

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

**/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

Holy is 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 HOLY IS THE LORD.

/HOLY IS THE LORD

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength
We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is He
And together we sing\

/HOLY IS THE LORD

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory\

/HOLY IS THE LORD

We stand and lift up our hands
For the joy of the Lord is our strength

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

We bow down and worship Him now
How great, how awesome is He
And together we sing
Everyone sing\

/HOLY IS THE LORD

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory\

/HOLY IS THE LORD

Yes...it's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
It's rising up all around
It's the anthem of the Lord's renown
And together we sing,
And everyone sing\

/HOLY IS THE LORD

Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
Holy is the Lord God Almighty
The earth is filled with His glory
The earth is filled with His glory\

/HOLY IS THE LORD

The earth is filled with His Glory
Holy holy is the Lord Almighty,
Holy holy...
Holy holy is the Lord Almighty,
Holy holy...
Holy holy is the Lord Almighty,
Holy holy...\

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

/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 another day...another year to worship You...thank You for Your lovingkindnesses which are new every morning...thank You for placing us believers in Christ, Your divinely loved ones, in the sphere of Your protection and Your grace...

We ask You to help us to see our past with perspective...we ask You to help us enjoy with contentment our present...we ask You to guide us as we move to a certain future of hope and confidence with You firmly at the helm of our souls...

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

/TODAY'S STUDY

It's Simple: The Lord Jesus Christ Can't be Limited

Welcome to our first lesson of the New Year, both to all the resident members of Barah Ministries and to all the soon to be resident members of Barah Ministries who are scattered throughout the world. I hope you are enjoying God's grace and peace which He has been extending to you from eternity past to this very moment. You have been in my thoughts since the last time I taught you, at our Christmas celebration, and the sum total of my thoughts about you are contained in a question...

/Are you limited in your thinking?

If in any area of your life, your thinking is limited, I want you to know that those limited thoughts are not from the Lord. It's simple...the Lord Jesus Christ is not limited in His thinking, and He can't be limited. He is eternal...He is infinite...and the life He placed in us believers at the moment of salvation...the eternal life...the Zoe Life is a life that is unlimited and infinite, too! You are in union with Christ as a believer in Christ, thus you

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

have everything He has. Are you limited in your thinking? If in any area of your life, your thinking is limited, I want you to know that those limited thoughts are not from the Lord. Turn in your bibles to Galatians, Chapter 1, Verse 11.

/GAL 1:11

For I (Paul) would have you know, brethren (believers in Christ in the Galatian region), that the gospel which was preached by me is not according to (the source of) man.

The gospel message...the good news concerning what the Lord Jesus Christ did for all of His creatures at the Cross is not limited...in fact, what the Lord offers all creatures at the Cross is called unlimited atonement...the Lord's "so great" salvation offer is extended to all of His creatures.

/GAL 1:12

For I neither received it (the gospel) from man, nor was I taught it (the gospel...by man), but I received it (the gospel) through a revelation of Jesus Christ.

We received the good news of the gospel message of the Lord Jesus Christ by supernatural means. Things that are supernatural, like the gospel message, defy explanation because they are from a God who is not bound by limits.

As believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, our thinking must be an exact reflection of the Lord's thinking...and if our thinking is limited, we are not reflecting the Lord's thinking. In my reading on your behalf over the past few weeks I ran into a few passages that I thought you might want to see. The first is a man that I am a fan of...T. Austin-Sparks, a man who was originally ordained a Baptist preacher, yet who resigned his ordination to start a Christian Center...here are some of his reflections...

/T. AUSTIN-SPARKS

Reflections from...

The Risen Lord and the Things Which Cannot Be Shaken

I wonder what Paul would think... were he to come back today and look over the literature of the past many centuries about his letters. I wonder, "What

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

would Paul think about the systems of truth, about the doctrines, that wonderful organizations men have made of the things which he said in a moment of inspiration and need?" I wonder what he would say. I think he would look at these things with blank amazement, and say, "Well, how could they ever have made that out of what I said?! How could that ever have resulted?!"\

/T. AUSTIN-SPARKS

Reflections from...

The Risen Lord and the Things Which Cannot Be Shaken

I am not sure that he would recognize his own teaching. I am quite sure that he would be very doubtful as to whether it was the right interpretation of what he said. I simply raise that as a question, and yet include it as something upon which to reflect. Does not a systematizing of truth result in limitation? Does not a systematizing of truth into a setness, breathe death? The New Testament themes are far, far too big for our systematic molds. You cannot systematize the Cross of the Lord Jesus, you can only go on your knees and worship, conscious that you see something in the Cross that is really far beyond our power to comprehend.\

/T. AUSTIN-SPARKS

Reflections from...

The Risen Lord and the Things Which Cannot Be Shaken

But immediately when you have boxed in a system of truth, you have reduced it from its divine and eternal dimensions, and robbed it of its power, and brought it into a realm of death. The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ, the resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ – or any one of the great themes of the New Testament – when you have so wonderfully brought together all the fragments and organized them, and put them into a manual, or a textbook, you have killed them.\

/T. AUSTIN-SPARKS

Reflections from...

The Risen Lord and the Things Which Cannot Be Shaken

When the Lord Jesus Christ came, and in Himself gave some interpretation to the Mosaic Law, when He shed some light upon the Law, which did not

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

fall within the compass of a Pharisaical system, there was no room for Him! There was no room for God in His own law. Well there must be room left for God!\

There was so little room in the Pharisaical system that they put our Savior to death on a Cross!

In this very short reflection, T. Austin-Sparks has highlighted the dilemma of Barah Ministries and its Pastor, as a teacher...and indeed he has highlighted the dilemma in your very own soul. We all wish to systematize God...to fit Him into our “way too small” mold for Him so that He is convenient for us, rather than us being expanded by Him and His thoughts for us. Are you limited in your thinking? If so, your thinking is not a reflection of the risen Christ.

As we begin my seventh year as an ordained Pastor, these are the reflections of my heart on your behalf. Five is the number of grace. The first five years of our study here at Barah Ministries we focused our attention on Christ. What a graceful gift it was from our God to pull our attention to Him for all of those years...to help us get to know Him for who He really is. God is love. He loves us unconditionally. There is nothing we can do to make Him love us more. There is nothing we can do to make Him love us less. His love for us never changes. His love for us is not limited by any boundary, especially not one of human creation.

Many of us have believed the lie that God’s point of contact with His creatures is His justice. If that were so, at the fall of the first creatures, at the time of the first sin, the whole game would have been over. In His justice, it was God’s right to execute a complete destruction of His creatures. He did not. Jeremiah, Chapter 4, beginning at Verse 23 says...

/JER 4:23

I (Jeremiah) looked on the earth, and behold, it was (had become) formless and void (after the first sin of a creature); and (I looked) to the heavens, and they had no light.

/JER 4:24

I looked on the mountains, and behold, they were quaking, and all the hills moved to and fro.

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

/JER 4:25

I looked, and behold, there was no man, and all the birds of the heavens had fled.

/JER 4:26

I looked, and behold, the fruitful land was a wilderness, and all its cities were pulled down before the Lord, before His fierce anger.

/JER 4:27

For thus says the Lord, “The whole land shall be a desolation, yet I will not execute a complete destruction (even though it is my right to do so).”

Our God is in complete control of His creatures and His kingdom. Yet his point of contact with us is His love. In love, He did not execute a complete destruction. In grace, He gave us another chance.

Six is the number of man. In the sixth year of my Pastoral life, Barah Ministries had to deal with the lies of men. What I hope the last year taught us is that religion and legalism and systematic theology are limited...they are not effective substitutes to help us know God...they are distortions which, in fact, limit our view of God and limit our thinking...look at Matthew, Chapter 15, Verses 7 to 9...the Lord Jesus Christ took the Pharisees to task for obsessing about a tradition of men while they were violating the direct command of God in another matter...

/MAT 15:7

“You hypocrites, rightly did Isaiah prophesy of you...”

/MAT 15:8

‘THIS PEOPLE HONORS ME WITH THEIR LIPS, BUT THEIR HEART IS FAR AWAY FROM ME.’

/MAT 15:9

‘BUT IN VAIN DO THEY WORSHIP ME, TEACHING AS DOCTRINES THE PRECEPTS OF MEN.’”

It’s easy to accept systems that attempt to limit our inimitable God. If you find yourself being guilty of being limited in your thinking about God, then let this be the Happy New Year that you run away from the cotton candy

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

approach to Christianity and begin to enjoy the luscious steak of our God's unadulterated Word. Let this be the Happy New Year when you voluntarily come to the simplicity and purity of the Word of God with your full concentration. Let this be the Happy New Year when you really learn Christ. When you really learn His Word. When you really live His Word. Let this be the Happy New Year when you accept a very simple truth...grace and self-righteousness are mutually exclusive.

<POSTER SLIDE>

You cannot accept God's grace for your life until you let go of your own righteousness. Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 21 says...

/GAL 2:21

"I do not nullify the grace of God, for if righteousness comes through (observing) the (Mosaic) Law (and of course it doesn't), then Christ died needlessly."

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

Indescribable

When I Think About Home

Welcome back.

/Are you limited in your thinking?\

If in any area of your life, your thinking is limited, I want you to know that those limited thoughts are not from the Lord. It's simple...the Lord Jesus Christ is not limited in His thinking, and He can't be limited. He is eternal...He is infinite...and the life He placed in us believers at the moment of salvation...the eternal life...the Zoe Life is a life that is unlimited and infinite, too! You are in union with Christ as a believer in Christ, thus you have everything He has. Are you limited in your thinking? If in any area of your life, your thinking is limited, I want you to know that those limited thoughts are not from the Lord.

John Nelson Darby...a nineteenth century bible teacher has these thoughts

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

about limited thinking...

/John Nelson Darby

All philosophy is perfect delusion; intellect has nothing to do with God at all. Faith is never in the intellect. And what's more, the intellect never knows a truth. Truth is not the object of intellect; truth is the object of testimony. This is where the difference lies.\

/John Nelson Darby

You tell me something and I believe you, but the thing that receives truth (on a testimony) is not the intellect. Real intelligence of God is in the conscience. The mind is incapable of forming an idea of God, and that is where the philosophers have all gone wrong.\

I agree.

It's funny how philosophers claim to be seekers of the truth. The truth is they seek they truth that is consistent with what they think. They do not seek the truth through placing their complete faith in the SOURCE of truth, the Lord Jesus Christ...they place their faith in their intellect. They place their faith in argument. They hope to know God through philosophy and argument, but God cannot be known this way.

Pastors find themselves in the unenviable position of trying to break through all of the barriers that you, as congregation members, put in the way of receiving simple messages from God. Paul put it this way...in Second Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 3...

/2CO 11:3

But I (Paul) am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

I would word it this way...it makes me want to throw up in my mouth a little bit every time I think about how many blockades you have purchased and erected as defenses, to prevent the penetration of the simple messages from the Lord Jesus Christ which He designed in eternity past for your edification, and which He communicates through me every week. Bible study is so simple. Ephesians, Chapter 4, Verses 22 to 24 put it this way...

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

/EPH 4:22

*...that, in reference to your former manner of life (as an unbeliever), you lay aside the (sovereignty of 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 pick up and) put on the new self, which in the likeness of God has been created in righteousness and (in the) holiness of the truth. *

Our Lord Jesus Christ uses the New Testament to express this simple sentiment in so many different ways, hoping to catch us in a weak moment with our defenses down. Stop doing the things the world encourages. Get some new thoughts based on truth. Start living the truths.

<WGOD vs. KCOS SLIDE WITH EPH 4:23 IN THE CENTER>

As last year started, a very difficult year for those of us who were the willing victims of religion and legalism and systematic theology for so many years, I asked you to take a simple inventory. I asked you to go into the closet of your soul, and to throw out all the purchases you have made and hung like coat hangers in your soul, which do not ring true when compared to biblical truth. I did not become a hero by asking you to take this inventory. I became the subject of ridicule on many fronts, both from within the circle of Barah Ministries and from without. Not a surprise. Hurtful. But not a surprise. And so be it. It is the task of a Pastor.

The Lord Jesus Christ suffers the same ridicule when He makes the effort to put simple truths into our souls...truths He asks us to evaluate on testimony...which means He wants us to make our evaluation of what He says on the evidence of experience.

Our God surely wishes, as would any good parent, that we would believe Him on faith alone. Yet He knows that we will test His assertions with experience. I have found all He says to be true...through experience...some things through faith alone...but most through experience.

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

I think the most profound thing I have taught so far, as I enter my seventh year as an ordained Pastor, is also one of the simplest things...

/The Lord Jesus Christ is the SOURCE of all knowledge

We are the intended RECIPIENTS.\

Our Lord simply wants us to receive what He has to give us on faith alone. We, of course, are much too complicated and much too sophisticated to do such a simple thing.

Things that are not from the source of God are always easy to spot...they always emphasize human merit and they always necessitate human works.

God is much more simple than that. For salvation, for instance...Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

/ACT 16:31

“Believe in the Lord Jesus, and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes).”

We allow the lies of Satan’s kingdom to penetrate our souls so much that they become the default standards in our lives. We firmly believe that there is no life without a reaction to an electronic device every time it bleats at us. And let me say that I think electronic devices have a tremendous and powerful place in our lives when we control them. Yet we do not. If someone on television says, “I am addicted to my electronic device. I can’t live without it.” We take that stupidity from a powerful executive as permission to give over control of our souls to semiconductors. What get’s lost in the transition?

/2CO 11:3b

...the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.

When this is lost, a Pastor thinks his only option is to become a panderer...

/Pander

Someone who furnishes clients for a prostitute\

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

When a Pastor begins pandering, he starts to entertain his congregation instead of teaching them truths. And of course for a while, congregation members willingly enjoy the entertainment. After all, looking at your life and answering the question, “Are you limited in your thinking?” is not quite as fun as watching acrobats perform as they encode some catchy slogan about Christ. But cotton candy bible studies can never take the place of the filet mignon of the unadulterated Word of God. Look at First John, Chapter 3, Verse 7...

/1JO 3:7

*Little children (believers in Christ), make sure no one deceives you; the one who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He (the Lord Jesus Christ) is righteous... *

/1JO 3:8

*...the one who practices sin is of the devil; for the devil has sinned from the beginning. *

Romans, Chapter 4, Verse 5...

/ROM 4:5

*But to the one who does not work, but believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is credited as righteousness... *

/ROM 4:6

*...just as David also speaks of the blessing on the man to whom God credits righteousness apart from works. *

The ones who ignore evidence command no attention from those who are sane, yet God gives attention to them anyway. And God demands that we give them attention as well. Yet a fool, which is the best a fool can be called, will never see the evidence of their error in their approach to God or to His Word. Of this I am clear and my life and my attentions are a living testimony to this truth...for I have given attention to fools and they have not considered the attention worthwhile...they simply trample the attention underfoot. Yet I give anyway, as my God requests. And even though such a pursuit wearies my soul...I press on in His name. I implore and exhort without rest, even though in my soul I know the outcome for fools...for they are black holes incapable of being satisfied.

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

If this is a description of your life, and only you and God are the evaluators, the New Year is always a time to start fresh and to turn over your life to the living and true God...to follow the lead of His Word without regard for your comfort. For no one must be more interested in your life than you.

Here is a wisdom from a former Roman Catholic who is now an evangelist to Roman Catholics...Mike Gendron...

/Mike Gendron
The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

The apostle John, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, revealed the glorious promise of the gospel with these words...

1JO 5:13
These things I have written to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, so that you may KNOW that you have eternal life.

/Mike Gendron
The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

First John, Chapter 5, Verse 13 parallels John's purpose for writing his gospel...John, Chapter 20, verses 30 and 31...

JOH 20:30-31
Therefore many other signs Jesus also performed in the presence of the disciples, which are not written in this book (the bible),//but these (written here) have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah), the Son of God; and that (by) believing you may have (the Zoe) life (eternal life) in His name.

/Mike Gendron
The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

John wrote his gospel so that people would believe and be saved. He wrote his first epistle so that those who believe would KNOW they are saved. Ignoring these certain and sure promises of God, over half of professing Christians believe they can lose their salvation. They believe eternal life is really conditional life and it is based on what they continue to do instead of

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

what Christ has done.\

/Mike Gendron

The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

They say they believe in Jesus, but they do not believe what He promises. Jesus said...in John, Chapter 5, Verse 24...

JOH 5:24

“Truly, truly, I say to you, he who hears My word, and believes Him who sent Me, has eternal life, and does not come into judgment, but has passed out of (spiritual) death into (spiritual) life.”

/Mike Gendron

The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

Those who are depending on their own righteousness, on performing good works, or on adherence to a religious system, can never be assured of salvation. They will never know if they have ever done enough. There is no joy when people put their faith in what they do instead of what God has done in Christ. When salvation depends completely on God, there is no chance for failure. Whenever man is involved in attaining and preserving salvation there can be no assurance, only a false hope.\

/Mike Gendron

The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

True believers have assurance through God the Father. Jesus said, in John, Chapter 10, Verses 28 and 29...

JOH 10:28-29

“...and I (the Lord Jesus Christ) give eternal life to them (believers in Christ), and they will never perish; and no one will snatch them out of My hand.//My Father, who has given them to Me, is greater than all; and no one is able to snatch them out of (God) the Father's hand.”

The life the Lord Jesus Christ gives is eternal, not temporal or perishable.

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

/Mike Gendron

The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

True believers also have assurance through God the Son. Jesus said, in John, Chapter 6, Verses 39 and 40...

JOH 6:39-40

“This is the will of Him who sent Me, that of all that He has given Me I lose nothing, but raise it up on the last day.//For this is the will of My Father, that everyone who beholds the Son and believes in Him will have eternal life, and I Myself will raise him up on the last day.”

/Mike Gendron

The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

“Eternal” is a word that describe not only the life believers have in union with Christ, but also the fate in the Lake of Fire that awaits those who die without a relationship with Christ. Christians also have assurance through God the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul declared, Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verses 13 and 14...

EPH 1:13-14

In Him, you also, after listening to the message of truth, the gospel of your salvation — having also believed, you were sealed in Him with (God) the Holy Spirit of promise,//who is given as a pledge of our inheritance, with a view to the redemption of God's own possession, to the praise of His glory.

/Mike Gendron

The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

At the very moment anyone understands and believes the gospel, they are sealed by the Holy Spirit, who guarantees they will be co-heirs with Christ...Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 17...

ROM 8:17

...and if children, heirs also, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, if indeed we suffer with Him so that we may also be glorified with Him.

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

/Mike Gendron
The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

Our assurance is based on God's power and promises...

1PE 1:3-5

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who according to His great mercy has caused us to be born again to a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, //to obtain an inheritance which is imperishable and undefiled and will not fade away, reserved in heaven for you, //who are protected by the power of God through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time. *

/Mike Gendron
The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

The gift of eternal life is eternally secure because God's gifts are never taken back. Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 29...

ROM 11:29

*...for the gifts and the calling of God are irrevocable. *

/Mike Gendron
The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

Eternal life can only be received as a gift of God's grace. Anyone who tries to earn or anyone who tries to merit the gift nullifies God's grace. Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 6...

ROM 11:6

*But if (1) it (salvation) is by grace (and it is), it is no longer on the basis of works, otherwise grace is no longer grace. *

/Mike Gendron
The Gospel's Promise is *Not* Conditional Life

Professing Christians who want to be certain of their salvation must believe the promises of the gospel while simultaneously REJECTING any teaching, experience or feeling that opposes the Word of God. Once they do, they will

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

be more certain of living eternally in heaven than they are of living one more day on earth.\

/Are you limited in your thinking?\

If in any area of your life, your thinking is limited, I want you to know that those limited thoughts are not from the Lord. Let this be the Happy New Year of unlimited thinking that is consistent with your union with Christ.

ROMANS
Lesson 001– January 5, 2014

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

Calling You To Freedom\

/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!

www.barahministries.com\