

ROMANS
Lesson 34– October 6, 2013

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

Good morning! Hebrews, Chapter 2, Verse 1 says...

/HEB 2:1

For this reason (because the Lord Jesus Christ is the central figure in the universe) we (believers in Christ) must pay much closer attention to what we have heard (about Him in His Word), so that we do not drift away from it (the Word of God).

Unbelief comes from a lack of attentiveness to God's Word. Unbelief comes from taking God's Word for granted...Hebrews, Chapter 5, Verse 11 says...

/HEB 5:11

Concerning Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) we have much to say, and it is hard to explain, since you (believers) have become dull of hearing.

It is easy, through spiritual sloth, to miss the significance of the Lord Jesus Christ...to miss the significance of the Word of God...to miss the value of the body of Christ to you...to miss the value you bring to the body of Christ...the church...to miss the significance of the spiritual life...the Zoe Life. Have you become dull of hearing? Have you lost your zest for Christ? Are you ignoring the significance of the body of Christ by burying your spiritual gift? If so, you may be paying attention to the wrong source...your SELF.

<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 (the new self)...

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God the Holy Spirit was given to you to renew your mind. Are you listening? Are you tuning out the ramblings of KCOS, the world system of thought? Are you tuning into the guidance of WGod, as God the Holy Spirit broadcasts new thoughts for you to think during bible study, thoughts which power the New Self Life? And 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. We are He intended RECIPIENTS of His teaching. 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

Father I'm Yours\

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 FATHER I'M YOURS.

/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 providing us with this chance to gather together and to share ourselves with each other...

Thanks for the chance to hear the teaching of Your Word in peace...

Thanks for encouraging us by moving us through suffering to triumph

Thanks for reminding us to have fun together...to edify each other...

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Thanks for helping us to gain new insights into Your plan for us...

Renew our spiritual curiosity...

Help us to take the offensive in our spiritual lives with faith...

Help us to recognize Your hand in everything that happens to us...

Heal those in the congregation who are experiencing health concerns...

Free us from the pain of our infirmities...

Provide for us in abundance...

Teach us to value a deep, intimate and personal relationship with You and Your Word...

Show us how to enjoy this Zoe Life, this resurrection life, this eternal life that You have given us believers from the moment of salvation...

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

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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 the members of the Lord's Royal Family. The Lord Jesus Christ is God. The Bible is His exact thinking...the absolute truth. Turn to Philippians, Chapter 1, Verses 21...

/PHI 1:21

For to me (Paul), to live is (occupation with the Person of the Lord Jesus) Christ and to die is gain (profitable as well).

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/PHI 1:22

*But if I am to live on in the flesh (in my physical body), this will mean fruitful labor for me (hard work that produces the fruit of the Spirit); and I do not know which to choose (physical death or continuing in this life). *

/PHI 1:23

*But I am hard-pressed from both directions, having the desire to depart and be with Christ, for that is very much better... *

/PHI 1:24

*...yet to remain on in the flesh is more necessary for your sake. *

All of us prefer the easy way out...for believers in Christ, physical death is the easy way out...we are absent from the body and at home face-to-face with the Lord. Yet being here in Satan's kingdom on planet earth is a challenge...it's the challenge of constant persecution and tribulation. Without fighting the good fight of faith at every opportunity, we become dull of hearing and we entertain the easy way out...we have thoughts like these in Philippians, Chapter 1, Verses 21 to 24. But our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is the Sovereign of the Universe, and the time, the manner and the place of your death is His decision alone, so we would do well to press on while we are still breathing, and to immerse ourselves in the Lord's Person and in His Work. Paul made the selfless choice...the choice of Verse 24...knowing that it is better for Philippians that he remain in the flesh, continuing to work on their behalf.

Have you become dull of hearing?

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

Would the Lord Jesus Christ be proud of the church we are building...this body of Christ that is assembling under the auspices of Barah Ministries?

These are questions no one can answer for us...theses are questions that demand daily answers from us...these are questions that must be responded to with action when the answers aren't answers our Lord would endorse... James, Chapter 2, Verses 18 and 20 say...

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/JAM 2:18

But someone may well say, “You have faith and I have works; show me your faith without the works, and I will show you my faith by my works.”

/JAM 2:20

But are you willing to recognize, you foolish fellow, that faith without works is useless?

/TODAY’S STUDY

Romans 1 – The Story Behind the First Fifteen Verses

Turn to Romans, Chapter 1...we are investigating a few ideas in the first fifteen verses of Romans, Chapter 1...our current subject is faith versus unbelief...and there are some straightforward lessons to learn from the first fifteen verses...but there also is a story lurking behind the verses...and I’d like us to notice the story that lingers in the background... Romans, Chapter 1, beginning at Verse 1...

/Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 1 to 7

Introduction

ROM 1:1

This letter is written by me, Paul, a bond-servant and voluntary slave of Christ Jesus, by calling an apostle, and set apart by God the Father for the dissemination of the gospel message of God the Father, as a minister...

/ROM 1:2

...and this is the gospel message that God the Father promised beforehand to the human race through His prophets in the holy Scriptures of the Old Testament...

/ROM 1:3

...a gospel message concerning God the Father’s Son, the Lord, who was born of a descendant of David according to the flesh as true humanity, whose name is Jesus Christ...

/ROM 1:4

...and Jesus Christ was declared the Son of God with enabling power by means of His resurrection from the dead, accomplished through the

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enabling power of the God who is the Spirit of holiness...God the Holy Spirit. Now we are talking about this Jesus Christ, our Lord, God the Son...

/ROM 1:5

...through whom I, Paul, have received from God the Father both grace and apostleship to bring about the obedience of faith among all the Gentiles for the sake of the Lord Jesus Christ's Person...

/ROM 1:6

...among whom you, as believers in Christ, also are the possession of Jesus Christ by calling...

/ROM 1:7

...and this letter is written to all of you who are the divinely loved ones of God the Father...you believers in Christ living in Rome, saints by calling, the set apart ones: Grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

/Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 8 to 15

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, all throughout the 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...

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/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.

/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.

Take a five-minute break and we'll look at the story behind this story.

/BREAK

*Better Than Life
When I Think About Home*

Welcome back!

If we were not attentive to the “still small voice” of our Lord that comes to us through His Word, we might easily overlook the tiny five letter word that resounds loudly in the first fifteen verses of Romans...a word appearing in Verses 5 and 8 and 12. The word is faith. Faith is a central issue in this life, especially for the Christian...Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 17...

/ROM 1:17

For in it (the gospel message) the righteousness of God is revealed from

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faith (in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation) to faith (in the Lord Jesus Christ for the Zoe Life); as it is written (in Old Testament Scripture), “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man (the believer in Christ) SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 7...

/2CO 5:7

*...for we (believers in Christ) walk (have a lifestyle guided) by faith, not by sight (empiricism)— *

Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20...

/GAL 2:20

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

Luke, Chapter 17, Verse 6...

/LUK 17:6

And the Lord said, “If you had faith like a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and be planted in the sea;’ and it would obey you.”

James, Chapter 1, Verses 5 to 8...

/JAM 1:5

But if (1) any of you lacks wisdom (and many of you do), let him ask of God, who gives to all generously and without reproach, and it (wisdom) will be given to him.

/JAM 1:6

But he must ask in faith without any doubting, for the one who doubts is like the surf of the sea, driven and tossed by the wind.

/JAM 1:7

*For that man (without faith) ought not to expect that he will receive anything from the Lord... *

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/JAM 1:8

...being a double-minded man, unstable in all his ways.

If we ARE attentive to the “still small voice” of our Lord that comes to us through His Word, three ideas rest in the background of these first fifteen verses of Romans, Chapter 1...a “so great” salvation, a person, and the Zoe Life. And all three of them offer you two options...faith or unbelief.

The salvation comes from a faith response at gospel hearing. John, Chapter 18, Verses 18 to 21 say...

/JOH 3:18

“He who believes in Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) is not judged (is not condemned); he who does not believe (in the Lord Jesus Christ) has been judged (evaluated) already, because he has not believed in the name (in the Person) of the only begotten (uniquely born) Son of God (the Lord Jesus Christ).”

/JOH 3:19

“This is the judgment (evaluation), that the Light (the Lord Jesus Christ) has come into the world, and men loved the darkness (of unbelief) rather than the Light (the Lord Jesus Christ...requiring faith), for their deeds were evil.”

/JOH 3:20

“For everyone who does evil (unbelievers) hates the Light (the Lord Jesus Christ), and does not come to the Light (the Lord Jesus Christ) for fear that his (evil) deeds will be exposed.”

Isn't that funny? Because the only deed that is at issue is the deed of unbelief.

/JOH 3:21

“But he who practices the truth (believers in Christ) comes to the Light (the Lord Jesus Christ), so that his deeds may be manifested (made clearly visible) as having been wrought in God.”

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God the Holy Spirit completely changes the lives of those who want to live the truth. What's your choice? Faith in Christ for salvation or unbelief? The person is the apostle Paul. We reviewed ten items on his resume. We left the study of his resume impressed with one thing...Paul is no better than us...and in many ways he is worse. If the Lord Jesus Christ can make something out of Mr. Nothing, Paul, He can certainly make something out of us. Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verse 8...

/EPH 3:8

*To me (Paul), the very least of all saints (believers in Christ), this grace was given... *

Paul's life, which moved from religious fervor to spiritual maturity, gives us hope that our faith in God frees Him to make something of us. What's your choice? Faith in Christ for the hope of becoming or unbelief?

The Zoe Life comes from a faith response in every decision.

/2PE 3:17

*You therefore, beloved (divinely loved believers in Christ), knowing this beforehand (that there are false teachers who distort Scripture), be on your guard so that you are not carried away by the error of unprincipled men and fall from your own steadfastness... *

/2PE 3:18

*...but (keep on) grow(ing) in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ (be occupied with Him). To Him be the glory, both now and to the day of eternity. Amen. *

The Zoe Life is our growing relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. It is not an end in itself...it is a means to help you develop a deep intimate and personal relationship with Christ. When we love Christ unconditionally... when we know that He loves us unconditionally...we will be free to love others unconditionally...First John, Chapter 4, Verses 10 and 11 say...

/1JO 4:10-11

In this is (unconditional) love, not that we loved God (unconditionally), but that He loved us (unconditionally) and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. //Beloved (divinely loved ones), if (1) God so loved us

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(unconditionally, and He did), we also ought to love one another (unconditionally).

What's your choice? Faith in Christ or unbelief?

There is a subtle message concerning unbelief and faith that lurks in the background of the first fifteen verses of Romans Chapter 1. First Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 13 says...

/1CO 13:13

But now faith, hope, love, abide (in the sphere of) these three; but the greatest of these is (unconditional) love.

Faith in the Lord for salvation...hope in yourself, no matter how depraved you are, because of your faith in Christ...unconditional love toward others...these are the subtle messages of the Zoe Life.

But how do you know if you are living a life of faith rather than a life of unbelief, which has to be a concern for us as Christians? Your soul will tell you. How? It will be at rest.

/MAT 11:28-30

“Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest.//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.//For My yoke is easy and My burden is light.”

When our faith rests firmly in Christ, for every matter, we rest. Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verses 1 and 2...

/HEB 4:1-2

Therefore, let us (believers in Christ) fear if (we are to fear anything), (that) while a promise remains of entering His rest, any one of you may seem to have come short of it.//For indeed we have had good news preached to us, just as they (unbelievers) also (had good news preached to them); but the word they heard did not profit them, because it was not united by faith (rather it encountered unbelief) in those who heard.

Faith separates believers from unbelievers in every way...faith in the Lord

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for salvation...faith in the Lord leading to the hope of contentment concerning our depraved selves...faith in the Lord's unconditional love which encourages us to love others unconditionally...FAITH. Unbelief kills hope. Hebrews, Chapter 3, Verses 18 and 19...

/HEB 3:18-19

And to whom did He (the Lord Jesus Christ) swear that they would not enter His rest, but to those who were disobedient?//So we see that they were not able to enter (His rest) because of unbelief.

Unbelief is a disease that ravages the soul and discourages the hopeful.

The subtle message of the first fifteen verses of Romans Chapter 1 is the subtle admonition to choose faith rather than unbelief for contentment of soul.

Are you at rest in your soul? If not, maybe it's time for a faith check-up.

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/CLOSING SONG

Nothing Can Separate You\

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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