.”

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/REMEMBER THE REFORMATION
by Mike Gendron

As we reflect on God's sovereignty in the many blessings we have gained from the Reformation, let us encourage one another to contend earnestly for the faith that was once delivered to the saints. It is the same faith that the Reformers gave their lives defending.\

Is your faith so strong you would give your life to defend it?

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/CLOSING SONG

When You Suffer\

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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