

ROMANS
Lesson 58– December 15, 2013

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

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a Christian Church...my name is Pastor
Rory Clark.

/MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

Shout to the Lord\

As God prepares your soul to receive His Word, let's turn from the cares of
life to the Lord's living refreshment by worshipping Him in song. The
opening song is SHOUT TO THE LORD.

/SHOUT TO THE LORD

My Jesus, my Savior
Lord, there is none like You
All of my days, I want to praise
The wonders of Your mighty love\

/SHOUT TO THE LORD

My comfort, my shelter
Tower of refuge and strength
Let every breath, all that I am
Never cease to worship You\

/SHOUT TO THE LORD

Shout to the Lord, all the earth, let us sing
Power and majesty, praise to the King
Mountains bow down and the seas will roar
At the sound of Your name\

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/SHOUT TO THE LORD

I sing for joy at the work of Your hands
Forever I'll love You, forever I'll stand
Nothing compares to the promise I have in You\

/SHOUT TO THE LORD

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/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 reflect on all you have done for us and to us this year...help us to rejoice and be glad in it...

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

/TODAY'S STUDY

The Realizations of This Year of Our Lord 2013

How was your year?

Other than our Christmas celebration next week...this is the last lesson of the year here at Barah Ministries. Since this lesson is on the same day as a Lord's Supper celebration, it might be a good idea for us to take a brief look back at our year, since we look back on Lord's Supper celebration days.

How was your year?

This has probably been the best year of my life, mostly because when I wake up every morning, I am happy. Most of all, I am happy in the knowledge that I am a bond-servant of the Savior of the Universe, the Sovereign of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ...I am His property. He created me. He has a plan for me. He loves me unconditionally, He cares for me, and He considers my problems to be His responsibility. I am grateful to be in twenty-four hour a day, seven day a week service to Him. This year I realized that this service never takes on the form that we fantasize about in our minds. Often we think that on day, our occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ is going to be a time when we are giving the outward appearance of this occupation...perhaps toting a bible around with us...perhaps every minute letting "Praise Jesus" float from our lips...perhaps walking old ladies

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across the street...perhaps evangelizing to thousands and passing out copies of “And You Will Be Saved.”

Instead, occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ takes on a quite different form...you're on vacation, and a person calls you and asks you to talk to a friend who needs comforting. You do it, and even though you are on vacation, there is nothing else you would rather do. You drop everything and turn your attention to a person in need because that is what your Lord Jesus Christ did when you were in need and came calling for His “so great” salvation. Your occupation with the Lord Jesus Christ takes on the form of being happy that you were able to help, and even more happy that the person who requested your help saw something in you that gave them the confidence that you might help. These are the things that make me happy, and this year was filled with such happiness.

How was your year?

I learned to take comfort this year in the fact that one day the Lord Jesus Christ will be my only love, my only focus, and my only concern. I look forward to the day when only thoughts of Him occupy my day. Yet I don't expect that time to be only my time in eternity. I even look forward with eager anticipation to the time here on earth when that is my reality. The Lord is perfecting me that way, as He is perfecting you, believers in Christ, and I know you join me in looking forward to that lifestyle.

I remind you of God's grace and peace, and invite you to recognize the beauty of being in the sphere of His grace and peace...and that wish is for all of you who consider Barah Ministries a place to come for refreshment...both those who call Phoenix, Arizona home...those who are live and in person today hearing this message...and to those of our brethren who are scattered throughout the world...those whom we call our “Soon to be Resident” congregation because we long for the day when they will come to their senses, come out of the cold, and live here with us so that we can enjoy live fellowship on a regular basis.

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. I have you

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in my heart, and I enjoy it that you all are partakers of God's grace and peace with me.

How was your year?

As I reflect on the Year of our Lord 2013, a year that was one of God's many gifts to all of us, several words come to mind. <reveals>

/FORTITUDE

FOUNDATION

FORGIVEN

FREEDOM\

/FAITH

FRUIT

FELLOWSHIP\

/FORTITUDE\

This is the year Barah Ministries decided to grow up. First Thessalonians, Chapter 1, Verses 8 and 9 say this, as our brother, the apostle Paul, praises the believers in Thessalonica...

/1TH 1:8

For the word of the Lord has sounded forth from you, not only in Macedonia and Achaia, but also in every place your faith toward God has gone forth, so that we have no need to say anything.

/1TH 1:9

For they themselves report about us what kind of a reception we had with you, and how you turned to God from idols to serve a living and true God...

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Barah Ministries grew up by casting off the idols of our past, teachers who were doing what the Lord despised and castigated in Matthew, Chapter 15, Verses 6 to 9, men who...

/MAT 15:6

...invalidated the Word of God for the sake of...tradition.

The Lord said this to them...

/MAT 15:7-9

“You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you: ‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.//BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’”

We decided that this would not be a description of this ministry, and it was a pleasure for me to summon the fortitude to stand with you and to say that we have had enough of the precepts of men. The remnants of this perversion are still part of your souls, and I apologize for my part in promoting this nonsense for so many years. It took **FORTITUDE** to stand up to the human deities that exist in your souls.

How was your year?

Another word that comes to mind as I reflect on the year is FOUNDATION. This is the year in which I recognize the true meaning of these thoughts from the Word of God...First Corinthians, Chapter 3, beginning at Verse 1...

/1CO 3:1

And I, brethren, could not speak to you as (I would speak) to spiritual men, but (I must speak to you) as (if I am talking) to men of flesh (unbelievers...those influenced totally by the world), (I must speak to you) as (if I am talking) to infants in Christ (because I am talking to infants in Christ).

/1CO 3:2

(Because you are infants in Christ...new believers) I gave you milk to drink, not solid food; for you were not yet able to receive it (solid food). Indeed, even now you are not yet able (to receive solid food)...

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/1CO 3:3

...for you are still fleshly (thinking like men of flesh...doing the deeds of the flesh). For since there is jealousy and strife among you, are you not fleshly (thinking like men of flesh), and are you not walking like mere men (are you not living a lifestyle similar to the lifestyle of unbelievers which is completely influence by the world)?

Then Paul gives examples...

/1CO 3:4

For when one (of you) says, “I am of Paul,” and another, “I am of Apollos,” are you not (thinking like) mere men (unbelievers)?

Unbelievers focus on humans, and not on the Lord Jesus Christ.

/1CO 3:5

What then is Apollos? And what (then) is Paul? (They are merely) Servants through whom you believed, even as the Lord gave opportunity to each one (to evangelize to you).

Paul is saying that a focus on men is the opposite of a focus on Christ.

/1CO 3:6

I (Paul) planted (the seeds of the gospel message), Apollos watered (the seeds in you), but God was causing the growth (to occur).

/1CO 3:7

So then neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything, but God who causes the growth (is everything).

/1CO 3:8

Now he who plants and he who waters are one 9as members of the body of Christ); but each will receive his own reward according to his own labor.

/1CO 3:9

For we (believers in Christ) are (all) God’s fellow workers; you are God’s field, God’s building.

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/1CO 3:10

According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation (on top of the divine foundation), and another (the Lord Jesus Christ) is building on it (by causing the growth). But each man must be careful how he builds on it (the divine foundation).

/1CO 3:11

For no man can lay a foundation other than the one which is laid, which is (the Lord) Jesus Christ.

This year laid to rest, once and for all time two very important things in my soul...the **FOUNDATION** of my life is the lord Jesus Christ. I don't just know it now. I live it. I don't just know Him. I live Him. And this Christ is a Person, He is the Messiah, He is the Savior of the Universe, and He loves me unconditionally, and He gave Himself up as a substitute for me.

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

All the Words

When I Think About Home

Welcome back! How was your year?

Another word that comes to mind as I reflect on the year is **FORGIVEN**.

Hebrews, Chapter 9, Verse 22 says...

/HEB 9:22

And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.

I realized this year that my sins were forgiven once and for all time at the Cross. My sins are no longer my concern. Once they were cared for at the Cross by the Lord Jesus Christ, who gave Himself up as a substitute for me, a past event whose results carry on forever, I am at peace. God never changes. When He takes care of something it is cared for forever. So I realized this year that the teaching which told me that I have to confess my sins to be forgiven, either to a priest, or to elders, or to the Lord Jesus Christ

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Himself, is heresy. It is a vile attack on the character and nature of the Lord Jesus Christ and a despicable attack on His Word. First John, Chapter 2, Verses 1 and 2 confirm that we are forgiven in the past by God, and are forgiven for all time...

/1JO 2:1

*My little children (believers in Christ), I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if (1) anyone sins (and we believers do after salvation), we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous... *

/1JO 2:2

*...and He Himself is the propitiation (the ONLY perfectly satisfactory payment) for our sins; and not for ours only (as believers in Christ), but also for those (sins) of the whole world (unbelievers as well). *

Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 13 and 14 confirm that we are forgiven...

/COL 1:13-14

*For He (God the Father) rescued us from the domain of darkness (condemnation at physical birth), and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), //in (union with) whom we (believers in Christ) have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. *

I am **FORGIVEN**...and this knowledge give me the peace to live my life as unto the Lord. My sins are no longer my concern...they are God's concern...because God considers my sins to be His responsibility. And I am not stupid enough to think that means I should make sinning my lifestyle. Instead, I choose to realize deep in my soul how much I am loved, and I choose to respond to that love with obedience to the Word of God.

How was your year?

For me, this was a year of **FREEDOM**. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 1 says...

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/GAL 5:1

It was for freedom that (the Lord Jesus) Christ set us free; therefore keep standing firm (in the freedom) and do not be subject again to a yoke of slavery.

Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 15 says...

/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... ”

We are adult sons of the living God...

The **FREEDOM** is a freedom from the perversion which is promoted by false teachers, men who are too puffed up with their own self importance to submit themselves to the true God and to the truth of His mind...Galatians, Chapter 1, Verses 6 to 12 ask you to reflect...

/GAL 1:6

*I (Paul) am amazed that you (believers in the Galatian region) are so quickly deserting Him (God the Father) who called you by the grace of (the Lord Jesus) Christ, for a different gospel (message)... *

/GAL 1:7

...which is really not another (valid gospel); only there are some (teachers) who are disturbing you and want to distort the gospel of Christ.

Paul is saying anyone who adds anything to the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ is a false teacher.

/GAL 1:8

But even if we (Meaning Paul), or (even if) an angel from heaven, should preach to you a gospel contrary to what we have preached to you (faith alone in Christ alone for salvation), he is to be accursed!

/GAL 1:9

As we have said before, so I (Paul) say again now, if (I) any man is preaching to you a gospel contrary to what you received (from God, and many are), he is to be accursed!

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/GAL 1:10

For am I (Paul) now seeking the favor of men, or of God? Or am I striving to please men? If I were still trying to please men, I would not be a bond-servant of Christ.

/GAL 1:11

For I would have you know, brethren, that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to man.

/GAL 1:12

For I neither received it from man, nor was I taught it, but I received it through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

I am free from the lies of false teachers. My foundation is Christ...I am forgiven once and for all time, and I am free to live my life as unto the Lord.

How was your year?

As for me, I am clear in whom to invest the gift of **FAITH**. 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.

This year, I learned the power of God's unconditional love. As I opened my eyes to how He has directed His unconditional love toward me, I have found it easier to direct unconditional love toward others. I no longer wonder why people are choosing the paths they choose...I realize that each of us has a unique journey, and none of us have the right to tell anyone what that journey ought to be, what lands it should travel through, how long the stops should be in each land, how fast the pace, or when to come to the realizations of Christ. For those of you who have breathed a sigh of relief, I must tell you it doesn't mean you shouldn't listen to guidance from people. Some of you are on courses that are not the best you can do. Yet if you are a child of God, He has you firmly in His grip, right where He wants you, and He will get you where He wants you to go.

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This **FAITH** in Christ gives me hope, and an ease when passing on unconditional love to others. Thanks Lord, for loving me the way you do.

How was your year?

For me it was a year of **FORTITUDE**, living in **FREEDOM**, knowing I am **FORGIVEN**, resting comfortably on my **FOUNDATION**...Christ...firm in my **FAITH**...First Peter, Chapter 5, Verses 9 and 10...

/1PE 5:9

But resist him (Satan), (and stand) firm in your faith, knowing that the same experiences of suffering are being accomplished by your brethren who are in the world.

/1PE 5:10

After you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who called you to His eternal glory in Christ, will Himself perfect, confirm, strengthen and establish you.

How was your year?

I am looking forward to next year, a year filled with **FRUIT** and **FELLOWSHIP**. Because as we learned this year, if you miss the person, you miss everything. I'm looking forward to seeing how the seeds of greatness that were sewn by this year's tribulation will grow into a harvest to benefit others.

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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 SONG

Faith, Hope, and Love\

/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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