

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 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

We Fall Down\

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 WE FALL DOWN.

/WE FALL DOWN

We fall down...we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus
The greatness of, mercy and love, at the feet of Jesus
And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy
We cry Holy, Holy, Holy
And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lamb\

/WE FALL DOWN

We fall down, we lay our crowns at the feet of Jesus
The greatness of, mercy and love, at the feet of Jesus
And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy
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The greatness of, mercy and love, at the feet of Jesus

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy
And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy
And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lamb\

/WE FALL DOWN

And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy
And we cry Holy, Holy,
And we cry Holy, Holy, Holy is the Lamb\

/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 allowing me to deliver this message...thank You for making me a vehicle of Your righteousness...thank You for allowing me to be a reflection of Your Son...thank you for placing me in the sphere of Your grace...thanks for holding nothing against me...thank You for entrusting me with your gospel message...thank You for the hearers You bring form all over the world every week to hear Your message...

Bless and keep the hearers...take care of their health...solve their money problems...transform their relationships...bless their endeavors...help them experience time and again the truth of Your promises...give them perspective with the truth...turn their heads away from others to You...open their ears and let this message land deep into their souls in such a way that they know it is from you and not from anyone else...give them the message in such a way that it wipes out the erroneous thoughts tat hinder spiritual growth and pervert and distort your person...deliver us from the clutches of our enemies...help us to see the living value of your gospel message.

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

/TODAY'S STUDY

Romans 1: The Gospel is a Gift to Give Away

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

To the resident members of Barah Ministries *and* to the non-resident members of Barah Ministries, who are hopefully soon-to-be resident members, who are currently dispersed far and wide throughout the world...**grace and peace to you** from God the Father...from God the Son...from God the Holy Spirit...and from the uniquely born one...the central figure in divine history...the manifest member of the Godhead...the God-Man...one hundred percent God and one hundred percent true humanity in One Person, forever glorified...the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

It is my pleasure to greet all of you and to share the Word of God with you. I was wondering if you know the significance of the greeting “grace and peace to you.” It is something you hear from me regularly, and I wonder if the significance of the greeting hits home. The greeting “grace to you” is congratulations. It is an expression of joy on my behalf for the good fortune you receive as a result of your choice to believe in Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, for salvation. Because you believed in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation at a single moment in time, it resulted in God placing you within a sphere of grace.

<GEODESIC DOME>

As a result you are free...in grace...to learn, to grow, to live, and to love without the hindrance of the slavery that you were in from physical birth...the slavery of spiritual death.

“Peace to you” is also congratulatory in nature. It is an expression of joy on my behalf for the good fortune you receive as a result of your choice to believe in Our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, for salvation. Your salvation results in God deciding to have nothing against you. Turn to Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 1...

/ROM 5:1

*Therefore, having been justified by faith (alone in Christ alone for salvation in the past), we (believers in Christ now) have peace with God through our (unbreakable union with the) Lord Jesus Christ... *

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

/ROM 5:2

...through (this Lord Jesus Christ also) whom also we (believers in Christ) have obtained our introduction by faith into this (sphere of) grace in which we stand; and we (believers in Christ) exult in hope (with the absolute confidence) of the glory of God.

We believe with total confidence in God's promise to glorify us believers at a future time.

/ROM 5:3

*And not only (do we believers in Christ exult in) this, but we (believers in Christ) also exult in our tribulations, knowing that tribulation brings about perseverance... *

/ROM 5:4

*...and (we know) perseverance, (brings about) proven character; and (we know) proven character (brings about) hope... *

/ROM 5:5

...and hope does not disappoint, because the (unconditional) love of God has been poured out within our hearts through (God) the Holy Spirit who was given to us.

You live in a sphere of grace...which means you have freedom...it's just like living in the United States instead of living in Iran...and you are at peace with God...He has nothing against you. Wow!

As for me, I consider it all joy to encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of my faith in God produces endurance. And I know that endurance will have its perfect result every time...I am confident in my God that I lack nothing. But if any of you lacks wisdom, let him ask God, who gives wisdom to all generously and without reproach. Ask God for wisdom and it will be given to you.

Turn in your bibles to Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16. We are studying the third passage in Romans Chapter 1...I call it the Four FORS Passage...and in reflecting on it this week I am seeing the depth of Paul's obsession with the gospel of God.

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

I have been asking myself lately why Paul is so obsessed in his letter with the gospel of God. I have been teaching the gospel of God for a decade and a half, and I don't think I would describe myself as obsessed with it. As I have shared the gospel of God over my lifetime, I always know when I'm sharing it with a believer in Christ. They get a blank, almost dead look on their faces...their eyes drift skyward...and they tune out...as if they have already checked this box in their spiritual lives...in other words, there seems to be the thought in the minds of Christians that because I have responded to the gospel message of God...and now that I am a believer in Christ...I have no further need of the gospel.

I imagine that...

I have learned who Jesus Christ is. Now I have no more need of Him. I want to learn about someone new.

I have learned about the unconditional love of God. Now I have no more need of it. I want something new.

I have learned that I am in union with Christ. Now I have no more need of it. I want something new.

I have learned that I have the absolute righteousness of God. Now I have no more need of it. I want something new.

I have responded to the gospel of God. Now I have no more need of it. I want something new.

Well Paul is a believer in Christ...he has responded to it...so theoretically he has no further need of the gospel of God except when He is in a group of unbelievers, evangelizing. Yet Paul seems oddly obsessed with the gospel of God. Paul says of himself in Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 15...

/ROM 1:15

So, for my part, I am eager to preach the gospel, as a minister, to you also who are in Rome.

Paul is not only OBSESSED with the gospel of God...he is EAGER to preach it...I wonder if you believers in Christ feel that same way about the

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

gospel of God. Are you obsessed with the gospel of God? Are you eager to preach it? I'll bet you would say you are not either of those. Yet Paul is...he mentions the word "gospel" five times in the first fifteen verses of Romans...and in fact, the whole Book of Romans, all sixteen chapters of it, are an illumination of the gospel of God.

So if Paul is obsessed with the gospel of God...and if Paul is eager to preach the gospel of God...it seems that we believers in Christ are a great reflection of our Lord and Savior when we are echoing Paul's sentiments by being obsessed with the gospel and by being eager to share it. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16...here begins The Four FORS passage...

/THIRD ROMANS PASSAGE

Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 16 to 18

ROM 1:16

FOR I am not ashamed of the gospel...FOR the gospel is the power of God the Father for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first (chronologically), and also to the Greek.

/THIRD ROMANS PASSAGE

Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 16 to 18

ROM 1:17

FOR in the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ the righteousness of God the Father is revealed, from faith in the Lord for salvation to faith in the Lord for all things; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man (any believer in Christ) SHALL LIVE BY FAITH (by placing his confidence in God)."

/THIRD ROMANS PASSAGE

Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 16 to 18

ROM 1:18

FOR the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and (against all) unrighteousness of men (unbelievers) who suppress the truth (of the gospel) in unrighteousness.

I think Paul is obsessed with the gospel of God because the gospel is a gift he valued...and the gifts of God must be given away. I wonder if you give

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

the gift of the gospel away on a regular basis? Do you give it away or do you hoard it?

I think Paul is eager to preach the gospel because of his status as “the least of all the saints” ... reflecting on the gospel of God gave him gratitude in his soul that motivated a desire to share the gospel of God. I wonder if you have a similar gratitude oozing from your soul. Turn to Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verse 8...I wonder if knowing your total depravity, you have a desire in your heart to throw the lifeline of the gospel of God to those who are spiritually dead...Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verse 8 says...

/EPH 3:8

To me (Paul), the very least of all saints (believers in Christ), this grace was given (to me by God), to preach to the Gentiles the unfathomable riches of Christ (of His Person and of His gospel message)...

/EPH 3:9

...and to bring to light what is the administration (dispensation) of the mystery (The Church Age) which for ages has been hidden in (the) God who created (the) all things (the Lord Jesus Christ)...

/EPH 3:10

...so that the manifold (multi-faceted) wisdom of God (the Father) might now be made known through the church (the body of Christ...the Royal family of God) to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places.

/EPH 3:11

This was in accordance with the eternal purpose which He (God the Father) carried out in Christ Jesus our Lord...

/EPH 3:12

...in (union with) whom we (believers in Christ) have boldness and confident (direct) access (to Him) through faith in Him.

The gospel of God is a gift to give away.

I think Paul is obsessed and eager to give away the gospel of God because I think Paul regularly shifted his perspective. I think it was easy for Paul to focus on himself. And when he did, as he detailed in the last half of Romans

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

Chapter 7, he was reminded that he was inadequate...he was a murderer of Christians...he was an unbeliever for a huge chunk of his life...he had learned of his inability to carry out his plans and schemes much like we are aware of our own inadequacies in the same way.

It was easy for Paul to focus on others. He saw his brethren, the Jews, missing that their Messiah was right in front of their faces...Romans, Chapter 9, Verses 1 to 3...

/ROM 9:1-3

*I (Paul) am telling the truth in (union with) Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit... *

/ROM 9:2

...that I (Paul) have great sorrow and unceasing grief in my heart.

/ROM 9:3

*For I (Paul) could wish that I myself were accursed, separated from Christ (into the Lake of Fire) for the sake of (as a substitute for) my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh (the Jews)... *

Paul wanted to be the savior of the Jews...but he couldn't...there already was One. But with a change in perspective...Paul took His eyes off of himself...he took his eyes off of others...and he climbed onto the shoulders of God the Father...and Paul looked out through God the Father's eyes at all creatures...and it changed his perspective...it changed his life...he became obsessed and eager because of what he saw...take a five-minute break and we'll see what Paul sees when he looks at creatures through God the Father's eyes.

/BREAK

*Give Me Your Eyes
When I Think About Home*

Welcome back. The gospel of God is a gift to give away. Yet if you do not see creatures as God sees creatures. You will not be OBSESSED and you will not be EAGER to share the gospel of God. You will not be like Paul.

What is the gospel of God?

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

The first FOR of Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16 says it is something we should not be ashamed of. Are you ashamed of the gospel of God...too ashamed to share it? Paul isn't...

/ROM 1:16

*FOR I am not ashamed of the gospel (of God)... *

Not only wasn't Paul ashamed of the gospel of God...he was obsessed with the gospel and he was eager to preach the gospel to the harlot of the world...Rome...Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 1...

/ROM 1:1

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

Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 13...

/ROM 1:13

*I do not want you to be unaware, brethren, you believers in Rome, that often I have planned to come to you and have been prevented by God so far...I want to come so that I may obtain some fruit among you also, even as I obtain fruit among the rest of the Gentiles. *

Now we begin to get some perspective on Paul's perspective...because he is looking at creatures through God's eyes, he is unconcerned for himself. It doesn't matter where he has to go or what personal danger he has to put himself in...he is obsessed and eager to preach the gospel of Christ. Are you?

The gospel of God is a gift to give away.

If you don't see others through God's eyes...there is no way you will become obsessed and eager to preach to them.

There is a great book that I have my deacons reading...a book in which the world has stumbled upon biblical principles...the book is called...

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

/LEADERSHIP and SELF-DECEPTION

by

The Arbinger Institute\

It's a great read...a quick read...and it has a phenomenal definition of self-deception.

/SELF-DECEPTION

The erroneous thought that you couldn't possibly be the problem\

I highly recommend this book to you. It will speak to the depths of your soul. I have read it innumerable times and it speaks to me a different way every time. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16...

/ROM 1:16

FOR I am not ashamed of the gospel (of God)...

If you don't see others through God's eyes, you are probably victimized by incessant self-deception...in that state, there is no way you will become concerned for others. If we see others from the human perspective we will not want to serve them. Only when we look at life through God's eyes will we want to serve. Are you ashamed of the gospel of God? If you don't see people as people, you will be. If you miss the people, you miss everything.

The gospel of God is a gift to give away.

You can measure the success of your spiritual life by giving.

The gospel of God is a gift to give away. Are you? When is the last time you used the gospel message to make a difference in another person's life?

What is the gospel message?

It begins with LOVE...Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 8...

/ROM 5:8

But God (the Father) demonstrates His own (unconditional) love toward us (all mankind), in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died (as a substitute) for us.

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

As we look out through the eyes of God the Father we see Him looking at His creatures with love. Do you look at all of His creatures with love?

The gospel continues with a death. First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 24...

/1PE 2:24

...and He Himself (the Lord Jesus Christ) bore our sins in His (own) body (in his true humanity) on the Cross, so that we (all mankind) might die to (the sovereignty of the) sin (nature) and live to (the standard of absolute) righteousness (imputed); for by His (the Lord Jesus Christ's) wounds you were healed (once, for all time).

Our sin nature was crucified at the Cross. Are you living as the new creation you were made at the moment of salvation?

The gospel continues with a burial. Romans, Chapter 6, Verse 4...

/ROM 6:4

Therefore we have been buried (because of our union with) with Him (the Lord Jesus Christ) through (the) baptism (of the Spirit) ...into (Christ's) death...so that as Christ was raised from the dead (in resurrection) through the glory of (God) the Father, so we too might walk (have a lifestyle) in newness of life.

We are not saved by water baptism...we are saved by God...the baptism of God the Holy Spirit in which the Spirit places us into an unbreakable union with the Lord Jesus Christ at the moment of salvation...our spiritual birth...we are born again, the move from the spiritual death of physical birth to the spiritual life of regeneration.

The gospel continues with resurrection. First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 12...

/1CO 15:12

Now if Christ is preached (an He is), that He has been raised from the dead (and He has been), how do some among you say that there is no resurrection of the dead?

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

If there is no resurrection from the dead, then our Lord is just like every other pretender...Joseph Smith...the Pope...Allah...Buddha...but alas, our Lord is alive...Matthew, Chapter 28, Verses 5 to 7...

/MAT 28:5

The angel said to the women, “Do not be afraid; for I know that you are looking for Jesus who has been crucified.”

/MAT 28:6

“He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come, see the place where He was lying.”

/MAT 28:7

“Go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead...”

The gospel continues with ascension. John, Chapter 3, Verse 13 says...

/JOH 3:13

“No one has ascended into heaven, but He who descended from heaven: the Son of Man (the Lord Jesus Christ).”

The gospel is concluded with session...our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is seated at the right hand of His Father. Luke, Chapter 20, Verses 42 and 43...

/LUK 20:42

“For David himself says in the book of Psalms, ‘THE LORD (God the Father) SAID TO MY LORD (Jesus Christ), ‘SIT AT MY RIGHT HAND...’

/LUK 20:43

“...UNTIL I MAKE YOUR ENEMIES A FOOTSTOOL FOR YOUR FEET.”

God the Father is waiting patiently for the day when it will be clear to all that Jesus is the Lord...

/PHI 2:10

...so that at the name of Jesus EVERY KNEE WILL BOW, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth...

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 2014

/PHI 2:11

...and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.

The gospel of God is a gift to give away.

The gospel of God is the good news that our sins cannot keep us out of relationship with our God...because Christ handled that problem through His death, burial, resurrection, ascension and session. And as a result, salvation is open to everyone. John, Chapter 3, Verse 16...

/JOH 3:16

“For God (the Father) so loved the world (all mankind), that He gave His only begotten (uniquely born) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ), that who(so)ever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

Let this coming week be the week when you are not ashamed of the gospel of God. The gospel of God is a gift...give it away!

ROMANS
Lesson 67– January 19, 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

He Remembers to Forget\

/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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