

ROMANS
Lesson 68– 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

Destiny\

As God prepares your soul for RENEWING, let's hear June Murphy worship our Lord in song. Let's place our cares into the hands of the One who cares for us...our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. The opening song is DESTINY.

/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 be obsessive and eager to preach your gospel to a lost and dying world...help us to never lose our sense of the value of the gospel...help us to share the gospel with everyone in our periphery.

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

/TODAY'S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 – The Lord Does Limit Us in One Way

One announcement...

/Mark Your Calendars!

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No Face-to-Face Bible Study
January 26

At Least Two Lessons Will Be Posted\

Let's begin with the offering. Welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall.

/TODAY'S OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

Even though we are sanctioned by God to charge for the many things we provide so you can worship God, we choose not to exercise our right. Therefore no price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who desires biblical teaching may have it free of charge.\

/OFFERING VERSE

MAT 8:20

Jesus said to him, "The foxes have holes and the birds of the air have nests, but the Son of Man has nowhere to lay His head."\

/Remember to give with the motivation suggested in Scripture

2CO 9:7

Each one must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful (grace oriented) giver.\

/OFFERING SONG

Grace and Love\

/TODAY'S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 – The Lord Does Limit Us in One Way

To the resident members of Barah Ministries *and* to the soon-to-be resident members of Barah Ministries, who live throughout the world... **grace and peace to you** from our Almighty God.

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We give thanks to God always for the privilege of serving all of you...we enjoy making mention of you in our prayers...hardly a moment goes by when you are not in our minds...I am grateful for your faith and I am looking forward to your labor of love on the Lord's behalf through Barah Ministries. As for me, I am steadfast in the service of our Lord Jesus Christ...his *doulos*...His voluntary, twenty four hour a day seven day a week servant...His Possession...and I know He has magnificent plans for this ministry and for me...and I know He will provide the resources and the encouragement for our path...as He has made it absolutely clear to me that we will not close our eyes in this life until we have built a home for this ministry where people can worship in unity and where people can be truly edified by a practical approach to living the Christian Way of Life. Nothing can close the door that the Lord has opened here.

I am not deluded enough to think that Barah Ministries would be the only ministry in the history of mankind to miss the pleasure of being doubted, of being questioned, and of being criticized...just know that tribulation stirs my soul and excites me to the point of passion and obsessiveness. It does nothing to slow us down...it does nothing to dissuade us...it does nothing to blur our vision. I am eager to see the product of our obsessiveness, especially mine, which is fueled solely by a love of the Lord Jesus Christ. His Person and His reputation are a primary concern of mine, and I am fully confident that His trust in me will be fully vindicated. I am as eager, as I am obsessive to see that day...and I am certain that when the tangible representation of His faithfulness arrives, the only ones who will enjoy the day are those who help build it. I will be among those who enjoy it.

The apostle Paul was the same in passionate obsessiveness and eagerness. He was obsessive and eager to preach the gospel of God. Romans, Chapter 1, beginning at Verse 16 begins The Four FORS passage...the third passage in our Romans study...

/THIRD ROMANS PASSAGE
Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 16 to 18

ROM 1:16

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

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/THIRD ROMANS PASSAGE

Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 16 to 18

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. I wonder, believers in Christ, where this gift from God, the gospel of God, is on your list of values.

As you know, in our first lesson of the year I asked you a penetrating question...

/Are you limited in you thinking?

I contend that if in any area of your life, your thinking is limited, 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. Yet I will quickly follow with this seemingly contradictory idea...the gospel of God is the one thing in which the Lord limits us...well, at least that is the view of the foolish. John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

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/JOH 14:6

Jesus said to him (doubting Thomas), “I am the way (to salvation), and (I am) the truth (through the Word of God), and (I am) the (eternal) life (the Zoe Life...the resurrection life); no one comes to (God) the Father but through (believing in) Me.”

The Lord says there is only one way to salvation. The gospel of God says there is only one way to salvation. The foolish see this as limited.

How many times, when you are evangelizing, or when you are talking about the Lord, does someone say to you, “So are you saying that *your* way is the only way to heaven? There are many routes to God.” I can remember as if it were yesterday, even though it wasn’t, the last time someone said that to me. A timeshare salesperson said it, and I confronted her false thought that there are many routes to God with an immediacy that is rare for me, especially in a public setting. I told her that her thought was the most ridiculous thought I have ever heard. How could there possibly be many routes to God? How could someone be foolish enough to think that they could go the wrong way and still get to the destination? If you want to get to the sun, I contended, you wouldn’t head for Pluto. Pluto is the former planet that is farthest away from the sun. How could you expect to get to the sun by going the wrong way? Equally I contend that if you want to get to the Son, there is only one way, through the Son of God and the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus Christ.

This woman has never forgiven me for the comment. Whenever I see her, she glares at me with a hatred that reminds me of some of my best former “love” relationships!

First of all, the gospel of God is not *my* way. I didn’t invent the gospel of God. The gospel of God is His way! Don’t shoot the messenger. Here’s what Paul says in Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16...

/ROM 1:16

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

Only the foolish would see one way to heaven as a limit. If there is one way to heaven, take it! And there is only one way to heaven...Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

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/ACT 16:31

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

To be saved is called **salvation** in the bible. Salvation is God’s deliverance. God delivers those who want to be saved from the condemnation of spiritual death...from the torture of living without a relationship with God. And god keeps on delivering us. The gospel of God is alive in our lives long after the moment of salvation. We are delivered by God when we are unbelievers... we are delivered by God when we are ignorant baby believers...we are delivered by God when we are rebellious believers...we are delivered by God when we are mature believers. There is never a time...not in the past...not in the present...not in the future...when God is not interested in our salvation...there is never a time when He is not delivering us.

God loves you unconditionally. First John, Chapter 4, Verses 8 to 11 say...

/1JO 4:8

The one who does not love (unconditionally) does not (OUK...never, not no how) know God (the Father), for God (the Father) is (unconditional) love.

/1JO 4:9

By this (unconditional love from God the Father) the (unconditional) love of God (the Father) was manifested in us (believers in Christ), that God (the Father) has sent His only begotten (uniquely born) Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) into the world so that we might live through Him.

/1JO 4:10

In this (sending of His Son) is (the demonstration of His unconditional) love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us (unconditionally) and sent His Son to be the propitiation (the ONLY perfect payment) for our sins.

There’s one of God’s limits again!

/1JO 4:11

Beloved (divinely loved ones), if (1) God (the Father) so loved us (unconditionally...and He did), we also ought to love one another (unconditionally).

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God's deliverance is not limited because it is singular...by giving us only one way to God, what God has limited is our chance of failing. When there is only one way to succeed, there is no confusion. First Corinthians, Chapter 14, Verse 33...

/1CO 14:33

...for God is not a God of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

/ROM 1:16

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

On the one hand this is a declarative statement. It is Paul making it obvious where he stands in the matter of the gospel of God. We would do well to declare the same. In another way, it is Paul making a defense. In first century Rome, there was no significant church building, and the word on the street was that Paul's ministry was just for the poor...that the wealthy and the educated could not benefit from the story of some carpenter's son from Nazareth who thinks he is God...remember Nathaniel's comment as the Lord was summoning His disciples? John, Chapter 1, Verse 46...

/JOH 1:46

*Nathanael said to him (Philip), "Can any good thing come out of Nazareth?" Philip said to him (Nathaniel), "Come and see." *

When we preach the gospel of God, we are saying the same thing. Come and see! Come and see what this carpenter's son did for you. What He did was something that the pretender gods did not do...

/WHAT THE LORD JESUS CHRIST DID FOR YOU

He died

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He was buried

He was resurrected from the dead

He ascended to heaven

He is seated at the right hand of God the Father

He paid for the sins of every creature on His back\

At least that's what the bible says of Him. It's either true or its not. These claims are the claims of a lunatic...or they are true. I am not ashamed of the gospel of God. I am betting my eternal future on the fact that the Lord Jesus Christ is who he says He is...the one and only way to heaven.

For whom did the Lord Jesus Christ pave the way to heaven? The second half of Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 16 tells us...

/THIRD ROMANS PASSAGE

Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 16 to 18

ROM 1:16b

FOR the gospel is the power (dunamis) of God the Father for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first (chronologically), and also to the Greek.

Who can go to heaven? It can be summed up in one word...WHOSOEVER.

There is no limit to the number of people who can go to heaven. The Greek word for power is *dunamis*. It is a reference to divine power. It is the root word of our English word dynamite. That's exactly what the gospel of God does. It creates an explosion of eternal blessing in your life. It blasts your way to heaven. The gospel of God is a display of the power of God for your salvation. There is only one way to get to heaven. God must make it possible for you.

Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

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/ACT 16:31

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

You cannot save yourself. You will not get to heaven by being a good person. Are you ashamed of this powerful message? Or this one? John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

/JOH 14:6

Jesus said to him (doubting Thomas), “I am the way (to salvation), and (I am) the truth (through the Word of God), and (I am) the (eternal) life (the Zoe Life...the resurrection life); no one comes to (God) the Father but through (believing in) Me.”

The gospel of God is the power of God for whosoever believes...to the Jew first in chronology...they were given 490 years to evangelize to the human race...then they were set aside for a time...now next in chronology is us...the Gentiles...the next whosoever.

One thing is sure in my soul. The gospel of God never gets old. I never tire of telling people about it. I never back off of it. I am not ashamed of it. But what I underestimated is the pervasiveness of its power in the lives of believers in Christ. Being saved happens for us at a single moment in time when we believe in the Lord Jesus Christ through faith alone in the Lord alone for salvation. Yet His deliverance of us...his saving of us...continues to pay dividends long after the initial moment of salvation, a fact that is lost on most believers in Christ. I am looking forward to telling you about it as we continue our study of Romans.

CLOSING VERSES

/JER 29:11

“For I know the plans that I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans for welfare and not for calamity to give you a future and a hope.”

/1PE 5:6-7

Therefore humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may exalt you at the proper time, //casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you.

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/JUD 1:24-25

Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, //to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen.

/CLOSING SONG

Your Word Takes Me\

/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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