

COLOSSIANS
Lesson 1–June 27, 2021

Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
a Christian Church

Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian Church with worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. Welcome to this Bible lesson! Who is Jesus Christ? At Barah Ministries we know this truth...that JESUS CHRIST IS GOD. When you worship here you worship the one and ONLY true God. Colossians, Chapter 2, Verses 9 and 10 affirm it...

COLOSSIANS 2:9

For in Jesus...the Christ...all the fullness of Deity lives in bodily form...

COLOSSIANS 2:10

...He is the head...over all rule...and over all authority...

He is the Lord...God the Son...100% Deity...so He's fully God...and He is Jesus...the Christ...the Jewish Messiah...100% true humanity...so He is fully man...and the two separate natures...God and man are combined in one Person. Nothing in the universe happens without the Lord's permission.

If the opening verses sound familiar to you, they are the exact same verses from last week. It's appropriate to repeat them because you weren't listening last week. ☺ Okay...seriously now...we're beginning our study of Paul's letter to the Colossians today...and the subject matter is the Christ...our God and our Lord and our Savior and our role model and our friend...and these verses describe Him perfectly.

Why does Barah Ministries exist? At Barah Ministries, we introduce people to the Lord. We make a difference by teaching the Word of God verse-by-verse from the Lord's perspective and not from man's perspective. Barah Ministries is provided by God for the benefit of unbelievers and believers. Unbelievers get the gospel message...the good news concerning Jesus Christ's salvation offer. Believers get the Word of God, the Bible, the

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inerrant Canon of Scripture so those who study can have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the Lord.

Why study the Word of God? Here's a good reason...to be able to spot false teachers and their false teachings. Let's look at something being taught in the world...

WHY THE BIBLE IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD
by Alexander Barron, Huffington Post

Perhaps it should be first noted that I am a licensed minister in the Missionary Baptist tradition. I believe in preaching the Word of God. I believe in the saving of souls from the clutches of dark forces.

WHY THE BIBLE IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD
by Alexander Barron, Huffington Post

I believe that God is all-loving and all-powerful and that his son, Jesus of Nazareth, was the son of God, who has given us a way to live life fully and abundantly. Yet, I do not believe the Holy Bible is the infallible word of God.

WHY THE BIBLE IS NOT THE WORD OF GOD
by Alexander Barron, Huffington Post

The Holy Bible is a collection of Christian texts that is the result of refinement by men who thought they were led by God to discern his teachings.

This is false. What makes what he says more unbelievable is what God says in His Word. This man's beliefs do not matter. Truth matters...the truth found in the Word of God. Here's what the Bible says to refute his claims... Second Timothy, Chapter 3, Verses 16 and 17...

SECOND TIMOTHY 3:16

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All Scripture is God-breathed (into the writers of Scripture) ... and it is profitable for teaching...for reproof...for correction...and for training in righteousness...

SECOND TIMOTHY 3:17

...so that the man of God may be mature...totally equipped for every good work.

Second Peter, Chapter 1, Verses 20 and 21 say...

SECOND PETER 1:20

But know this first of all, that no prophecy of Scripture is a matter of one's own private interpretation...

SECOND PETER 1:21

...and no (Biblical) prophecy was ever made by an act of human will...but men carried along by God the Holy Spirit spoke directly from the exact thinking of THE God (the Lord Jesus Christ).

We implore you to always compare what you learn, both at Barah Ministries and in the world, with what the Bible says.

God has an enemy...Satan...whom God made 'the ruler of this world.' In John, Chapter 14, Verse 30, the Lord says...

JOHN 14:30

"I will not speak much more with you (apostles)...for the ruler of the world is coming...even though he has no hold over Me..."

Satan only wants a part of us. He wants our will. He deceives us...he causes us to suffer...yet neither of these things is nearly as bad as us allowing him to influence our will. That's when his insidious methods of destruction, designed to corrode our spiritual lives, are most powerful against us...when we permit him to destroy us. In Mark, Chapter 12, Verse 30, the Lord Jesus gives us the remedy against Satan...

MARK 12:30

"...and you shall love the Lord your God unconditionally...with ALL your

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heart...and with ALL your soul...and with ALL your mind, and with ALL your strength.”

ALL is not some. Do not give the devil a single opportunity!

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Who wrote the letter we are about to study?

LESSON INTRODUCTION

Today we begin our study of a biblical letter written for the believers at first-century Colossae. The letter has four chapters and ninety-five verses. By contrast, the letter to the Romans had sixteen chapters and four hundred thirty-three verses...the first letter to the Corinthians had sixteen chapters and four hundred thirty-seven verses.

Our study of each letter begins with a several lesson overview. Have you ever picked up the Bible and just started reading? There's certainly nothing wrong with doing that, but I'll tell you...I NEVER do that. Instead, I approach Biblical study as I approach life...with questions. God the Holy Spirit is a trustworthy teacher who LOVES answering our questions.

Here are a few questions that come to mind as we begin this study:

- Who wrote the letter we are about to study?
- Who is the letter directed to?
- Where do the people live who are receiving the letter?
- What do we know about the author of the letter?
- When did the author write the letter?
- Where was the author when he wrote the letter?
- What was God's purpose in getting the author to write the letter?
- What does God want the author to communicate to the intended audience of the letter?
- What is the main message of the letter?
- What relevance does the letter have to our lives today?

In today's lesson, we begin our overview of the letter to the Colossians. Answering these and other questions as they come up will get us off to a great start.

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SONG INTRODUCTION

As believers in Christ, we are not a people loaded with beliefs...we are a people inculcated with truth. Psalm 25, Verse 5...

PSALM 25:5

Lord...lead me in Your truth and teach me...for You are the God of my salvation...for You I wait all the day.

Here's Lisa Page to sing to us about one of her discoveries...THE TRUTH.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

THE TRUTH

Lisa Page

<INSERT SONG LYRICS>

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

THE TRUTH

Lisa Page

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

We're grateful, Heavenly Father, for the privilege of studying Your absolute truth...the Word of God...

Father, as You take us on a new journey in our study of the letter to the Colossians, help us get to know You...help us get to know Your Son...our Lord...Jesus Christ...

Teach us that the life You have given us is sufficient and that it needs no additions...rid us of the more-more-more mentality...

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

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Who wrote the letter we are about to study?

As you have probably guessed, the apostle Paul wrote the letter to the Colossians.

A great way to start the study of a Biblical letter is to read the whole thing. So between now and next week, please read the whole letter...all four chapters...all ninety-five verses...and as you do, see if the answers to any of the questions suggested in the introduction illuminate themselves as you read. Let's begin by listening to Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 1 to 29...

COLOSSIANS 1:1

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother...

COLOSSIANS 1:2

...to the saints and faithful brethren in Christ who are at Colossae...grace to you and peace from God our Father.

COLOSSIANS 1:3

We give thanks to God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, praying always for you...

COLOSSIANS 1:4

...since we heard of your faith in Christ Jesus and the love which you have for all the saints...

COLOSSIANS 1:5

...because of the hope laid up for you in heaven, of which you previously heard in the word of truth, the gospel...

COLOSSIANS 1:6

...which has come to you, just as in all the world also it is constantly bearing fruit and increasing, even as it has been doing in you also since the day you

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heard of it and understood the grace of God in truth...

COLOSSIANS 1:7

...just as you learned it from Epaphras, our beloved fellow bond-servant, who is a faithful servant of Christ on our behalf...

COLOSSIANS 1:8

....and he also informed us of your love in the Spirit.

COLOSSIANS 1:9

For this reason, also, since the day we heard of it, we have not ceased to pray for you and to ask that you may be filled with the knowledge of His will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding...

COLOSSIANS 1:10

...so that you will walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, to please Him in all respects, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God...

COLOSSIANS 1:11

...strengthened with all power, according to His glorious might, for the attaining of all steadfastness and patience...joyously...

COLOSSIANS 1:12

...giving thanks to the Father...who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of the saints in Light.

COLOSSIANS 1:13

For He rescued us from the domain of darkness, and transferred us to the kingdom of His beloved Son...

COLOSSIANS 1:14

...in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

COLOSSIANS 1:15

He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of all creation.

COLOSSIANS 1:16

For by Him all things were created, both in the heavens and on earth, visible

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and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or rulers or authorities—all things have been created through Him and for Him.

COLOSSIANS 1:17

He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together.

COLOSSIANS 1:18

He is also head of the body...the church...and He is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, so that He Himself will come to have first place in everything.

COLOSSIANS 1:19

For it was the Father's good pleasure for all the fullness to dwell in Him...

COLOSSIANS 1:20

...and through Him to reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His Cross...through Him, I say, whether things on earth or things in heaven.

COLOSSIANS 1:21

And although you were formerly alienated and hostile in mind, engaged in evil deeds...

COLOSSIANS 1:22

...yet He has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death, to present you before Him holy and blameless and beyond reproach—

COLOSSIANS 1:23

...if indeed you continue in the faith...firmly established and steadfast...and not moved away from the hope of the gospel that you have heard...which was proclaimed in all creation under heaven...and of which I, Paul, was made a minister.

COLOSSIANS 1:24

Now I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake...and in my flesh, I do my share on behalf of His body, which is the church...in filling up what is lacking in Christ's afflictions.

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COLOSSIANS 1:25

Of this church I was made a minister according to the stewardship from God bestowed on me for your benefit...so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the word of God...

COLOSSIANS 1:26

...that is...the mystery which has been hidden from the past ages and generations...but has now been manifested to His saints...

COLOSSIANS 1:27

...to whom God willed to make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles...which is Christ in you...the hope of glory.

COLOSSIANS 1:28

We proclaim Him...admonishing every man and teaching every man with all wisdom...so that we may present every man complete in Christ.

COLOSSIANS 1:29

For this purpose, also, I labor...striving according to His power, which mightily works within me.

When you read that chapter again, it might be worthwhile for you to write down all the gifts God has given to the Christian that are highlighted in those nine verses. It's a fabulous start to a great letter. When we return from the break, we'll take the offering, and then we'll begin our look at this amazing letter about our amazing God.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

NOBODY

Casting Crowns

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Who wrote the letter we are about to study?

In Philippians, Chapter 4, Verses 15 to 17, here's what the apostle Paul has to say about giving...

PHILIPPIANS 4:15

You yourselves also know, Philippians, that at the first preaching of the

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gospel (in Paul's first missionary journey), after I left Macedonia, no church shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone...

PHILIPPIANS 4:16

...for even in Thessalonica (in Paul's second missionary journey), you sent a gift more than once for my needs.

PHILIPPIANS 4:17

Not that I seek the gift itself (for myself...even though I appreciate it), but I seek for the profit which increases to your account (from God when you give).

I know what Paul means. One of the great pleasures of my life is giving. It has been a pleasure over the years to give my time, talent, and treasure to anyone who wants to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ...so they can learn free of charge.

One of the things I most appreciate is that you have joined me in giving. I don't give of myself once in a while...I give of myself all the time. That's what the Lord wants from us...our ALL. If you listen to Barah Ministries we ask you to contribute to Barah Ministries. No amount is too small.

I want you to make giving to Barah Ministries a routine. Another great pleasure of my life is to watch how God blesses your giving and makes it have an impact all over the world...in places all over the world... with people you know nothing about. Simultaneously, God gives abundant credits to your account. Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with one of his always inspiring offering messages.

THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:10

Now I (Paul) exhort you fellow believers in Christ, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you all agree...and that there be no rivalries among you... instead that you be made complete...in the same mind and in the same purpose.

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OFFERING SONG

HAVEN'T SEEN IT YET

Danny Gokey

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

Who wrote the letter we are about to study?

We find out immediately in Colossians, Chapter 1, Verse 1...

COLOSSIANS 1:1a

Paul...an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God the Father...

The apostle Paul wrote the letter. We will learn what the Bible has to say about the apostle Paul in a future lesson. For now, let's learn a few things. Paul lived to the ripe old age of sixty-three. He was born in 5 A.D. and he died in 67 A.D.

It's uncertain how he died but the speculation is that he was beheaded by the order of the fifth emperor of Rome, Nero Claudius Caesar Augustus Germanicus. Nero did the world a favor in 68 A.D. by killing himself, the first Roman Emperor to do so. If you're ever in the mood to read about a real monster, check out some of the descriptions of a man who killed his own mother, who castrated a young boy and married him, and who burned Christians alive in the public square.

As a young man, Paul was known as Saul of Tarsus, a man from this historic city in south-central Turkey in the region of Cilicia. He was hell-bent on murdering all the Christians he could. He was a Jew...He was a Pharisee, well-versed in the Law of Moses...and he was a Roman citizen.

Jesus intervened in Paul's life on the Damascus Road. The Risen Savior appeared to Saul, an encounter that completely transformed him (ACTS 9). This man Saul became the beloved apostle, saint, evangelist, theologian, and Pastor we now call Paul.

Paul wrote more than half of the New Testament...thirteen letters...and if not half in volume, certainly more than half in importance. He wrote ten of his letters to the body of Christ...Church Age believers. He wrote about how Christians should live in response to Christ's life, death, and

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resurrection. Here are those ten letters and the time and sequence in which they are reported to be written....

PAUL’S TEN LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

1 Thessalonians	52 A.D.
2 Thessalonians	53 A.D.
Galatians	54 A.D.
1 Corinthians	57 A.D.
2 Corinthians	57 A.D.

PAUL’S TEN LETTERS TO THE CHURCH

Romans	57 A.D.
Colossians	62 A.D. (P)
Ephesians	62 A.D. (P)
Philippians	62 A.D. (P)
Philemon	63 A.D. (P)

If there is a “P” next to an epistle, it means that Paul wrote the letter while he was in prison. He wrote five letters from prison, and his letter to the Colossians is one of them.

Paul wrote three letters to Pastors...

PAUL’S THREE LETTERS TO PASTORS

1 Timothy	64 A.D.
Titus	64 A.D.
2 Timothy	67A.D. (P)

Who is the letter we are about to study directed to?

The letter is directed to a group of first-century believers in Christ who live in a small town in modern-day Turkey called Colossae. Why would the apostle Paul write such a profound letter to such a small group of people in a nothing town in the middle of nowhere...to a group of people he has never met and never visited? Hmmm. That's an intriguing question that emerges from our initial set of questions.

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Where do the people live who are receiving the letter?

Colossae is about one hundred miles inland from Ephesus, a place where the apostle Paul spent three years. Other cities in the area include Laodicea, a place with really wealthy people, and Hierapolis. You may remember Laodicea from gospel messages we have taught over the years...in Revelation, Chapter 3, Verses 15 to 18, the Lord says to the Laodicean believers...

REVELATION 3:15

“I (the Lord Jesus Christ) know your deeds...that you (like the water in your homes) are neither cold nor hot...I (the Lord Jesus Christ) wish that you were cold or hot.”

REVELATION 3:16

“So, because you are lukewarm (like the water in your homes) ... and neither hot nor cold...I will vomit you out of My mouth.”

REVELATION 3:17

“Because you Laodicean believers say, ‘I am rich...and have become (materially) wealthy...I have need of nothing,’ and you do not know that you are (spiritually) wretched and miserable and poor and blind and naked...”

REVELATION 3:18a

“...I (the Lord Jesus Christ) advise you to buy from Me gold refined by fire so that you may become (spiritually) rich...and white garments so that you may clothe yourself (unlike the black wool that gave you material wealth) ...

REVELATION 3:18b

...so that the shame of your nakedness will not be revealed...and I advise you to buy from Me eye salve to anoint your eyes so that you may see.”

Material wealth blinded them to their spiritual poverty.

Hierapolis was known as a healing city because it had hot springs that people used as a spa. Many people chose to retire there.

Let’s take a look at a map.

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COLOSSAE MAP SLIDE

To the left on the map is Greece. You'll notice Corinth, the place where a church was located that Paul founded. We just completed a study of First Corinthians. To the right of the Aegean Sea, you'll notice Ephesus, the city where Paul spent three years. He wrote two letters to the Corinthians from Ephesus. Ephesus was a highly trafficked cultural center which is likely the reason Paul parked himself there at God's direction. That makes it even more of a curiosity why he would write a letter to a congregation in Colossae which is in the middle of nowhere.

On the map, you should be able to locate Hierapolis, Laodicea, and Colossae just to the right of the Aegean Sea. In addition, you should see Tarsus...to the right of those three cities...just above Cypress and just to the left of Syria...the place Paul is from.

The letter to the Colossians has four chapters and ninety-five verses of power-packed information about our peerless Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Next week we'll continue the overview as we continue to answer questions that set the groundwork for this important study.

GOD WANTS YOU!

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

There is a Person at the very core of Christianity who cares about you. Jesus Christ. He is the Sovereign God of the Universe...He is the truth...He is God. The good news for you is that God wants a relationship with you! This is your chance to have a personal relationship with Him.

The bad news is that you were born a sinner. Sinners need a Savior. That Savior is Jesus Christ and He wants you to be saved...First Timothy, Chapter 2, Verses 3 and 4...

FIRST TIMOTHY 2:3

This is what is good and acceptable in the sight of the God who is our Savior...the Lord Jesus Christ...

FIRST TIMOTHY 2:4

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...who desires for all men to be saved and who desires for all men to come to the knowledge of the truth.

You will spend eternity in the Lake of Fire at physical death if you choose not to believe in Him.

There is only ONE WAY to get to heaven...by placing your faith in Jesus Christ and in what He has done at the Cross on your behalf. If you're going to place your confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ for your eternal salvation, you probably should get to know Him as soon as you can. While there are many things to know about Him, here are the critical few things.

The Lord Jesus Christ is Your Creator...John, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

JOHN 1:3

All things came into being through the Lord (God the Son) ... and apart from Him, nothing came into being that has come into being.

The Lord Jesus Christ loves you UNconditionally...First John, Chapter 4, Verse 8...

FIRST JOHN 4:8

The one who does not love unconditionally does not know the Lord, for the Lord IS unconditional love (it's His Person and His identity).

The Lord Jesus Christ has already forgiven ALL of your sins...past... present...and future...Isaiah, Chapter 43, Verse 25...

ISAIAH 43:25

"I, even I (the Lord), am the one who wipes out your transgressions for My own sake...and I will not remember your sins."

The Lord doesn't want you to work to please Him...Romans, Chapter 11, Verse 6 says...

ROMANS 11:6

But if salvation is by grace, and of course it is, it is no longer on the basis of your works...otherwise grace is no longer grace.

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The Lord Jesus Christ doesn't want you to go to the Lake of Fire...Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9...

SECOND PETER 3:9

The Lord is not slow about His promise of salvation, as some accuse Him of...instead, He is patient toward unbelievers...not wishing for any of you to perish (in the Lake of Fire) but for all of you to come to repentance (a change of mind about having a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ).

The Lord Jesus Christ is the Perfect Person to lead you to salvation.

God's graciousness offers you the chance to be saved as a free gift. So how can you get to heaven? This loving, forgiving, patient God who wants you to be saved is willing to save you right this minute. John, Chapter 14, Verse 6...

JOHN 14:6

Jesus said to the doubting apostle, Thomas, "I am the way (to salvation), and I am the truth (through the Word of God), and I am the resurrection life (eternal life)...and no one comes to God the Father (in heaven) but through believing in Me."

Right where you sit, RIGHT NOW, you can tell God the Father that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is the moment of eternal life for you. Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

ACTS 16:31

"Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved, you and everyone in your household who also believes."

So, heed the warning in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

JOHN 3:36

"He who believes in the Son has the resurrection life right at that moment... but he who does not obey the command to believe in the Son will not see the resurrection life...instead the wrath of God (the Lake of Fire) abides on him."

Who is this God who saves you? The apostle Paul describes the Lord Jesus

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Christ...in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3 and 4...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3

For I (Paul) delivered to you as of primary importance the gospel message I also received from God...that it was Jesus Christ who died for our sins according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:4

...and that He was buried...and that He was raised from the dead on the third day...according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

When you get to know Jesus Christ, you'll have no problem placing your confidence in Him, both for your salvation and for everything else. Why? Because you'll know that the Sovereign God of the Universe wants a relationship with you. He loves you unconditionally, and He died for you. So, take advantage of His grace and you'll be saved RIGHT NOW!

SONG INTRODUCTION

The Lord our God is the great I AM. At least that's what he said to Moses in Exodus, Chapter 3, Verses 13 and 14...

EXODUS 3:13

Then Moses said to the Lord God (Jehovah Elohim), "Behold, I am going to the sons of Israel, and I will say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you.' Now they may say to me, 'What is His name?' What shall I say to them?"

EXODUS 3:14

The Lord God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM" ... and He said, "Thus you shall say to the sons of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you.'"

Paul's letter to the Corinthians is all about I AM...the Person June Murphy is singing about...our HERO...the Lord Jesus Christ!

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

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HERO
June Murphy

<INSERT SONG LYRICS>

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ
Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

HERO
June Murphy

CLOSING VERSES

A Doxology of Praise to Our God

Let's close with words of worship for our Almighty God.

PROVERBS 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord Jesus Christ with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Jesus, and He will make your paths straight.

DEUTERONOMY 31:8

“For the Lord is the one who goes ahead of you...He will be with you...He will not fail you or forsake you...so do not fear or be dismayed.”

ISAIAH 30:18

The Lord longs to be gracious to you...He waits on high to have compassion on you...for the Lord is a God of justice...blessed are those who wait for Him.

FIRST PETER 5:6-7

Therefore, humble yourselves under the mighty hand of God, that He may promote you at the proper time...slamming all your cares on His back, because He cares for you.

God considers your problems to be His responsibility.

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CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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