

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 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

His Strength is Perfect\

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 HIS STRENGTH IS PERFECT.

/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 Your strength that more than compensates for our weaknesses...thank you for Your unconditional love which you place in a sphere around us...thank you also for placing us in a sphere of grace...thank you for having us first and foremost in your mind, and for being able to hold the lives of all Your creatures simultaneously in Your mind and in Your concern...thanks for attending to every one of your creatures as if we are your only creatures...

We ask that You make this message clear to us...and that You help us learn how to apply it to our lives...

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

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

/TODAY’S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 – Why Didn’t God Get Rid of the Sin Nature?

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.\

/Barah Ministries Financial Policy

Even though the materials we provide are free of charge, they are not free of cost. We appreciate it when the Word of God motivates you to give financial support so as to provide biblical teaching, both for yourself and for others.\

/OFFERING VERSE

1JO 4:19

We love (unconditionally), because He first loved us (unconditionally).

/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

When You Spoke My Name

/TODAY’S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 – Why Didn’t God Get Rid of the Sin Nature?

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

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. Thanks for coming to a place where you can hear what God the Holy Spirit has to say to the churches. He has much to say to you right now that is designed for your edification...to help you cast off the deceptions of the past...to help you shed the false hope that your self-righteousness is anything...and to helping you believers in Christ embrace who you are in union with the Lord Jesus Christ.

I thank you for the men that you have given me to help build a church...I thank you especially for Deacons Caleb Alburn and Elliott Clark who are growing in their abilities to be themselves in the pulpit, who are becoming adept at sending heartfelt messages to a grateful congregation. It warms my hearts to know that you expect your Pastors to share the pulpit with men who are showing signs of the gift of Pastor-Teacher. First Timothy, Chapter 5, Verse 17 says...

/1TI 5:17

The elders (the leaders of the church) who rule well are to be considered worthy of double honor, especially those who work hard at preaching and teaching.\

The elders God has given me for Barah Ministries are not “elderly;” they are young. They have not slain their demons in this life but they are willing to assert their ideas. I ask you all to pray with me that God gives them the strength to execute their ideas, and that God gives them the desire to be evaluated. Ask God to help them understand that there is no resistance to their ideas from this Pastor. Help them to learn to ask for forgiveness rather than permission in the matter of asserting themselves.

Turn in your bibles to Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18...

/ROM 1:18

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

Our next passage of study in Romans extends from Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18 to Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 31...we get a rude awakening in Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18 when we learn that God has wrath, and that it

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

is directed at some of His creatures. Before we tackle this verse and the rest of the passage, I have one final question to close out the introduction of Paul's letter to the Romans...the question is this...do you wonder why God would let the sin nature stick around to bug us believers in Christ after salvation? Why would God allow the old dead self to rear its ugly head in our lives and to interfere with our lives? Well, do you remember what the "boys in my hood" used to say to me? "Rory...man you forgot where you came from! You've turned into a white boy." What an insult! Turn in your bibles to Second Corinthians, Chapter 12, Verse 1...

The sin nature will always be a reminder to believers in Christ of where we came from, so we don't get so wrapped up in wonderfulness of the gift of salvation that we forget the Giver...so we don't start thinking that we are somehow special, somehow righteous on our own merits, as believers in Christ, simply because we have salvation...for if it were not for the giver, we would be nothing. The Lord Jesus Christ, through His blood, shed at the Cross on our behalf, paid for our sins to make us "nothings" into "somethings..."

/2CO 12:1

Boasting (about my credentials) is necessary, though it is not profitable (for building a church); but I will go on to (tell you about the) visions and revelations of the Lord.

/2CO 12:2

I know a man in (union with) Christ (me...Paul) who fourteen years ago — whether in the body I do not know, or out of the body I do not know, God knows — such a man was caught up (raptured...harpazo of 1 Thessalonians) to the third heaven (the residence of God and His saints).

/2CO 12:3

And I know how such a man — whether in the body or apart from the body I do not know, God knows —

/2CO 12:4

...was caught up (raptured) into Paradise (in heaven) and heard inexpressible words (in Paradise), which a man is not permitted to speak.

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

/2CO 12:5

On behalf of such a man (whom God allowed to go to the third heaven) I will boast; but on my own behalf (as a human) I will not boast, except in regard to my weaknesses.

/2CO 12:6

For if I do wish to boast I will not be foolish, for I will be speaking the truth; but I refrain from this (boasting), so that no one will credit me with more than he sees in me (a reflection of Christ) or hears from me (the gospel of God).

/2CO 12:7

Because of the surpassing greatness of the revelations (of the Lord), for this reason, to keep me from exalting myself (to keep me from becoming conceited), there was given me a thorn in the flesh, a messenger of Satan to torment me (a constant reminder of my weakness)— to keep me from exalting myself!

/2CO 12:8

Concerning this (thorn in the flesh) I implored the Lord three times that it might leave me.

/2CO 12:9

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) has said to me (in the past), “My grace is sufficient for you, for (divine) power is perfected in (human) weakness.” Most gladly, therefore, I will rather boast about my weaknesses, so that the power of Christ may (in)dwel in me.

His strength is perfect, when our strength is gone.

/2CO 12:10

Therefore I am well content with weaknesses, with insults, with distresses, with persecutions, with difficulties, for Christ’s sake; for when I am weak, then I am strong.

When we suffer, as with the dead sin nature rearing its ugly head, we are learning a lesson from God to not forget where we came from. That’s why God leaves the sin nature in place after salvation. Take a five-minute break.

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

/BREAK

When I Think About Home

Welcome back!

So as believers in Christ...we are not ungodly...we are not spiritually dead (although we were)...because the ungodly are the ones who are spiritually dead. Believers in Christ are spiritually alive...First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22...

/1CO 15:22

For as in (union with) Adam (at physical birth) all (creatures are set to) die (the second death...condemned), so also in (union with) Christ all will be made (spiritually) alive (we are born again!)

As believers in Christ we are not unrighteous...the sin nature does the sinning...believers have been cleansed from all unrighteousness...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 9...

/1JO 1:9

If (3) we (unbelievers) confess (agree with God completely concerning) our sins (and our sinfulness from physical birth...maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice), He (God the Father) is faithful (He always does the same thing) and (God the Father is) righteous (free from sin Himself thus completely qualified) to forgive us (unbelievers of) our sins and (He is free) to cleanse us from all unrighteousness (by imputing His own righteousness to us).

And as we learned in the last lesson, all New Testament references to sinners are referencing unbelievers. As one of our non-resident congregation members described it, the realization of these truths brings a freedom that makes you walk with a little more pep in your step...a little more glide in your stride...and it makes us poke out our chests a bit more...knowing God loves us unconditionally and He doesn't consider us to be ungodly, unrighteous, or sinners.

Unfortunately, however, from pulpits all over the world we hear a very different story. We hear that the “wrath of God” is going to come down on the ungodly and on the unrighteous, and on sinners. When we, as believers

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

in Christ, are uninformed or misinformed about the truth of this matter, because we are too lazy to investigate the truth for ourselves and because we are too lazy to question what we are learning, we accept these lies, and in the process we get a distorted view of God.

As we turn our attention to the next passage in Romans, we immediately encounter that thing that we really don't want to hear about...the "wrath of God." God has wrath and He directs it toward ungodliness, unrighteousness, and sinners. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18...

/ROM 1:18

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

It's that thing we really don't want to hear about...it's that thing we really fear...we fear the "wrath of God."

We often forget, unfortunately, that God has an enemy. And God's enemy has a strategy to influence our minds. We are warned about this in Romans, Chapter 12, Verses 1 and 2...

/ROM 12:1

Therefore I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.

/ROM 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world, but (keep on) be(ing) transformed by (God in) the renewing of your mind, so that you may prove what the will of God is, that which is good and acceptable and perfect.

Religion seeks to conform us. Satan's world system of influence seeks to conform us. One of things that I absolutely love about unbelievers, is that they know Satan's gimmicks cold. Unfortunately, because of Satan's master deception, they attribute Satan's conforming thoughts to God.

I heard a Romans Catholic priest make a phenomenal statement recently... he said...

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

/A PRIEST ON RELIGION

Religion is in the guilt producing, control business.\

You'd have to include legalism in that mix as well. Legalism is in the guilt producing, control business. And it works!

I hear unbelievers say things like this all the time...

/UNBELIEVERS ON RELIGION

Religion is a man-made construct. It was created to control the people of the world with fear.\

Close...it's a Satan made strategy! Here's another viewpoint...listen for the left turn...

/ON RELIGION

Religion is designed to focus the people's attention and energy on a single, unchanging, uncompromising and invisible supreme being who allegedly created an inferior human race just for some extra companionship and love for Himself and then supposedly foisted a set of oppressive and in some cases arbitrary rules on them, which if broken would be met with unimaginable punishment.\

/ON RELIGION

This keeps the followers in a continuing state of fear and compliance. They are afraid to question the intentions of this invisible being and they are afraid of even expressing their own individuality in many cases.\

Does that sound at all like the God you know?

If you can look at these contentions with biblical eyes, you can see the almost ridiculous mentality that is fooled by this nonsense. And while there is an increasing antagonism toward this viewpoint, which is reflected throughout our culture, even on dating websites (I'm not really religious, I'm more spiritual), God still gets the blame for these thoughts designed to conform.

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

At the core of EVERY SINGLE RELIGION is two things: a distorted view of God's Person and a distorted view of God's Word. At the core of every religion is the notion that you must do something to please God, and even if you do, it's doubtful if He will be pleased. The 'god' portrayed by religion is arbitrary and mean. Our God is not. Romans, Chapter 2, Verse 11...

/ROM 2:11

For there is no partiality with God.\

So frankly, as Christians, we don't want to know about the wrath of God, and through religion we have been taught to fear the wrath of God. What we seldom hear is that God's wrath lives under the blanket of His unconditional love for all of His creatures.

To get you to accept that God's wrath is hanging over your head, I must get you to forget that God loves you unconditionally. If I can get you to forget about God's love...if I can get you to forget about God's complete fairness in every matter concerning you...then I can get you to worry about God's wrath. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18...

/ROM 1:18

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

As a believer in the Lord Jesus Christ, you have absolutely no worries about God's wrath except as it relates to those you love who are unbelievers. You are not subject to God's wrath. Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1...

/ROM 8:1

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

When you were ungodly...spiritually dead, you were subject to God's wrath. Now you are not. Let's close this lesson with a simple way to look at God's wrath.

The United States judicial system has wrath. It's called prison. In its harshest form, it is called the death penalty.

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

All of us are under the laws of the land. If we keep the law, we have nothing to fear. Turn to Romans, Chapter 13, Verses 1 to 4...

/ROM 13:1

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those (authorities) which exist are established by God.

/ROM 13:2

Therefore whoever resists (rebels against...disobeys) authority has opposed the ordinance of God; and they who have opposed (the ordinance of God) will receive condemnation upon themselves.

/ROM 13:3

*For rulers (in authority) are not a cause of fear for good behavior (obeying the law), but (they are a cause of fear) for evil (breaking the law). Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good (obey the law) and you will have praise from the same (from authorities)... *

/ROM 13:4

...for it (rulers and their authority) is a minister of God to you for good. But if you do what is evil (if you break the law), be afraid; for it (rulers and their authority) does not bear the sword for (you if you do) nothing; for it (rulers and their authority) is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil (breaks the law).

I've seen these verses for years, but today they jumped off the page at me!

When we follow the law, there is reward for that choice. It can be as simple as this...if you don't make it a practice to run red lights, you get to stay alive. It is likely you will not be "T-boned" if you don't run red lights. When we break the law, there is a consequence of that choice. If you consistently run red lights, you will be killed or you will kill someone. And the law will bring wrath upon you, as it should. Your bad choices under the law incur consequences.

We are all under God. We are all under God's laws. When we follow God's laws, there is reward for that choice. When we break God's laws, there is a consequence of that choice. A simple example in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

/JOH 3:36

“He who believes in the Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) has (the) 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.”

A reward for one choice...a consequence for another. As we tackle the subject of the wrath of God, we'll be seeing God's wrath and God in a whole new light.

ROMANS
Lesson 76– February 16, 2014

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.

/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

There is a 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!

www.barahministries.com\