

ROMANS
Lesson 78– February 23, 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

Word of God Speak\

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 WORD OF GOD SPEAK.

/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 having standards...thank you for holding us to Your standards...thank you for having only one way to do a thing, the right way, which is one of the many benefits of righteousness...

We pray that You will help us make clear to the unbelievers in our periphery, the message of Your graciousness, the message of Your unconditional love, the message of the gospel...and the message of "no way out" of Your laws...

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

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/TODAY’S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 – You are Guilty as Charged

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

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.’

/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

The Well

/TODAY’S STUDY

Romans Chapter 1 – You are Guilty as Charged

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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.

A question for you...

/Do you think God is like you?\

I can tell you with great certainty that He isn't. He's different than you. Isaiah, Chapter 55, Verses 8 and 9 say...

/ISA 55:8

"For My thoughts are not your thoughts, nor are your ways My ways," declares the Lord.

/ISA 55:9

*"For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are My ways higher than your ways and My thoughts than your thoughts." *

To this I say, "Thank God!" Our God is crystal clear...He is not at all confused or confusing...First Corinthians, Chapter 14, Verse 33 confirms it...

/1CO 14:33

*...for God is not a God of confusion... *

We, as human beings, are quite a different story. We are often confused, we're almost always confusing, and we are quite arbitrary in our approach to life. Arbitrary is such a great word...

/ARBITRARY

Subject to individual whim and without restriction; contingent solely upon one's own discretion; not living to a standard...unrestricted by law... capricious.\

In other words, we make up the rules as we go...and we bend them as necessary. We don't get into this state solely on our own...we have quite a bit of help from the enemy of God, Satan, who attacks our thoughts to conform them to his way of being. He gives us expressions, which we

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readily adopt, which pass through the English vernacular like wildfire, that attempt to excuse us from living to a standard. For example...

/“Anything in moderation!”\

When we want to feel better about ourselves when we are not living to standard we want to uphold, we’ll adopt one of Satan’s expressions. “Anything in moderation!” Yet if we think it through, is “Anything in moderation!” an accurate portrayal of reality? Is child molestation in moderation okay? Is rape in moderation okay? Is adultery in moderation okay? We’d have to adopt one of the apostle Paul’s expressions to respond...“May it never be!” Said another way, “Anything in moderation!” is a lie. Everything is not okay. Yet another Satanic expression insists it is...

/“It’s all good! It’s all good!”\

Yet it isn’t.

These are some of the thoughts that occupied my mind this week as I began the overview of our next passage. When we study God’s Word and we learn His standards, we realize that there is keeping the law and there is breaking the law. For example...you run a red light...that’s illegal...you have broken the law...you are stopped by a police officer...you are guilty as charged... yet often you try to convince the police officer of how really, really sincere you are as a person and how really, really sorry you are that you ran the light. Does your sincerity mean you are not guilty? Of course not! But what do we have to lose? We’re dealing with a human being...maybe we can present a convincing argument to them which will encourage them to be arbitrary and they’ll let us off and we become successful at breaking the law.

So it is in the human realm. In any real justice system, and certainly in the Unites States justice system, you are innocent until proven guilty. In God’s system, you are guilty as charged! Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 10...

/ROM 3:10

...as it is written, “THERE IS NONE (not one creature who is) RIGHTEOUS, NOT EVEN ONE...”

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Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23...

/ROM 3:23

...for all (creatures) have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

God is not confused or confusing. In the great indictment of Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18 to Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 31, our God explains in great detail through the apostle Paul a simple truth...

/IN GOD'S LAW

You are guilty as charged...all creatures are guilty as charged...and there is no way to talk yourself out of the indictment.\

As creatures, we are under God...the Creator...we are in subjection to God...He is the governing authority of the universe. As creatures, therefore, we are under obligation to abide by God's laws...all creatures must respond to God's laws. There are only two possible responses...

/POSSIBLE RESPONSES TO GOD'S LAWS

You can obey God's laws and receive blessings

You can disobey God's laws...you can break the law...
and receive a just penalty\

Our next passage, Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18 to Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 31 proves beyond a reasonable doubt...proves, with a preponderance of the evidence, that...

/IN GOD'S LAW

You are guilty as charged...all creatures are guilty as charged...and there is no way to talk yourself out of the indictment.\

The purpose of our next passage of study in Romans is to drive home a simple point to all of God's creatures...that our situation is hopeless... that we are helpless...because we all are breakers of the law. After all, there are only two possibilities open to us under law.

Righteousness is one...Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 17...

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/ROM 1:17

For in it (the gospel message) the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, “BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.”

If we are to be righteous, all we have to do is imitate what the Lord Jesus Christ did...come to the earth sinless, live a sinless life, and follow every law flawlessly...in other words, all we have to do to be righteous is to be without sin...all we have to do to be righteous is to be perfect. Oops! For example, if you wanted to be righteous in the eyes of a judicial system, all you would have to do is not break any law. Hear that clearly...not break any law. If you break the law and don't get caught, you are still guilty of breaking the law. If you murder someone and don't get caught, it is still murder. It is still breaking the law.

If we are not righteous, we are subject to God's wrath...

/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 in unrighteousness...

In our world, where Satan is ruler, we live in a system that is set up to be arbitrary...and as people we have been acculturated to think we can always talk ourselves out of any situation, even when we are guilty as charged of breaking the law. Not so with God's law. Guilty is guilty.

One of the reasons I could never succeed in a business to consumer environment is that consumers are always making up elaborate stories to “get over” on a business. Little do they know that their stories aren't that unique...in fact they are totally transparent...and customer service professionals hear the same lies over and over again from people who think their elaborate stories, which they spent hours making up, are so appealing and so enticing that they will succeed at cheating the business out of something that is in the consumer's favor.

Nordstrom's, one of my business heroes, took consumer lying completely out of play. They have a legendary return policy. They almost never contest a consumer's story. You could buy a pair of shoes from Nordstrom's, wear them for a year, take them back and say you didn't like them, and they'd

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give you a refund no questions asked, without a receipt. They would then refurbish your shoes, send them to the Nordstrom Rack or to their Last Chance outlet, sell them, and still make money.

A story in the folklore of retail history alleges that a customer brought a set of snow tires back to Nordstrom's and was given a refund. Based on what I just told you, that might not seem so odd for a store with a legendary return policy, until you realize that Nordstrom's doesn't even sell snow tires.

In God's law, however...

/IN GOD'S LAW

You are guilty as charged...all creatures are guilty as charged...and there is no way to talk yourself out of the indictment.\

Take a five-minute break.

/BREAK

When I Think About Home

Welcome back... Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 18 to Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 31, our next passage, details an indictment against all creatures, including the entire human race. What is an indictment?

/INDICTMENT

A formal accusation which initiates a criminal case.\

Your life is your trial. You get a chance to prove with your life whether you are righteous or unrighteous. You are unrighteous at birth, guilty as charged. Romans, Chapter 5, Verse 19...

/ROM 5:19

For as through the one man (Adam's) disobedience the many (all human creatures) were made (considered) sinners, even so through the obedience of the One (the Lord Jesus Christ) the many will be made righteous.

Because of our position in union with Adam, the federal head of the human race, at physical birth, we are guilty...we are sinners...we are unrighteous from birth. And it is impossible to be in right relationship with God if we

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are ungodly, and unrighteous, and sinners. And we cannot change the situation by means of our own works. Titus, Chapter 3, Verses 3 to 7...

/TIT 3:3

For we also once were foolish ourselves (while unbelievers), disobedient, deceived, enslaved to various lusts and pleasures, spending our life in malice and envy, hateful, hating one another.

/TIT 3:4

But when the kindness of God our Savior (the Lord Jesus Christ) and His (unconditional) love for mankind appeared...

/TIT 3:5

He (God the Father) saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in (self)-righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and (through) renewing by the (baptism of God the) Holy Spirit...

/TIT 3:6

...whom He (God the Father) poured out upon us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior...

/TIT 3:7

...so that being justified by His (God the Father's) grace we would be made heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

For salvation, you can say YES to Christ or NO to Christ. You can keep God's law by saying YES to Christ...like the jailer during Paul's imprisonment...Acts, Chapter 16, beginning at Verse 27...

/ACT 16:27

When the jailer awoke and saw the prison doors opened, he drew his sword and was about to kill himself, supposing that the prisoners had escaped.

/ACT 16:28

But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying (to the jailer), "Do not harm yourself, for we are all here!"

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/ACT 16:29

*And he (the jailer) called for (turned on the) lights and rushed in, and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas... *

/ACT 16:30

*...and after he brought them out (of the prison), he said, “Sirs, what must I do to be saved?” *

/ACT 16:31

*They (Paul and Silas) said, “Believe in the Lord Jesus (Christ), and you will be saved, you and (everyone in) your household (who also believes).” *

This is the law... God’s law. You can respond actively by doing something ...you can respond passively by doing nothing...both are responses. But being saved requires a positive response...it requires you to follow God’s law. If you don’t, how can you escape? Hebrews, Chapter 2, Verses 1 to 3 say you can’t...you are guilty as charged...

/HEB 2:1

*For this reason (because the Lord Jesus Christ is the Sovereign judge and the victor in the Creator-creature conflict) we (believers in Christ) must pay much closer attention to what we have heard (the gospel message), so that we do not drift away from it. *

/HEB 2:2

*For if (1) the word (the law) spoken through angels proved unalterable (and it did), and every transgression and disobedience received a just penalty (and it did)... *

/HEB 2:3

*...how will we escape if we neglect so great a salvation? *

You cannot break God’s law and get away with it. You cannot change God’s law. You are under it. If you make up your own laws to give yourself pseudo satisfaction, it does not change God’s law and you are still subject to it. That’s what we’ll be seeing in the upcoming passage of Romans. You are guilty as charged, and there is no way to talk yourself out of this one. You will have to abide in your choice. What does it mean to abide.

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/ABIDE (meno)

To stay in a given place...an active sharing of life and of death...to remain in...to dwell in\

God gives us a choice to abide in Him...an active sharing of His resurrection life...John, Chapter 15, Verse 5...

/JOH 15:5

“I am the vine, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”

God gives us a choice to reject Him...which means we can abide in an active sharing of death...not with Him, but with like minded rejecters of Him...John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

/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.”

How does God make His law known to us? Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 20...

/ROM 1:20

For since the creation of the world His (God’s) invisible attributes, His eternal power and divine nature, have been clearly seen, being understood through what has been made (the whole created universe), so that they (unbelievers) are without excuse.

Design demands a designer. The Big Bang Theory attempts to make a Creator irrelevant and superfluous. Okay...let’s assume the universe got here by a big, random bang...who holds the universe together? Why don’t the stars collide? Hebrews, Chapter 1, Verse 3 says...

/HEB 1:3

And He (the Lord Jesus Christ) is the radiance of His (God the Father’s) glory and (the Lord Jesus Christ is) the exact representation of His (God the Father’s) nature, and (the Lord Jesus Christ) upholds all things by the word of His power.

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We'll learn in the coming weeks that all creatures have a duty from which they cannot escape...

/DUTY

A binding obligation by virtue of being placed in a position, expressed as respect for the placement\

And there is no excuse for breaking the law...there is no being who is excused for breaking the law...the duty of all creatures is to worship and serve the Creator. Yet you have a choice. We'll investigate, in the next passage, the choices of unbelievers...and the penalty of their error. Romans, Chapter 1, Verse 25...

/ROM 1:25

For they (unbelievers) exchanged the truth of God for a lie, and worshiped and served the creature rather than the Creator, who is blessed forever. Amen.

Fasten your seatbelts. The next passage will be quite a ride.

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/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

We are Royalty\

/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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