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. At BarahMinistries we know this truth...that Jesus Christ is God. As the Lord He is 100% Deity...He is God the Son...He is also 100% true humanityjust like you and me...He is Jesus Christ. The Lord, God the Son, became flesh as Jesus Christ and tabernacled among us here on earth.Hebrews, Chapter 4, Verse 15 says...

HEBREWS 4:15

...(in Jesus Christ)...we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses...we have a high priest in Jesus who has been tempted in all things just as we are...yet He is without sin.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the uniquely born One...the God-Man...He is 100% God and 100% true humanity in One Person forever. He is the Sovereign God of the Universe...He is the Savior of the whole world...and He is the Jewish Messiah.

Barah Ministries makes a difference by teaching the Word of God from the Lord Jesus Christ's perspective, and not from man's perspective. Why? Because how God sees things is very different from how people see things. Instead of trusting what man has to say about God, we prefer to search the Scriptures to learn what God has to say, not only about Himself but also about His plan for all mankind and His personal plan for you.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Why are There Rivalries Among Us?

LESSON INTRODUCTION

What a great question to tackle on rivalry weekend in college football! In Acts, Chapter 16, Verses 30 and 31, a prison guard asks a question that reverberates through the halls of divine history...he asks Paul and Silas...

ACTS 16:30 "Sirs, what must I do to be saved?"

ACTS 16:31 They said, "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved...you and everyone in your household who also believes."

Often people ask the question, "How is it that two people can grow up in the same family, the same environment, in the same circumstances and yet live vastly different lives...think vastly different ways...and see the same things very differently? Well if the answer isn't because of the environment, and if the answer isn't because of circumstances, then it must be because of choice. Two people can see the same thing differently.

When people look at the gospel message that is communicated in Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...two people from the same family can see that message very differently...some see it as the power of God for salvation...some see it as foolishness. First Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verse 18 says...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:18

For the Word (of God)...especially the Word of the Cross (the gospel message)...is foolishness to those who are perishing (unbelievers)...but to us (believers in Christ) who are being saved by it...the Word of the Cross is the power of God the Father (divine omnipotence in action).

The world sees life one way and the Christian sees it differently...and rivalry is born. In today's lesson, we'll look into the subtle, underlying message "hiding" in the first two chapters of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church.

SONG INTRODUCTION

I make it a practice not to watch the news...my broadcast journalism training has witnessed for decades that the news is the same twelve stories of misery rehashed with new faces every night. Watching the news robs us of hope and forces us to put our eyes on people, which is a prescription for misery. In Hebrews, Chapter 12, Verse 12, the Bible instructs us to...

HEBREWS 12:12

... fix our eyes on Jesus... the pioneer and perfecter of our faith...

When we do, the result is what *For King and Country* sing about in this song...JOY.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

JOY For King and Country

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

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

Father, thank you for making Your power obvious to us when we stop for a moment to look to You...to listen to You...and to hear You...help us to have the spiritual strength to not ignore the "still small" yet powerful voice of God the Holy Spirit as He teaches us truth...help us also to ignore the spirit of the world...the temptations of Your enemy...Satan...as he endeavors to lead us away from Your influence...

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

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Why are There Rivalries Among Us?

The next passage we will study in Paul's first letter to the believers in Christ

at Corinth in Chapter 2 is Verses 6 to 16. Before we do, I think it's really important to look at a subtle message underlying what we have studied so far...because it would be easy for this very important message to get lostif we don't keep our eyes on the context of the opening of this letter.

Passage 1 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians extends from Chapter 1, Verse 1 to Chapter 1, Verse 3...

CHAPTER 1

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:1

Paul, called (by God as a "sent man")...to be an apostle of Jesus Christ BY THE WILL OF GOD...and Sosthenes our brother...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:2a

...to the church belonging to God that is in Corinth...to those who have been sanctified (set apart as possessions by God...placed) in union with Christ Jesus...called to be saints (thus, no longer sinners)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:2b

...together with all those in every place who call upon the name of our Lord Jesus Christ...their Lord and our Lord...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:3

...grace to you and peace from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ.

Passage 2 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians extends form Chapter 1, Verse 4 to Chapter 1, Verse 9...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:4

I (Paul) thank God the Father always concerning you believers in Christ at Corinth...I thank Him for the grace of God the Father which was given to you (in Corinth) who are in union with Christ Jesus...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:5

...that in everything you were enriched in union with Christ Jesus ... enriched in all of the Word ... and enriched in all knowledge ...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:6

...even as the testimony (I gave...the gospel message) concerning Christ was confirmed in you (because you believed)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:7

...so that you are not lacking in any spiritual gift...AWAITING EAGERLY the revelation of our Lord Jesus Christ (at the exit resurrection of the Church...the Rapture)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:8

...(The Lord)...who will also confirm you to the end (your salvation is secure...confirming you as) blameless (free from condemnation and accusation) in the day of our Lord Jesus Christ.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:9

God the Father is faithful (even when we are faithless)... the Father through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

Passage 3 of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians extends from Chapter 1, Verse 10 to Chapter 4, Verse 21. We are at the beginning of the study of this passage, so it's important not to lose the context of this third passage. Paul is addressing rivalries and dissensions in the Corinthians Church...and He's communicating subtly and sarcastically why these rivalries exist.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:10

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

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:11

For I (Paul) have been informed concerning you, my brethren (in the church at Corinth) ... by Chloe's people...that there are quarrels among you.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:12

Now what I (Paul) mean by this is that each one of you is saying, "I belong to Paul" ... and "I belong to Apollos" ... and "I belong to Cephas (Simon Peter)" ... and "I belong to Christ."

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:13

Has Christ been divided (into component parts)? Paul was not crucified for your sake, was he? You weren't baptized in the name of Paul, were you?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:14

I (Paul) thank God that I baptized none of you except Crispus and Gaius...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:15

... so that no one would say you were baptized in my name.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:16

Now I did baptize also the household of Stephanas...beyond that, I do not know whether I baptized any other.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:17

For the Lord Jesus Christ did not send me to baptize...He sent me to preach the gospel...not in smooth, slick speech (with superficial rhetorical skill) ... so that the Cross of Christ (and its depth) would not be emptied of its effect.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:18

For the Word (of God)...especially the Word of the Cross (the gospel message) ... is foolishness to those who are perishing (unbelievers)...but to us (believers in Christ) who are being saved...the Word of the Cross (the gospel message) is the power of God the Father (divine omnipotence in action).

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:19

For it stands written(in Isaiah 29:14), "I (the Lord) will destroy the wisdom of the wise...and the cleverness of the clever I will nullify."

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:20

Where is the wise man? Where is the scribe? Where is the debater of this age? Has not God the Father (through the Cross) made foolish the world's wisdom?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:21

For since in a demonstration of God the Father's wisdom, the world did not come to know God through wisdom (through the intellect)...God was well-

pleased to save those who believe (with faith) through the foolishness of the gospel message we preached.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:22

For indeed Jews ask for signs (empiricism) and Greeks search for wisdom (rationalism)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:23

...but we preach about a crucified Christ (not a resurrected one) ...which to Jewish unbelievers is a stumbling block and to Gentile unbelievers (the Greeks, it) is foolishness...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:24

...but to those who are the called ones (believers in Christ whose eyes were opened by the call of God) ... both Jews and Greeks... Christ is both the divine power of God the Father and the wisdom of God the Father.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:25

Because the foolishness of God the Father is wiser than human wisdom...and the weakness of God the Father is stronger than human strength.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:26a

For consider your calling, brethren (fellow believers in Christ) ... consider that not many of you are wise according to the (standards of the) flesh (you're not very learned by the world's standards)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:26b

...consider that not many of you are powerful according to the (standards of the) flesh (you're not socially and politically powerful by the world's standards)... consider that not many of you are well-born according to the (standards of the) flesh (you're not blue bloods by the world's standards)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:27

...but God the Father has chosen the things (and the people) the world regards as foolish to shame the wise...and God the Father has chosen those the world regards as weak to shame the strong...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:28

...and God the Father has chosen what the world regards both as insignificant and as disdained...the things (and the people) that are nothing...so that God the Father may nullify (that He may make into nothings) the things that are ("something" to the world) ...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:29

... so that no man may boast before God the Father.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:30

From the source of God the Father...and because of Him...you believers in Christ are in union with Christ Jesus...who became...for our benefit...the manifestation of wisdom FROM GOD THE FATHER...and who became for us...righteousness...and sanctification (also known as holiness) ... and redemption...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:31

...so that, just as it stands written, "Let him who boasts, boast about his union with the Lord (Jesus Christ)."

CHAPTER 2

FIRST CORINTHIANS 2:1

And when I (Paul) came to you, brethren (believers in the Corinthian Church), I did not come proclaiming to you the testimony of God (the gospel message) with eloquent speech or with human wisdom (indicative of high social status)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 2:2

For I (Paul) decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 2:3

I was (interacting) with you in (my own) weakness and in (my own) fear and in much trembling (the attitude of an obedient slave in awe of God)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 2:4

... and my message and my preaching were not (delivered) in the persuasive

art of words and in human wisdom...but (my message and my preaching were delivered) as a demonstration of the spiritual power of God the Holy Spirit...(in divine) power (providing heavenly proof) ...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 2:5

...so that your faith would not rest on the wisdom of men, but (that your faith would rest) on the (divine) power of God.

When we return from our five-minute break, we'll take the offering and then we'll look at the subtle message underlying the passage we're studying.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK Unconditional Love Donna Summers

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Why are There Rivalries Among Us?

God the Holy Spirit cultivates generosity in our hearts. Are you listening to His promptings? First John, Chapter 3, Verses 16 to 18 teach us...

FIRST JOHN 3:16

We know unconditional love by this (demonstration)...that Jesus Christ laid down His life for us...and (following His lead) we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

FIRST JOHN 3:17

But whoever has the world's goods, and sees his brother in need and closes his heart against him, how does the unconditional love of God abide in him (yet he is still able to do this)?

FIRST JOHN 3:18

Little children (believers in Christ), let us not love unconditionally with our mouths...but (let us love unconditionally) withactions and with the truth.

During this season of giving, wake up your spiritual eyes to those around you who are in need, especially Barah Ministries. We always appreciate the way you support us because it allows us to support others all over the world

through the miracle of the internet. Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with the offering message.

THE OFFERING Deacon Denny Goodall OFFERING VERSE

COLOSSIANS 2:8

See to it that no one takes you captive through philosophy and empty deception, according to the tradition of men...according to the elementary principles of the world, rather than according to Christ.

OFFERING SONG

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU David Bauer, Instrumental

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Why are There Rivalries Among Us?

SONG INTRODUCTION

What does the Bible have to say about fear? Psalm 29, Verse 25 says...

PSALM 29:25 The fear of man is a trap...but he who trusts in the Lord will be kept safe by the Lord.

Award-winning artist Zach Williams says it this way...FEAR IS A LIAR.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

FEAR IS A LIAR Zack Williams

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON Why are There Rivalries Among Us?

It's because two people see the exact same thing in a different way. In fact, what we do is we look at an issue, make a decision about it, and then we turn it into a belief. Maybe the belief is the truth. Maybe the belief is not the truth. Then we whack each other over the head with our beliefs, and what happens, quite often, is the truth gets lost.

The subtle message underlying our study of the first three passages of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians Church is the gospel message. Paul has delivered the gospel message to the believers in Corinth, they have believed it, but they are so new to Christianity that they have not abandoned the thinking they came from...the thinking of the world. Paul is setting them up to lower the boom in the second half of this letter by making them aware of the reason rivalries exist, not only in their church but also in the world.

So let's look at the subtle messages underlying the letter so far...and as you studied these two chapters again before we go on to the next verses of study...notice where these messages show up in the letter.

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Unbelievers

Believers

Two people will hear the same gospel message...one accepts it...another rejects it. <The Thieves Being Crucified Next to Jesus>

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Wisdom of the World The Wisdom of God

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Rationalism Empiricism Faith

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Power of the World

The Power of God

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Wisdom of Man is Foolish

The Foolishness of God is Wise

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The World Chooses "the Wise"

God Chooses "the Foolish"

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The World Chooses "the Strong" God Chooses "the Weak"

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The World Chooses "Somethings" God Chooses "Nothings"

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Self-Sufficient

God-Sufficient "obedient slaves"

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Slick Speech

The Power of the Spirit

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

Human Power

Divine Power

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Thoughts of Humans The Thoughts of God

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Things of the Sons of Disobedience

The Things of the Spirit of Holiness

Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 1 and 2...

EPHESIANS 2:1

And you believers in union with Christ were spiritually dead in your trespasses and sins...

EPHESIANS 2:2

...(trespasses and sins) in which you formerly walked (as a lifestyle) according to the curriculum of this world...according to (the direction of) the prince of the power of the air (Satan...the enemy of God)...according to the spirit that is now working in the sons of disobedience (unbelievers).

With God...there are two camps. Black and White. God's enemy adds a third camp...GRAY...which is black with a deceptive dress on. God is clear on His preference. In Revelation, Chapter 3, Verses 15 and 16 the Lord says to the Laodicean Church...

REVELATION 3:15

"I know your deeds, that you are neither cold nor hot...I wish that you were cold or hot."

REVELATION 3:16

"So because you are lukewarm...and neither hot nor cold...I will vomit you out of My mouth."

What God wants for us is that we be of THE SAME MIND...One mind... His mind. Romans, Chapter 12, Verse 2...

ROMANS 12:2

And do not be conformed to this world (Satan's system of instruction)...but keep on being transformed by God in the renewing of your mind...so that you may prove (through experience) what the will of God is...and the will of God is that which is good and that which is acceptable and that which is perfect.

Rivalries exist when we refuse to agree with God. Change your mind!

GOD WANTS YOU!

Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life

The closing moments of our study are for the benefit of anyone who does not have a personal relationship with the Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. We want you to know that GOD WANTS YOU.

What God wants you to know is that thirteen words tell the story of how to be saved! The first word is GOD. There is one and only one God...Isaiah, Chapter 45, Verse 5...

GOD

ISAIAH 45:5 "I am the Lord and there is no other...besides Me there is no other God."

Our amazing God reveals Himself in ways that make sense to human beings. He is the One who wants to save you.

The next word is MANKIND, a name for all of God's human creatures. John, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

MANKIND

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.

God created you.

The next word is SIN. All of us were born is a state of sin. Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 23...

SIN

ROMANS 3:23 ... for all creatures have sinned and fall short of the glory of God...

Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 10...

SIN ROMANS 3:10 ...as it is written, "There is no creature who is righteous...not even one..."

First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22...

SIN

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:22a

For all in union with Adam at physical birth (and that is every human who comes to earth) are set to die the second death in the Lake of Fire...

It's not our fault that we were born in a state of sin but it is our circumstance.

As a result of being born in a state of sin, all of us need a Savior. The next word is JESUS...the Name above all names...that magnificent Name...The God-Man...the Christ...The Jewish Messiah...the Savior of the world. John, Chapter 3, Verse 17...

JESUS

JOHN 3:17

For God the Father did not send God the Son (as the Lord...Jesus Christ) into the world to judge the world...but the Father sent the Son into the world that the world might be saved through Him.

Jesus Christ is God and He wants you to be saved.

The next word is CROSS. The Lord Jesus Christ chose to become a sin sacrifice for you by shedding His blood on a Cross so you wouldn't have to die for your sins. Philippians, Chapter 2, Verse 8...

CROSS

PHILIPPIANS 2:8

Being found in appearance as a man...the Lord Jesus Christ humiliated Himself by becomingobedient to the point of death...even death on a Cross.

John, Chapter 3, Verse 16... CROSS

JOHN 3:16

"For God the Father loved the world unconditionally...and He loved the world so much...that He gave His uniquely born Son (the God-man...the Lord Jesus Christ...to be crucified on a Cross) ... so that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life."

Jesus Christ had you in mind as He hung from a Cross.

The next word is RESURRECTION. Three days after Jesus Christ's crucifixion, He proved Himself to be Deity...just as He said...by being resurrected from the dead...in Luke, Chapter 24, Verses 5 and 6, an angel asks...

RESURRECTION

LUKE 24:5-6

"...why do you seek The Living One among the dead ones?//Jesus is not here...but He has risen (from the dead...just as He predicted)...

Being resurrected from the dead separates Jesus Christ from all who pretend to be God.

The next word is SALVATION. Acts, Chapter 4, Verse 12 credits Jesus Christ with the salvation of the whole human race...

SALVATION

ACTS 4:12

"And there is salvation in no one else...for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among men by which we must be saved (except the name of the Lord Jesus Christ)."

If you have salvation then you are saved from the penalty of eternity in the Lake of Fire.

The next word is GRACE. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8 and 9...

GRACE

EPHESIANS 2:8

For by God's grace you have been saved through faith (in Christ for salvation)...and that grace and that faith and that salvation are not from the source of yourselves...it is the gift of God....

GRACE

EPHESIANS 2:9

...therefore, being saved is not as a result of works (deeds you have done in self-righteousness)...so that no one may boast (about savinghimself).

A God who is "full of GRACE" provides your salvation free of charge.

The next word is FAITH. Mathew, Chapter 17, Verse 20...

FAITH

MATTHEW 17:20

"...if you have faith the size of a mustard seed (the smallest of all seeds ... and you do)...you will say to this mountain (any obstacle), 'Move from here to there,' and it will move ... and nothing will be impossible to you."

God gives you the gift of faith to spend on your own salvation.

The next word is REPENTANCE. Second Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 9...

REPENTANCE

SECOND PETER 3:9

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

When you repent, you have a change of mind about having a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ.

The next word is RIGHTEOUSNESS. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 21 says...

RIGHTEOUSNESS

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:21

God the Father made Jesus Christ who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God the Father in union with Christ Jesus.

Righteousness is your admission ticket to heaven.

The next word is TRUTH. John, Chapter 8, Verses 31 and 32...

TRUTH

JOHN 8:31 So Jesus was saying to those Jews who had believed Him, "If you continue in My word, then you are truly disciples of Mine..."

TRUTH

JOHN 8:32 "...and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

Thirteen words tell the story of how you can be saved. There is a GOD...He is the creator of all MANKIND...and SIN separated mankind from having a relationship with Him. JESUS CHRIST saved the day by dying on a CROSS to pay for the sins of all mankind. His RESURRECTION from the dead three days later proved that He is God. As a result, we have a "so great" SALVATION, provided free of charge by means of God's GRACE. By spending our gift of FAITH, we can be saved. When we REPENT, we

change our minds about having a relationship with Christ, and God the Father credits His absolute RIGHTEOUSNESS to our account...a righteousness that is our admission ticket to heaven. When you know this TRUTH, it will set you free from the slavery of sin and bondage to the law. The power of the thirteen words can be summed up in just one word...BELIEVE. Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

BELIEVE

ACTS 16:31

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

When we BELIEVE, we take God's word for it concerning what it takes to be saved. So, heed the warning in John, Chapter 3, Verse 36...

BELIEVE

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."

SONG INTRODUCTION

God is not a big talker...He's a doer...here's June Murphy to sing a song about His DEOMSNTRATED LOVE.

CLOSING SONG *DEMONSTRATED LOVE June Murphy*

CLOSING PRAYER *Let us pray...*

Thanks for coming! Thanks for watching! Thanks for listening!

www.barahministries.com