

ROMANS
Lesson 54– December 1, 2013

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

Good Morning! Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church.

Grace to you and peace from God our Father, and from the Lord Jesus Christ. I thank my God in all my remembrances of you, always offering prayer with joy in my every prayer for all of you, in gratitude for your participation with me in the dissemination of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ. And I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus. For it is only right for me to feel this way about all of you, because I have you in my heart, and I enjoy it that you all are partakers of God's grace with me.

My name is Rory Clark. My spiritual gift is Pastor-Teacher...a spiritual gift given to me by God for your blessing and for your benefit.

The spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher affords me the privilege of telling unbelievers the good news concerning the salvation work of God the Father's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, at the Cross...John, Chapter 3, Verse 36 says...

/JOH 3:36

"He who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has eternal life (the Zoe Life); but he who does not obey the (command to believe in the) Son will not see (the Zoe) life, but the wrath of God abides on him."\

The spiritual gift of Pastor-Teacher affords me the privilege of providing believers in the Lord Jesus Christ with accurate teaching of the Word of God, so they might use the truth as a guide for to handling every circumstance of life. Second Peter, Chapter 1, Verses 20 and 21 say...

/2PE 1:20-21

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own (private) interpretation, //for no prophecy was ever made by an act of human will, but men moved (carried along) by the (influence of God the)

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Holy Spirit spoke (directly) from (the exact thinking of THE) God (the Lord Jesus Christ).

As believers in Christ we call to mind the importance of Christ, and our relationship with Him... He is the Messiah...He is the Lord...He is the One whom we gather here today to worship...He is the One and Only Sovereign God...He is the central figure in divine history...in John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

/JOH 14:6

Jesus said to him (Thomas), “I am the way, and (I am) the truth, and (I am) the (Zoe) life; no one comes to the Father but through (believing in) Me.

<WHERE IS YOUR SOUL TUNED?>

This and every bible lesson gives you a chance to tune into the thoughts of the Lord Jesus Christ on WGOD, the truth channel...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...and thanks for choosing to tune out Satan’s channel of influence...KCOS...the lies channel...the thought process of God’s enemy, which is designed to deceive you and to lead you astray and to take away your joy.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

Our God Is Greater\

As God prepares your soul for RENEWING, let’s begin by worshipping our Lord in song. The opening song is OUR GOD IS GREATER.

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/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Water You turned into wine
Open the eyes of the blind
There's no one like You
None like You\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Into the darkness You shining
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no one like You
None like You\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome and power
Our God, Our God\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Into the darkness you shine
Out of the ashes we rise
There's no One like You
None like You\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
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Our God, Our God\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other

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Our God is Healer, awesome and power
Our God, Our God\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
And if Our God is for us, then who could ever stop us
And if our God is with us, then what can stand against?
What can stand against?\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome and power
Our God, Our God\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome and power
Our God, Our God\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

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Then what can stand against?\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Our God is greater, our God is stronger

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God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome and power
Our God, Our God\

/OUR GOD IS GREATER

Our God is greater, our God is stronger
God You are higher than any other
Our God is Healer, awesome and power
Our God, Our God\

/OPENING PRAYER

*Let us pray... *

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

Thanks for giving us prayer as a weapon to use because we need You to solve our problems...thanks for agreeing to always solve our problems... thanks for considering our problems to be Your responsibility...thanks for helping us to learn to depend on You and to wallow happily in Your graces and in Your power...thanks for Your lovingkindnesses which are new every morning...thanks for Your faithfulness...thanks for giving us direct access to You through prayer, which gives us direct access to Your divine power when human strength isn't enough...and it's hardly ever enough...

Help us to incorporate prayer into our lives as a habit, as our first thought, so that we make it a regular practice to talk to You about everything with the full confidence that You will always hear us, You will always intercede for us, and You will always bless us with the exact blessings that are best at the moment for our edification...

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

/TODAY'S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 –Prayer is an Indicator of Privilege and Relationship

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Romans, Chapter 8, Verses 31 and 32 say...

/ROM 8:31

What then shall we say (face-to face) to these things (all the blessings of Romans 8:26-30)? If (1) God is for us (and He is), who is against us?

/ROM 8:32

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

As believers in Christ we are creatures of tremendous privilege. Our privilege comes from our relationship with God. Our God is the SOURCE of all things...and we are the intended RECIPIENTS. He spoils us with the wealth of His glorious riches, and we stand in awe of Him as we attempt to grasp all that He has done for us in the past...all that He is doing for us now...and all that He is about to do for us in the near future. As RECIPIENTS of His love, we learn to love as He does...we have the desire to be a SOURCE of blessing for others...to spoil others as we are spoiled. Magic happens when we love as our God does...unconditionally...His love turns our thoughts to giving as He gives. We imitate the SOURCE-RECIPIENT relationship that we experience with our God for the benefit of others. This is the time of year when our thoughts turn to giving to others as we imitate God's giving.

We are not only spoiled, but we are lucky, because access to our God is as close as our thoughts, and He stands at the ready, twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, on a moment-by-moment basis, to do EVERYTHING for us. All we have to do is call...Matthew, Chapter 21, Verse 22 says...

/MAT 21:22

“And all things you ask in prayer, BELIEVING, you will receive.”

Second Peter, Chapter 1, Verse 3 says...

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/2PE 1:3

His divine power has granted to us (believers in Christ) everything pertaining to (the Zoe) life and godliness (the functioning of the Christian Way of Life), through the true knowledge of Him (as a Person we're in relationship with) who called us by His own glory and excellence.

As I reflect on the things we have learned in our study of prayer...privilege is the word that comes to mind. Prayer is a privilege. We are privileged to have access to prayer and we are privileged to be able to use prayer as if it were a weapon. And as I reflect, I have an attitude of gratitude about the relationship I have with God and for the many blessings He has given to me, including prayer. And I thank our God for the privileges He has given to all of us, and for the chance we have to call these privileges to mind every time we meditate on His Word. I pray that as we reflect over and over again on the things he is telling us through His Word, that your privileges becomes more and more apparent to you and more and more awe inspiring for you...because it certainly is awe inspiring to me. For that awareness to happen, however, we must change the lens with which we look at God and His Word. When we are looking through the lens of religion and legalism, as many of us have for years, the privileges that God has given us become distorted and debased. When we see the privileges God has given us through His eyes, we see a totally different story...the true story...the story of relationship...the story of privilege. For example...turn in your bibles to Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 16...

/GAL 5:16

But I (Paul) say, (keep on) walk(ing) by (means of) the (influence of the Person of the indwelling God the Holy) Spirit, and you will (absolutely) not (NEVER) carry out the desire of the flesh.

As believers in Christ, we may be tempted by our dead Old Self, but we never have to follow its lead. When we do follow the lead of the dead Old Self it is called sin. Yet we can make a different choice. We can depend on the indwelling Spirit and its magnificent influence, instead of depending on the Old Self and its false promises for happiness, or instead of depending on ourselves for happiness. This fundamental truth is one that we believers in Christ need to keep at the forefront of our minds...we are to depend on the indwelling Holy Spirit...we do not depend on ourselves. Remember Satan's egregious error? Isaiah, Chapter 14, Verse 14...

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/ISA 14:14

I (Satan) will make myself like the Most High.

Satan didn't come close. Back to Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 17...

/GAL 5:17

*For the flesh sets its desire (in rebellion) against the (influence of the) Spirit, and the Spirit (sets His desire) against the (influence of the dead) flesh; for these are in opposition to one another... *

When we look at this conflict through God's eyes...the battle of the flesh and its battle with the Spirit...we can easily see that a believer in Christ is not "in the flesh," which is the state of an unbeliever...we can do the deeds of the flesh...but we are not "in the flesh" ... we are not "in Adam" ... both terms for the unbelievers. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 19 says...

/GAL 5:19

*Now the deeds of the flesh are evident... *

And after that verse a list of the deeds of the flesh a believer can do...First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22 says...

/1CO 15:22

*For as in Adam all die (spiritually)... *

Yet we believers in Christ are not "in the flesh" and we are not "in Adam" ... unbelievers are ... we are children of privilege and we are the adopted sons of the Sovereign of the Universe...when we choose to indulge in the "deeds of the flesh," which is called sin, it does not change our privileges one bit. If you think it does, then you'll completely overlook your privileges. You believers in Christ are swans, you are not ducks. But you can and think you're a duck. Yet a swan will never be a duck...a swan can't be mistaken for a duck...yet a swan can think like a duck and act like a duck...yet it's still a swan.

We believers in Christ are "in the Spirit." We are indwelled by the Spirit...we are in fellowship with the Spirit...and we can never get out of fellowship with the Spirit. We believers are "in Christ." We are in

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permanent union with the Lord Jesus Christ and we can never get out of our permanent relationship with Christ. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 18 says...

/GAL 5:18

But if (I) you (believers in Christ) are led by the (indwelling) Spirit (and you are), you are not under the (influence of the Mosaic) Law.

The Mosaic Law directs your attention to your sins and your sinfulness, and that is not what the new spiritual species is designed to focus on. We are not in the Age of Israel...we are not at that time before the Cross when sins were the focus in God's plan...we are the privileged children of a gracious God and we are "in the Spirit" ... we are not "in the flesh" ... we are not "in Adam."

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

Whom Shall I Fear
Chris Tomlin

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

The difference between a creature of privilege who is "in the Spirit" and a creature of condemnation who is "in the flesh" is like the difference between night and day. Turn in your bibles to Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1...

/ROM 8:1

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

Those who are "in the flesh" can't say that...they are condemned already.

/ROM 8:2

For the law of (the indwelling God) the (Holy) Spirit (and the law) of (the Zoe) life in (union with) Christ Jesus has set you free from the law of (the) sin (nature) and (the law) of (spiritual) death.

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We believers in Christ are free from the flesh. We are not “in the flesh” as unbelievers are. Our flesh is dead...it was crucified at the Cross. Galatians, Chapter 2, Verses 20 and 21 say...

/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 (who) gave Himself up (as a substitute) for me.”

/GAL 2:21

“I do not nullify the grace of God, for if (just for the sake of argument we say) righteousness comes through (obedience to) the (Mosaic) Law (even though it doesn't), then Christ died needlessly.”

Believers in Christ are under God's grace. We are not under His wrath. When we think erroneously that we have to do something to clean ourselves up...when we focus on our sins...when we think we have to confess our sins to be forgiven...we are NULLIFYING the grace of God and attacking the character and nature of our God, who says that our forgiveness has been accomplished in the past and stands accomplished forever. Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 13 and 14 say...

/COL 1:13-14

*For He (God the Father) rescued us (believers in Christ) from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (the Lord Jesus Christ),//in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. (a complete pardon...a remission) *

And the self-righteousness lie, that somehow we can clean ourselves up, taints our whole viewpoint concerning our status as privileged children with a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Look at Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 4...

/ROM 8:4

...(believers in Christ)...do not walk (have a lifestyle) according to the (influence of the) flesh but (believers have a lifestyle) according to the (influence of the indwelling God the Holy) Spirit.

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/ROM 8:5

For those who are according to the (influence of the) flesh (unbelievers) set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who are according to the (influence of the indwelling God the Holy) Spirit, (set their minds on) the things of the Spirit.

/ROM 8:6

For the mind (that is) set on the flesh (the mind of unbelievers) is (set on) death (the dead things), but the mind set on (the indwelling God) the (Holy) Spirit is (set on the Zoe) life and (and is set on) peace...

A mind set on peace knows that God has nothing against His believers.

/ROM 8:7

...because the mind set on the flesh (unbelievers) is hostile toward God; for it does not subject itself to the law of God, for it is not even able to do so...

It should be clear to you that the description of someone “in the flesh” is not a description of a believer in Christ...we as believers in Christ, we are **ABSOLUTELY** able to subject ourselves to the law of God...

/ROM 8:8

...and those who are in the flesh (unbelievers) cannot please God.

/ROM 8:9

However, you (believers in Christ) are not in the flesh but (you believers in Christ are) in the Spirit, if (1) indeed the Spirit of God dwells in you (and it does). But if anyone does not have the (indwelling God the Holy) Spirit of Christ (unbelievers), he (that person) does not belong to Him (Christ...is not a believer).

/ROM 8:10

If (1) Christ is in(dwelling) you (and He is if you are a believer in Christ), though the body is dead because of (the indwelling) sin (nature which was crucified at the Cross), yet the (human) spirit is alive because of (possessing absolute) righteousness.

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God's imputed righteousness make us born again... makes us spiritually alive...

/ROM 8:11

But if (1) the Spirit of Him (God the Holy Spirit) who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you (and it does), He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give (the Zoe) life (the resurrection life) to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.

We believers in Christ have the Zoe life now...not at a future time. Eternal life for believers in Christ is a present reality.

/ROM 8:12

So then, brethren, we are under obligation, not to the flesh, to live according to the (influence of the) flesh ("in the flesh") —

Believers in Christ are to resist every attempt of the sin nature to influence the soul...a believer in Christ cannot be controlled by the sin nature.

/ROM 8:13

...for if you are living according to the flesh, you must die (the second death...the Lake of Fire); but if (1) (you are living) by the (influence of the indwelling) Spirit (which you do,) you are putting to death the deeds of the body, you will live (by means of the power of the Spirit).

/ROM 8:14

For all who are being led by the Spirit of God (believers in Christ), these are sons of God.

Being a son of God is the privilege of relationship.

/ROM 8:15

For you (believers in Christ) 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! Father!"

When we listen to the Old Self we are afraid...God has given Christians the privilege of adoption as sons...not fear...and we must cry out upon realization, "Thanks Dad!" "Abba...Father!"

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/ROM 8:16

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

/ROM 8:17

*...and if (we are) children (of God, and we are), (we are) heirs also, heirs of God (the Father) and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him. *

When we realize the wonder of our privilege and our relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, it gives our prayers a powerful significance.

/CLOSING SONG

Forgiveness
Matthew West \

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

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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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