

ROMANS
Lesson 42– October 27, 2013

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

Good Morning! Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church. My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor -Teacher...a spiritual gift given to me by God the Father for your blessing and for your benefit...a spiritual gift given to me to evangelize to unbelievers by preaching the gospel message of His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ...a spiritual gift for the building of a church filled with members of the body of Christ... a spiritual gift to provide believers in Christ with a place to express their spiritual gift and a place to construct a ministry in service to others throughout the whole world. May God's grace and peace be multiplied to you and to everyone who is important to you. The Lord Jesus Christ is the One we gather to worship...and He is God...John, Chapter 1, Verse 4 says...

/JOH 1:4

“In Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) was (the Zoe) life; and the (Zoe) life was the light of men.”

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

This and every bible lesson gives you a chance to RENEW your faith...a chance to come to the Light...its a time to let God the Holy Spirit lead you into all the truths of the Word of God for the purpose of pouring His enabling power into you. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 23 requests...

EPH 4:23

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

Thank you for coming to listen to the mind of the Lord Jesus Christ, the Word of God...through the power of the Spirit...thanks for tuning in to WGOD...and thanks for tuning out KCOS...the cosmic system of thought.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

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We Fall Down\

As God prepares your soul for RENEWING, let's worship our Lord in song.
The opening song is WE FALL DOWN.

/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 see with the eyes of our souls the different nature of the Zoe Life...

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

/TODAY'S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 – The Life of Faith Requires Dependence

We move on from our study of faith, a subject highlighted in the second passage in Romans, Chapter 1, Paul's prayer for the purpose of his ministry...

/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...throughout the entire Roman Empire.

Faith. 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,

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when placed in God, offers an uncompromising inner assurance that things not seen will occur, and that things which seem impossible, can be accomplished.\

Faith is the antidote for 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 crisis.\

I hope our study of faith and unbelief, and our application of it to Barah Ministries and to your spiritual gift, and to your ministry has shed some light on your faith in such a way that you will begin to live your faith rather than just possessing faith.

I hope our study has caused you to realize that the need for faith does not stop at the moment of salvation. I hope the study of faith has highlighted that you can indeed be a believer in Christ yet you can be living a lifestyle of unbelief because you don't REALLY have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ's Person and in His Word. In other words, you don't ever see yourself being the star in your own movie.

To live such an existence is a miserable existence. A believer in Christ who lives a lifestyle of unbelief has conceded that the lifestyle Satan has to offer us believers as the new spiritual species is better than the lifestyle that is offered by our Sovereign, the Lord Jesus Christ. In other words, we have been given a divine life at the moment of salvation, yet we remain convinced that a little better life than the one we had as unbelievers is just fine.

The life of faith requires dependence. I think that's what we are most uncomfortable with as human beings. Dependence. Because when you depend on someone or something, you can be hurt by it, at least if that someone or something exists within the human realm. If that someone is the Lord Jesus Christ, there is no way to be hurt by Him. If that something is a divine life, there is no way to be hurt by it. Yet when we adopt a lifestyle of unbelief as believers in Christ, we reduce the power of the divine life to the

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impotence of human life, and pervert and distort the gift our God has given us at Satan's suggestion.

What is this divine life I am talking about? It's called the Zoe Life. There can be little doubt that if you are part of this ministry, you have heard of the Zoe Life...the eternal life...the resurrection life. You have even heard teaching about it. Yet I doubt seriously that in spite of our teaching about it, the magnificence of this possession of yours has really hit you where you live. Why? Well because you are content living the old life as a lifestyle. Turn to Luke, Chapter 5, Verse 37...

/LUK 5:37

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the (wine)skins and it (the new wine) will be spilled out, and the (wine)skins will be ruined.”

/LUK 5:38

“But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.”

/LUK 5:39

“And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new (wine); for he says, ‘The old is good enough.’”

There is human nature at its finest. We've seen these verses a lot of times...we have heard them a lot of times...but I fear that we regularly fail to meditate on their precepts. It is human nature to be content with a little better version of something lousy, than it is for human nature to DESIRE something new and different. This is certainly the human approach to the divine life that our God has given us. These words we read in Luke, Chapter 5, Verses 37 to 39 are the Words of our Lord...not human words. They are divine words. Look at Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17...

/2CO 5:17

Therefore if (1) anyone is in (union with) Christ (and all believers in Christ are), he is a new creature (a completely new DIVINE spiritual species) ; the old (self) things passed away; behold, new (self) things have come.

We hear those words...the divine words of our Lord and Savior, directly from His mind, and written by Paul exactly as they are dictated to him by

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God the Holy Spirit. Yet be honest with yourselves for a minute...do you REALLY embrace this DIFFERENT life? I think not. I think we have been completely content to accept a bastardized, little better version of our old life than to embrace this new and different life. You see that is what Systematic Theology and Religion and Legalism are selling is not the life of faith in Christ and His Word. They are selling the “get better” life, a life focused on YOU building a better you. They are selling a humanistic life. They are selling a soulish life. And if someone says that to you, what is your response. It’s the same response people have in Chicago when you ask them how the weather is in Chicago. They say, “It’s not that bad.” Luke, Chapter 5, Verse 37...

/LUK 5:37

“And no one puts new wine into old wineskins; otherwise the new wine will burst the (wine)skins and it (the new wine) will be spilled out, and the (wine)skins will be ruined.”

/LUK 5:38

“But new wine must be put into fresh wineskins.”

/LUK 5:39

“And no one, after drinking old wine wishes for new (wine); for he says, ‘The old is good enough.’”

When you live in Chicago you are convinced that the weather is “not that bad” until you trade in 51 days of sunshine for 305 days of sunshine. Then you become absolutely convinced that 51 days of sunshine a year is pathetic. We need to be similarly convinced. We need to be convinced that the soulish life that Systematic Theology and Religion and Legalism are selling is a pathetic life. First Corinthians, Chapter 2, Verse 14 says...

/1CO 2:14

But a natural man (also called the “soulish” man) does not accept the things of the (Holy) Spirit of God, for they are foolishness to him; and he cannot understand them, because they are spiritually appraised.

As believers in Christ, we can choose to be similarly “soulish” by rejecting the divine life our Lord died on a Cross to provide us. Let’s look at a diagram I have taught to you concerning you as the New Spiritual Species.

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<NEW SPIRITUAL SPECIES DIAGRAM>

Can you see the fallacy of this diagram? Does this diagram truly capture the divine life? I think not. It highlights a conflict. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 17...

/GAL 5:17

*For the flesh sets its desire against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; for these are in opposition to one another... *

In this way it is accurate. But it is not accurate in function. The Spirit and the flesh are indeed in opposition...but this diagram fails to capture what the Holy Spirit is really doing because this is a diagram of the soulish life. It is not a diagram of what is happening in the divine life. It is an attempt to explain the New Spiritual Species from human viewpoint rather than from divine viewpoint. Look at Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verse 22...

/EPH 4:22

*...that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit... *

/EPH 4:23

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

/EPH 4:24

*...and (that YOU) put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. *

Does this diagram, illustrate those verses?

<NEW SPIRITUAL SPECIES DIAGRAM>

I contend that it does not. Take a five-minute break and I'll tell you why.

/BREAK

*Come, Now is the Time To Worship
When I Think About Home *

Welcome back!

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Does this diagram, illustrate Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 22 to 24?

<NEW SPIRITUAL SPECIES DIAGRAM>

<NO SLIDES FOR THE FOLLOWING VERSES>

EPH 4:22

*...that, in reference to your former manner of life, you lay aside the old self, which is being corrupted in accordance with the lusts of deceit... *

EPH 4:23

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

EPH 4:24

*...and (that YOU) put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and holiness of the truth. *

Does this diagram illustrate a putting on of the new self? I think not. I think this diagram indicates that the soul has much more power than the new self. I think that is false. And this diagram illustrates what legalism teaches...that the soul and the self is much more powerful than it really is in the believer in Christ. If, as believers in Christ, we are depending on our souls, we are in BIG trouble. We depend on the Spirit! We depend on Christ!

The life of faith requires dependence. On the Spirit! On the Son! On Christ! On the Father! Our soulish, do it yourself life...our 'a little better' life of unbelief does not cut it. It's dead.

As we close out our look at faith, perhaps it is wise to look at the divine life we requested at the moment of salvation...the Zoe Life...the eternal life...this resurrection life the Lord planned for us in eternity past and placed inside of us at the moment of salvation. We believers in Christ have God's life in us. And the Zoe Life is a life of faith, not unbelief.

Suppose someone approaches you and asks...what do you know about Christ? Suppose someone approaches you and asks...what do you know about the Zoe Life?

What would you say?

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In the matter of Christ, I'd refer them to the gospel of John. If they wanted me to talk about Christ, I'd ask them how much time they have. If they want me to talk about the Zoe Life, I'd take them to these verses...John, Chapter 1, Verse 4...

/JOH 1:4

“In Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) was (the Zoe) life; and the (Zoe) life was the light of men.”

The Zoe Life is not a life of darkness as is the life of unbelief. Light is different than darkness. Light is not an improved version of darkness. When light appears, darkness is gone. Our darkness, the old self life, was crucified at the Cross and it is now gone. John, Chapter 10, Verse 10...

/JOH 10:10

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

The Zoe Life is a life of abundance. A life of abundance can never be confused with a life of scarcity. Abundance is not an improvement on scarcity. It is totally different than scarcity. John, Chapter 20, Verses 30 and 31...

/JOH 20:30-31

“Many other signs therefore did Jesus (perform) in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book; but these (written here) are written, that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of God; and that (by) believing (in Him) you may have (the Zoe) life in His name...”

We are born again when we believe in Christ...we move from spiritual death to spiritual life. Spiritual life...the Zoe Life...can never be confused with spiritual death. They are completely different. At salvation, we go from having a soulish life to having a spirit life...

/ROM 8:16

*The Spirit Himself testifies with our spirit that we are children of God...\
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There is a big difference between being a child of God and being a son of perdition...

/JOH 17:12

“While I (the Lord Jesus Christ) was with them (the apostles), I was keeping them in Your name which You have given Me; and I guarded them and not one of them perished but the son of perdition, so that the Scripture would be fulfilled.”

First John, Chapter 5, Verses 12...

/1JO 5:12

He who has (union with) the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has the (Zoe) life; he who does not have (union with) the Son of God does not have the (Zoe) life.

Unbelievers do not have the same life that believers have. A better version of the spiritually dead life is not the Zoe Life. The Zoe Life is a supernatural life powered by God the Holy Spirit. It is not a soulish life. There is no way the Zoe Life could ever be powered by the soulish notion that we must cleanse ourselves from our sins by confession of our sins to God. Believers in Christ have a different life than they had when they were unbelievers. They have a different nature than they had when they were unbelievers.

Second Peter, Chapter 1, verse 4 says...

/2PE 1:4

For by these (His glory and His goodness) He (the Lord Jesus Christ) has granted to us (believers in Christ) His precious and magnificent promises (guarantees), so that by them you may become partakers of the divine nature (endowment), having escaped the corruption that is in the world by lust.

The Zoe Life is a life perfected by suffering...Hebrews, Chapter 2, verse 9 and 10...

/HEB 2:9

But we do see Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) who was made for a little while lower than the angels, namely, Jesus, because of the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, so that by the grace of God (the Father) He (the Lord Jesus Christ) might taste death for everyone.

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/HEB 2:10

For it was fitting for Him (God the Father), for whom are all things, and through whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect the author of their salvation (the Lord Jesus Christ) through sufferings.

The Zoe Life is a life perfected by suffering...and in that way it is VASTLY different from the counterfeit life that Satan offers...who promises no suffering but who offers devastation, discouragement, and disappointment.

The life of faith requires dependence.

<NEW SPIRITUAL SPECIES DIAGRAM>

Here's how I see this chart now...

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/CLOSING SONG

Because He Lives\

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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