

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

If you're in the resident congregation, turn off your electronic devices and put them away. Let this be a place where you aren't distracted by the world.

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 like you and me...He is Jesus Christ. God the Son, the Lord, became flesh, Jesus Christ, and tabernacled among us here on earth. He is the uniquely born One...HE is 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 mankind. We want you to learn what God wants for you.

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON
As Christians, We Can Boast Loudly About a Single Thing

LESSON INTRODUCTION

What do you see when you look at me? You'd probably never suspect that I came from a family that was so poor my mother fed me sugar water...a mixture of Karo Syrup and water to keep me fed...you'd never know that I was forty pounds at a year old...you'd never know that my goal each day of my childhood simply was to get home alive...you wouldn't know that my

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

favorite sport as a child was watching the mice in my home eat D-Con in the middle of the night. Just as well you wouldn't believe all the opportunity that God has made available to me...I've taught in thirty countries on six continents...I've traveled the world...I've been allowed to meet people that I wouldn't even have imagined it possible to meet. Why? Because God uses people the world thinks have the wrong social status, the wrong skin color, the wrong pedigree to show the power that He has to do something amazing with us nothings. There is no limit to what God can do. Should I brag about my accomplishments? First Corinthians in Chapter 1, Verse 31 says...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:31

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

Now that's something to brag about! In today's lesson, we'll start to wind down our work in the first chapter of Paul's first letter to the Corinthian Church.

SONG INTRODUCTION

Mark, Chapter 12, Verse 30 implores us believers to...

MARK 12:30

"...love the Lord your God with all your heart...and with all your soul...and with all your mind...and with all your strength."

Lauren Daigle says it this way in her song...Lord, I WANT TO KEEP YOU FIRST. Let's listen...

MUSIC AND REFLECTION

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

FIRST

Lauren Daigle

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

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

Thank you, Father, for all You are and for all You do for Your believers... thanks especially for sending Your Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to pay the penalty for sin so that we could be reconciled to a relationship with You...thank you for giving us God the Holy Spirit as a Mentor and as a Teacher to guide us in all the ways of the resurrection life...open our hearts today to the truth contained in Your Word, Father...and help us use what we learn to live the magnificent life You planned for us in eternity past...help us to resist Your enemy, the devil called Satan so that we reject His temptations...instead, teach us the wisdom of obeying You...

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

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

As Christians, We Can Boast Loudly About a Single Thing

Let's look back at our work in the introductory chapter of Paul's first letter to God's church at Corinth.

PASSAGE 1 is First Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 1 to 3...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:1

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

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:2a

...(are writing this letter) 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...(people) 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...

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:3

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

We learned from this passage that it is God the Father who calls all of us believers in Christ to a holy calling. It is up to us to respond to this marvelous call and to be shaped by God's will to do the things He has sent us to earth to do. I assure you that what you are doing today isn't even the tip of the iceberg compared to what it is God wants you to do.

PASSAGE 2 is First Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 4 to 9...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:4

I (Paul) thank my God the Father always concerning you believers in Christ at Corinth...I thank Him for the grace God the Father has given to you (at 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 of God...and enriched in all knowledge (of what the Word means)...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:6

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

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

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

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:9

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

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.

We know that Corinth is the Las Vegas of the ancient world...the sin city...the place people went to party. Yet right in the midst of the party place God planted a church so that those who wanted to be saved could be saved...and so that those who wanted to grow could grow. It's like Aretha Franklin once said in song... "There is a rose in Spanish Harlem...a red rose in Spanish Harlem...it's growing in the street...right up through the concrete..." in a place you would never expect to see a rose.

PASSAGE 3 is First Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 10 to 17...

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 divisions (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 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

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

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

In the first six chapters of Paul's first letter to the Corinthians, He is pointing out the problems in the church. Among these problems are rivalries...mistreatment because of socials distinction or gender distinction or racial distinction. Members of the church have separated into factions based on these classifications, and Paul is quite appalled by it. Martin Luther was similarly appalled when the first protestants were being called Lutheran. Martin Luther said...

MARTIN LUTHER QUOTE

What is Luther? The teaching is not mine. Nor was I crucified for anyone. How did I...the poor stinking bag of maggots that I am...come to the point where people call the children of Christ by my evil name?

PASSAGE 4 is First Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 18 to 25...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:18

For the Word...especially the Word of the Cross...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).

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:19

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

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 made worldly wisdom foolish (with the wisdom of the Cross)?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:21

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

For because of God the Father's wisdom, the world did not come to know God through wisdom (the intellect) ... (instead) God the Father was well-pleased to save those who believe (in His Son, Jesus Christ) through the foolishness of the gospel message preached.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:22

For indeed Jews ask for signs and the Greeks chase after wisdom...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:23

...but we (Paul speaking of himself) ... preach about a CRUCIFIED Christ... which to Jewish unbelievers is a stumbling block and to Gentile unbelievers (the Greeks) is foolishness...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:24

...but to those who are the called ones (believers in Christ, who have been invited to the privilege of salvation) ... both Jews and Greeks... Christ is the (manifestation of the) power and 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.

God has taken a simple message, about a seemingly simple man, who died on a Cross in a horrific and humiliating way, and weaved a tapestry of amazingness into the opportunity for whosoever to be saved...and the wise of this word...the socially minded...those who consider riches and status and power to be their gods...have rejected the message and the man and the means of His so great salvation in favor of their own worthiness.

PASSAGE 5 is First Corinthians, Chapter 1, Verses 26 to 31...the passage we started last week and will finish today...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:26a

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

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:26b

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

...consider that not many of you are powerful according to 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 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 what the world regards as weak things to shame the strong...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:28

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

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:29

...so that no flesh 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)."

When we return from our five-minute break, we'll take the offering and then we'll finish up the first chapter of First Corinthians.

FIVE MINUTE BREAK

Unconditional Love

Donna Summers

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

As Christians, We Can Boast Loudly About a Single Thing

Isn't it a shame when believers in Christ let the world shape their thinking about everything, especially giving? Isn't it a shame that when it is time to give, we get tense and tight and operate with a mindset of scarcity, as if God's promises won't be fulfilled...as if he won't keep on giving us assets that we can share with the whole world...as if He isn't our everything. Let's God's attitude become your attitude when you give...and let your gift be the perfect reflection of His attitude toward giving. John, Chapter 3, Verse 16...

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 (the resurrection life).”

Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with the offering message.

THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

FIRST PETER 5:7

...slamming all your cares on His back, because God considers your problems to be His responsibility.

OFFERING VERSE

PHILIPPIANS 4:13

I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.

OFFERING VERSE

LUKE 1:37

...for nothing will be impossible with God.

OFFERING SONG

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU
David Bauer, Instrumental

TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON
As Christians, We Can Boast Loudly About a Single Thing

SONG INTRODUCTION

Look at your life with the gratitude that King David looked at his own life in Psalm 124, Verses 2 and 3...

PSALM 124:2-3

“Had it not been the Lord...who was on our side when men rose up against us...then they would have swallowed us alive when their anger was kindled against us...”

Danny Gokey tells us that a life without God on our side doesn’t matter much in his song IF YOU AIN’T IN IT.

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

IF YOU AIN’T IN IT
Danny Gokey

TODAY’S BIBLE LESSON
As Christians, We Can Boast Loudly About a Single Thing

Let’s continue our study of First Corinthians in Chapter 1, Verses 26 to 31...

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:26a

For consider your calling, brethren (fellow believers in Christ)...consider that not many of you are wise according to 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 flesh (you’re not socially and politically powerful by the world’s standards)...consider

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

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

Paul asks his listeners to consider who they are and how they came to believe in Christ. It was by grace through faith...not because of social status, or gender, or race, or worthiness, or any spectacular works we have done. Second Timothy, Chapter 1, Verse 9 reminds us...

SECOND TIMOTHY 1:9

...(God the Father) who has saved us and called us with a holy calling...not according to our works...but according to His own purpose and His own grace which was granted to those of us who are in union with Christ Jesus from all eternity...

God called us all to a tremendous set of privileges, while simultaneously dismissing every measure of worth proposed by human beings. God does things differently than the world. God isn't looking for the "elite." God loves peons. God's standards of worthiness dwarf human standards of worthiness because they are not self-based...they are God based and grace-based. Yet we're always striving to improve ourselves which isn't impressive to God at all. No matter how much you work, you could never impress God. The allegedly "strong" of this world think they are powerful without God. God's enemy, Satan, originated that thought and he has many followers.

As the fourth passage of this chapter indicates, the Word of the Cross was neither impressive nor attractive to the world's elite. Jeremiah, Chapter 9, Verses 23 and 24...

JEREMIAH 9:23

Thus says the Lord, "Let not a wise man boast of his wisdom...and let not the mighty man boast of his might...let not a rich man boast of his riches..."

JEREMIAH 9:24

"...but let him who boasts boast of this...THAT HE UNDERSTANDS AND KNOWS GOD...that he knows I am the Lord...who exercises lovingkindness, justice and righteousness on earth...for I delight in these things," declares the Lord.

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

Our identity and our security, as believers in the Lord Jesus Christ, comes from our relationship with Him...our union with Him.

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 what the world regards as weak things to shame the strong...

God is polar opposite from the world. He chooses those no one thinks should be chosen. With God, there is no partiality. We are all the same to Him. The next time you look at a homeless person and think you're better than him, remember how God sees him...He sees him as the same as you. God does not exalt the weak...He brings them to the same level as the strong.

People who are weak and ashamed have little trouble identifying with a crucified Christ...children...drug addicts...sex addicts...prostitutes...tax collectors...“minorities” ... to name a few. The “strong” think they are superior. They are not. And God makes them know.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:28

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

The Lord does exactly what His Father did...Acts, Chapter 4, Verse 11...

ACTS 4:11

Jesus is the stone that was rejected by you...the “builders” ... He became the chief cornerstone.

Why did God do this?

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:29

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

What does it say in Genesis, Chapter 3, Verse 19...

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

GENESIS 3:19b

“...for you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Every year in the Roman Catholic Church, at a time known as “lent,” which begins on Ash Wednesday and extends through Easter, 1.2 billion people are reminded that they are nothings. “remember man that you are dust and to dust you shall return.” Do they listen? Do they hear what God is saying to them? What God is saying is, “Let there be no rivalries among you!” We are all the same.

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...

These are the standards of success for believers in Christ...that we believe, that we have His absolute righteousness, our admission ticket to heaven... that we are sanctified...the holiness required to be in God’s presence, set apart for an amazing set of privileges (like prayer for example)...and that we are redeemed...purchased by Christ’s blood from the sovereignty of sin over us...freed from sin’s penalty, which is the second death in the Lake of Fire. These gifts are the fruit from God the Father.

Everything we have in this life comes from the source of God. Our identity, as believers in Christ, is our UNION WITH CHRIST. In this we can boast. Our security is provided by the promises and the actions of the Sovereign God of the Universe.

FIRST CORINTHIANS 1:31

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

Paul is communicating into a culture in Corinth that worships money and power and wisdom. Lest we forget, Paul thinks that these are the things that cause rivalries and divisions.

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

When Corinth was first established it was “ghetto.” Then it was “regentrified.” <Stateway in Chicago> As Corinth began to change it became like Phoenix, the land of the “haves” and the “have nots.” The people of this culture sought recognition and approval of others...they were “keeping up with the Joneses.” They wondered, “What do others think of me?” Rivalries...I choose to see you a certain way so I can be above you. Paul is reminding believers to remember they are nothings. When we boast, we only have a single thing to boast about...our union with Christ. This boast, is an eternal one...it is not temporary. Let us boast of our union with the Lord. Try it today!

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.

The Lord Jesus Christ, the Sovereign God of the Universe and the Savior of all mankind says there are two destinations for your eternal future...either heaven (the small gate and the narrow way) or the Lake of Fire (the wide gate and the broad way)...Matthew, Chapter 7, Verses 13 and 14...

MATTHEW 7:13

“Enter through the narrow gate...for the gate is wide and the way is broad that leads to destruction...and there are many who enter through the wide gate.”

MATTHEW 7:14

“For the gate is small and the way is narrow that leads to the resurrection life...and there are few who find it.”

Which road will you choose for your eternal life?

Those who are on the broad way that leads to destruction may think there is strength in numbers. Yet it is not true...believing what everyone else believes does not save you. Placing your confidence in the Lord Jesus Christ saves you.

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

The Lord Jesus Christ is 100% God...that's why we call Him Lord...and He is 100% Mankind...true humanity like you and me...that's why we call Him by His first and last name...Jesus Christ. Jesus says HE is the narrow gate... 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."

Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31 says...

ACTS 16:31

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

Those on the broad way that leads to destruction place their confidence in false teachers. The Lord Jesus Christ warns you to beware of false teachers in Matthew, Chapter 7, Verse 15...

MATTHEW 7:15

"Beware of the false prophets (false teachers)...who come to you in sheep's clothing (preaching deception)...who inwardly are ravenous wolves (out to destroy your eternal future)."

As ravenous wolves, false teachers rip your eternity to shreds by deceiving you with a false gospel message. Proverbs, Chapter 14, Verse 12 illuminates the issue...

PROVERBS 14:12

There is a way that seems right to a man (saving yourself by thinking your good deeds will earn your salvation) ... but its end is the way of death (the second death in the Lake of Fire).

God's enemy, Satan, is the sponsor of false teachers and false teaching. You have to be able to discern the difference between the truth and Satan's lies... John, Chapter 8, Verses 31 and 32...

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

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...”

JOHN 8:32

“...and you will know the truth (the gospel message), and the truth will make you free.”

Don't wait until it's too late to consider what road you are on! Mark, Chapter 1, Verse 15 says...

MARK 1:15

“The time is fulfilled...and the kingdom of God is at hand...so repent (change your mind about having a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ) and believe in His gospel message.”

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... 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...

The Lord Jesus Christ has a true gospel message... 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.”

Another warning for those who choose the broad way is Matthew, Chapter 7, Verses 21 to 23...

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

MATTHEW 7:21

“Not everyone who says to Me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven...but he who does the will of My Father who is in heaven (by obeying the gospel message) will enter heaven.”

MATTHEW 7:22

“Many will say to Me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in Your name...and in Your name did we not cast out demons...and in Your name did we not perform many miracles?’”

MATTHEW 7:23

“And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you...depart from Me...you who practice (a lifestyle of) lawlessness.’”

The will of God the Father is that you believe in His Son...the Lord Jesus Christ. Those who choose the narrow way have decided that faith in the Lord Jesus Christ alone is the ONLY ticket to heaven...Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 8 and 9...

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....

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 saving himself).

Get yourself on the narrow way that leads to eternal life in heaven right this minute. Tell God the Father that you believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation, and that is the moment of eternal life for you.

SONG INTRODUCTION

FIRST PETER 1:20

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

ROMANS
Lesson 8–November 17, 2019

FIRST PETER 1:21

...for no 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).

June Murphy says the Word of God carries her away in her song, YOUR WORD TAKES ME.

CLOSING SONG

YOUR WORD TAKES ME

June Murphy

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Thanks for coming!

Thanks for watching!

Thanks for listening!

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