

ROMANS
Lesson 15–January 26, 2020

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 Barah Ministries 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 humanity just like you and me, and His name is Jesus Christ. The Lord...God the Son...became flesh...Jesus Christ...and lived among us. He is the Sovereign God of the Universe...He is the Savior of the whole world...and He is the Jewish Messiah.

Those who make Barah Ministries their spiritual home, believe in Jesus Christ. We are Christians, and we have a deep, intimate, and personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. Christianity is a relationship, not a religion. The Lord Jesus Christ is a Person, not a thing or a concept. Just as we would do with any person we love, we spend time getting to know the Lord through the study of His Word. You can't get to know the Lord without knowing His mind, and the Bible is His exact thinking.

Barah Ministries makes a difference by teaching the Word of God from the Lord Jesus Christ's perspective, and not from man's perspective. We search the Scriptures to learn who the Lord is as a Person, and to learn what our God has to say about Himself, about His plan for all mankind, and about His personal plan for each of us. We are here to learn to look at life from His perspective.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON - Are You A Child in an Adult Body?

LESSON INTRODUCTION

The members of the Corinthians Church were children in adult bodies! God's intention should be obvious to us by simply looking at the physical growth part of His plan for us...we go from being children to being

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teenagers, to being adults. God expects us to grow up! Many of us never do, especially spiritually. We may grow physically, but we are children inside, never really becoming adults. Are you growing up?

Deacon Denny has small children and can certainly attest to what he sees regularly with his children...divisions and rivalries. “That's mine!” “Give me that!” “No...I won't share!” With children we see the deeds of the flesh running rampant...Galatians, Chapter 5, Verses 19 to 21...

GALATIANS 5:19

Now the deeds of the flesh are evident, which are...sexual immorality (fornication and adultery), impurity (unclean thoughts), sensuality...

GALATIANS 5:20

...idolatry and witchcraft (worship of evil powers) ... (relationship sins like) enmities, strife, jealousy, outbursts of anger, disputes, dissensions, factions...

GALATIANS 5:21

...and envying (things causing the breakdown of human relationships)... (alcohol-related sins) drunkenness, carousing, and things like these, of which I forewarn you, just as I have forewarned you before, that those who practice such things (as a lifestyle...unbelievers) will not inherit the kingdom of God.

As our children grow to become teenagers and adults, we hope they grow to avoid this conduct that is powered by the kingdom of death and darkness... the sponsor of selfish impulses. God wants us to be led instead by the direction of the Holy Spirit. Galatians, Chapter 5, Verse 16 says...

GALATIANS 5:16

But I (Paul) say, walk by the guidance of God the Spirit, and you cannot carry out the desire of the flesh.

In today's lesson, the apostle Paul has a message for the Corinthian church...he wants them to grow up, and to build their lives on a firm foundation....the gospel...led by the Spirit...following true teachers.

SONG INTRODUCTION

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Let's hear some music! Now that you believers in Christ have spent your faith to be saved by the Lord and now that He has provided your "so great" salvation, do you have confidence in Him to provide everything else? In Matthew, Chapter 17, Verse 20 the Lord says...

MATTHEW 17:20

"...I (the Lord Jesus Christ) say to you...if you have faith the size of a mustard seed (maybe you will and maybe you won't...you have a choice)... you will say to this mountain (any obstacle), 'Move from here to there,' and it will move...and nothing will be impossible for you."

Have faith...the Lord provides! MercyMe sings about His provisions in their song EVEN IF.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

EVEN IF
MercyMe

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

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

Thank you, Father, for Your perfect provisions for our growth...we pray that You open our spiritual eyes to all the resources You're providing and that You give us the courage to act in faith on the things You're expecting us to do...

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

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The Corinthians believers were. How do we know? Divisions and rivalries...the deeds of the flesh were present among them. We continue our study of the third passage of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, which extends from Chapter 1, Verse 10 to Chapter 4, Verse 21. I went back and read the first two chapters of First Corinthians to remind me of the things we have learned so far. I highly recommend that you do the same this week so you keep in touch with the context of this passage. The apostle Paul is addressing problems in the church at first-century Corinth, and the first of those problems is the childlike behavior of the congregation, manifest in divisions and rivalries. Let's listen to the next part of the passage...First Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verses 1 to 17, and then let's study what Paul has to say to the church verse by verse...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:1a

And so I (Paul), brethren (fellow believers in Christ), could not speak to you (believers in Corinth) as I would speak to spiritual persons (those with the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit...believers in Christ) ...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:1b

...but (I have to speak to you) as (if I am speaking) to men of flesh (those without the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit...unbelievers) ... as if I am speaking to infants in union with Christ.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:2

I gave you milk to drink, not solid food...for you were not yet able to digest solid food. Indeed, even now you are not yet able to digest solid food...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:3

...for you are still (acting as if you are) fleshly (acting like unbelievers). For since there keeps on being jealousy and strife (persisting) among you, are you not fleshly (acting like unbelievers...being selfish) ... and are you not walking (living a lifestyle) like mere men (as if you are not spirit-filled persons)?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:4

For when one of you says, "I am of Paul," and another of you says, "I am of Apollos" ... are you not (acting like) mere men (unbelievers who thrive on divisions and rivalries)?

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FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:5

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? (We are)...Servants through whom you came to) believe, just as the Lord gave the opportunity to believe to everyone (through the gospel message).

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:6

I (Paul) planted...Apollos watered...but God was (the One) causing the (spiritual) growth.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:7

So then...neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything... but God who causes the growth (is everything).

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:8

Now he who plants and he who waters are one (in unity because each is a member of the body of Christ) ... but each will receive his own (individual) reward according to his own work.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:9

For we (Apollos and I) are co-workers under God's direction...you are God's cultivation (a field analogy) ... you are God's construction (a building analogy).

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:10

According to the grace of God which was given to me (Paul) as a skilled master-builder, I laid a foundation (with the gospel message), and another (teacher) is building on it. But each person (each teacher) must be careful how he builds on the foundation.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:11

For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which has already been laid...the foundation known as Jesus Christ.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:12

Now if any person (a teacher) builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones (with valuable biblical messages) ... or if any person (a teacher) builds on the foundation with wood, hay, straw (with worldly messages...and of course he does) ...

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FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:13

...the quality of each person's (teacher's) work will become evident...for the day (of judgment) will show the value of the work...because the value of the work is to be revealed with fire...and the fire itself will reveal the quality of each man's work.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:14

If any man's work which he has built on the foundation remains (and for some it will), he will receive a reward.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:15

If any man's work is burned down (and for some it will be), he will suffer a loss of reward... but he will be saved...yet only in this way...as if he has escaped through a fire.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:16

Do you not know that all of you believers in Christ (in the congregation at Corinth) are a temple of God the Father and that the Holy Spirit of God dwells in you?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:17

If any man (a Pastor-Teacher) destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him...for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you believers in Christ are (holy).

Okay...so what is Paul discussing here? Let's study this part of the passage verse-by-verse. First Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verse 1...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:1a

And so I (Paul), brethren (fellow believers in Christ), could not speak to you (Corinthians believers) as I would speak to spiritual persons (those with the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit...believers in Christ) ...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:1b

...but (I have to speak to you) as (if I am speaking) to men of flesh (those without the indwelling of God the Holy Spirit...unbelievers) ... as if I am speaking to infants in union with Christ.

Paul is using a maternal analogy here. He shifts from subtlety in the first two chapters to direct rebuke...firm disapproval of the conduct of believers

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in the Corinthian church...conduct that is causing divisions and rivalries. His message of truth was a slap in the face for the arrogant believers who thought they were better than others in the church because of their social status or their wealth...to those who thought they were mature and spiritual. The truth is always considered to be “brutal honesty” to those who don’t want to hear it. It is not Paul’s desire to be mean...he just wants them to wake up so that they discontinue the divisiveness. First Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verses 2 and 3...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:2

I gave you milk to drink, not solid food...for you were not yet able to digest solid food. Indeed, even now you are not yet able to digest solid food...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:3

...for you are still (acting as if you are) fleshly (acting like unbelievers). For since there keeps on being jealousy and strife (persisting) among you, are you not fleshly (acting like unbelievers...being selfish) ... and are you not walking (living a lifestyle) like mere men (as if you are not spirit-filled persons)?

Paul is describing people who are acting like children even though they are in adult bodies. These are people who are spiritual royalty who are acting like hoodlums. These are people who are being controlled by their feelings instead of being controlled by God the Holy Spirit. These new believers are rejecting spiritual growth. They resemble uncontrollable, uncontrolled unbelievers in their actions. These believers were taught well but they are refusing to grow up.

What Paul is NOT saying is that there are baby believers and mature believers. God makes no such distinctions. Just as God does not see children as lesser beings than adults, He does not see distinctions between believers. God is not complicated. His believers all are the same in His eyes. First Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verse 4...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:4

For when one of you says, “I am of Paul,” and another of you says, “I am of Apollos” ... are you not (acting like) mere men (unbelievers who thrive on divisions and rivalries)?

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Paul is asking the believers in Corinth to be above rivalries. He wants them to see things as God sees things...that all believers are equal and on the same team. When we return from our five-minute break, we'll take your offering, and then we'll see what else Paul has to say to adults who act like children.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

NOBODY

Casting Crowns

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON - Are You A Child in an Adult Body?

This is the year when the members of Barah Ministries need to change their giving game. We need to find gifts from generous organizations that allow us to redirect their generosity to a whole new set of ministries, serving new people within our community and outside of our community, teaching people how to live the lives God intends for them. As Barah Ministries members, we need to give in ways that threaten our very existence, knowing in faith that God will care for us no matter what. Let faith, not comfort, direct your generosity this year. Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with today's offering message.

THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

SECOND CORINTHIANS 4:16

Therefore, we do not lose heart (we don't give up) ... for even though our outer man (the physical body) is decaying...our inner man (the spiritual life) is being renewed day by day.

OFFERING VERSE

SECOND CORINTHIANS 4:17

For momentary, light (in weight) affliction ... (suffering relatively easy to bear) ... is producing for us believers in Christ an eternal weight of glory... far beyond all comparison...

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OFFERING SONG

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU

David Bauer, Instrumental

TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON - Are You A Child in an Adult Body?

SONG INTRODUCTION

In Philippians, Chapter 4, Verses 6 and 7, we learn that we have a God we can count on...

PHILIPPIANS 4:6

Stop worrying about anything... but in everything by PRAYER and PETITION...with THANKSGIVING...let your REQUESTS be made known to God the Father.

PHILIPPIANS 4:7

And the peace of God the Father, which transcends our ability to comprehend, will be a garrison to your hearts and to your minds in union with Christ Jesus.

God’s peace floods the troubled soul on request. Here’s Casting Crowns to sing about Him in their song GOD OF ALL MY DAYS.

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

Be Occupied with the Person of the Lord Jesus Christ

Enjoy the Singing of His Praises

GOD OF ALL MY DAYS

Casting Crowns

TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON - Are You A Child in an Adult Body?

Welcome back! First Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verse 5...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:5

What then is Apollos? And what is Paul? (We are)...Servants through whom you came to) believe, just as the Lord gave the opportunity to believe to everyone (through the gospel message).

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Paul and Apollos are not competitive...they are cooperative. Rivalries are centered on being competitive with others. Paul and Apollos are in unity, each with a single task.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:6

I (Paul) planted...Apollos watered...but God was (the One) causing the (spiritual) growth (in the mission field).

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:7

So then...neither the one who plants nor the one who waters is anything... but God who causes the growth (is everything).

All of our success is dependent on God. We are servants. We do the work God asks us to do. We are all equal. God assigns the task...God causes the growth...God is something...we are nothing...all the glory for our work goes to God, not to us. First Corinthians, Chapter 3, Verse 8...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:8

Now he who plants (the plow hand) and he who waters (the water boy) are one (in unity because each is a member of the body of Christ) ... but each will receive his own (individual) reward according to his own work.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:9

For we (Apollos and I) are co-workers under God's direction...you are God's cultivation (a field analogy) ... you are God's construction (a building analogy).

As workers, we toil in unity. What is a plow hand without a water boy? Now Paul transitions from a field analogy to a building analogy.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:10

According to the grace of God which was given to me (Paul) as a skilled master-builder, I laid a foundation (the gospel message), and another (teacher) is building on it. But each person (each teacher) must be careful how he builds on the foundation.

The Corinthians believers are choosing to glorify their teachers, so Paul uses

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teachers as an example. Teachers are from God...they do nothing from the source of themselves. They are servants of God...dependent on God...assigned by God...God uses their work. Teachers are nothing in and of themselves. God causes their work to grow...God gets the glory...God rewards the teacher's work. God produces the harvest of souls.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:11

For no one can lay a foundation other than the one which has already been laid...the foundation known as Jesus Christ.

The work of teachers varies in quality. It is to be centered on Christ.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:12

Now if any person (a teacher) builds on the foundation with gold, silver, precious stones (with valuable biblical messages) ... or if any person (a teacher) builds on the foundation with wood, hay, straw (with worldly messages...and of course he does) ...

Gold, silver, and precious stones represent the gospel message...an enduring, true message pointing to Christ. A teacher who builds a ministry with an accurate gospel message is building an enduring ministry. Those teachers who build with wood, hay, and straw...with worldly messages...build with inferior materials that do not stand the test of time. Fire test the quality of a building. Fire at the last judgment will test the quality of a teacher's work. Fire will test the quality of your work. If the building does not burn down it was constructed well.

Rewards are payment from God for work that endures. If you want to test the quality of your Christian life, test it with the work you are doing to change lives...in quality...not in quantity. Does your spiritual work make a difference? Are you using your spiritual gift?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:13

...the quality of each person's (teacher's) work (note the singular) will become evident...for the day (of judgment) will show the value of the work...because the value of the work is to be revealed with fire...and the fire itself will reveal the quality of each man's work.

Will your work smell like smoke?

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FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:14

If any man's work which he has built on the foundation remains (and for some it will), he will receive a reward.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:15

If any man's work is burned down (and for some it will be), he will suffer a loss of reward...but he will be saved...yet only in this way...as if he has escaped through a fire.

The quality of our work matters to God. There is Christ...there is the gospel message...there is salvation...there is the Holy Spirit...there is the Word of God...there is sanctification...there are teachers...servants who are the spokespersons for the foundation...there is you...the congregation members...there is your spiritual gift...there is your work. How's the quality of your work?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:16

Do you not know that all of you believers in Christ (in the congregation at Corinth) are a temple of God the Father and that the Holy Spirit of God dwells in you?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 3:17

If any man (a Pastor-Teacher) destroys the temple of God, God will destroy him...for the temple of God is holy, and that is what you believers in Christ are (holy).

What destroys a temple? Divisions and rivalries. Adults acting like children. What else destroys a temple? Teachers with worldly messages! Success in the Christian Way of Life and the Christian Way of Living does not depend on man...but on God. God provides everything for us to grow and to prosper. God rewards our effort...our work. What is the folly of rivalries? It's me OR you (competitiveness) rather than it is me AND you (cooperation). God wants us to be reconciled in our relationships. Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verses 17 to 19...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:17

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Therefore, if anyone is in union with Christ, and all believers in Christ are, there is a new creation...the old self things passed away...behold, new self things have come.

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:18

Now all these things are from God the Father, who reconciled us to Himself through Christ and gave us the ministry of reconciliation...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 5:19

...namely, that God the Father was in union with Christ reconciling the world to Himself...not counting their trespasses against them, and the Father has committed to us believers in Christ the word of reconciliation.

Are you having rivalries and divisions in your relationships? In prayer, you'd be wise to ask God to do the work of reconciliation in your life. He's good at it. ☺

Why are we so bad at the reconciliation of divisions? We don't forgive...we don't do the thing we have control over...forgiveness. We don't control others but we can control ourselves. Matthew, Chapter 5, Verses 21 to 24...

MATTHEW 5:21

"You have heard that the ancients were told, 'You shall not commit murder' and 'Whoever commits murder shall be liable to the court.'"

MATTHEW 5:22

"But I (the Lord Jesus Christ) say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother shall be guilty before the court...and whoever says to his brother, 'You good-for-nothing,' shall be guilty before the supreme court...and whoever says, 'You fool,' shall be guilty enough to go into the fiery hell."

MATTHEW 5:23

"Therefore if you are presenting your offering at the altar, and there you remember that your brother has something against you..."

MATTHEW 5:24

"...leave your offering there before the altar and go...first be reconciled to your brother, and then come and present your offering."

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It is clear throughout the Bible that God is not a fan of divisions and rivalries. He is a fan of unity. Unity begins with the right attitude. The right attitude includes an attitude of the right foundation...Christ...an attitude of equality...we're all the same...and an attitude of the right direction, taking our guidance from God the Holy Spirit.

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.

I've got bad news for you. The bad news is that all of us are born in a state of unrighteousness. We are born physically alive and spiritually dead as ungodly, unrighteous unbelievers. It's not our fault, but it is our circumstance. In First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22, the bible says...

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...

But in the face of this bad news, there's good news! The Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ, provides a way for you to be saved! The good news is preached in what Christians call the gospel message. Let's see what happened when the gospel was preached in a prison in first-century Rome in Acts, Chapter 16, Verses 25 to 34...

ACTS 16:25

...about midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns of praise to God (from their jail cells), and the other prisoners were listening to them...

ACTS 16:26

...and suddenly there came a great earthquake...so that the foundations of the prison house were shaken...and immediately all the doors were opened and everyone's chains were unfastened.

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ACTS 16:27

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

Allowing prisoners to escape carried a penalty of instant execution for prison guards!

ACTS 16:28

But Paul cried out with a loud voice, saying to the guard, “Do not harm yourself...for we are all here!”

ACTS 16:29

And the jailer called for the lights to be turned on and he rushed in...and trembling with fear he fell down before Paul and Silas...

ACTS 16:30

...and after the prison guard brought Paul and Silas out, he said, “Sirs... what must I do to be saved?”

The guard had obviously been listening to the spiritual songs Paul and Silas were singing.

ACTS 16:31

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

There are no works of any kind necessary to be saved...it is simply faith, expressed in the Lord Jesus Christ alone, that is the ticket to eternal life.

ACTS 16:32

And Paul and Silas spoke the Word of the Lord (the gospel message...the good news) to the jailer together with all the people who were in his house.

ACTS 16:33

And the jailer took Paul and Silas that very hour of the night and washed their wounds...and immediately the jailer was baptized...he and all his household (who also believed...and they all did).

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ACTS 16:34

And the jailer brought Paul and Silas into his house and set food before them, and rejoiced greatly, having believed in THE God (the Lord Jesus Christ) with his whole household.

How did the jailer friend get saved? In a crisis, he recognized He needed a Savior. He asked someone who knew what it took to be saved. Believers in Christ presented the accurate gospel message. The jailer did what was suggested.

Don't wait for a crisis to be saved! Do it now!

Who is this God who saves you? The apostle Paul describes the Lord Jesus Christ...in First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verses 3 and 4...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:3

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

It's bad news if you choose not to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation. Romans, Chapter 1, Verses 18 to 20...

ROMANS 1:18

For the wrath of God the Father is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and against the unrighteousness of men (unbelievers) who suppress the truth by their unrighteousness...

ROMANS 1:19

...because that which is known about God the Father is evident inside of them...for God the Father made it evident to them (from inside of them).

ROMANS 1:20

For since the creation of the world God's invisible attributes...God's eternal power...and God's divine nature...have been clearly seen by all mankind...

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being understood even through what has been made (in nature...God's creative work) ... so that all mankind is without excuse before God.

God makes Himself clearly visible to human beings in ways that make sense to human beings...both from the inside of them and from the outside of them. Remember what Paul and Silas said to the jail guard, in 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 accept the invitation and 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.”

Don't miss your opportunity...take advantage of the good news!

SONG INTRODUCTION

First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 9 describes believers in Christ this way...

FIRST PETER 2:9

But you believers in Christ are a chosen race...a royal priesthood...a holy nation...a people for God the Father's own possession...so that you may proclaim the excellencies of the Father who has called you out of darkness into His marvelous light...

We are possessions of God the Father...here's June Murphy to sing about it in her song FATHER I'M YOURS.

CLOSING SONG

FATHER I'M YOURS

June Murphy

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CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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