

**/Welcome To
BARAH MINISTRIES
An Online Christian Church
Teaching the Word of God
Verse-by-Verse**

RORY CLARK
Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

I'm Pastor Rory Clark welcoming you to a Bible lesson with Barah Ministries.

This online ministry is a great place to learn about the Lord Jesus Christ and to be introduced to the sacrifice He made for all human beings, including you, so all of His creatures could have a relationship with Him.

When you study the Word of God you develop a deep, intimate and personal relationship with the Savior of the world and the Sovereign God of the Universe. Studying the Bible is one of the best gifts you give yourself every day.

/TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON
**Like You, Nicodemus Has Two Choices for Salvation...Faith in
Himself or Faith in the Lord**

LESSON INTRODUCTION

What is the most important verse in the Bible?

The short and correct answer are all of them. There is nothing unimportant in the Bible. Yet the verse every Christian knows and the verse every unbeliever has heard is John, Chapter 3, Verse 16...

/JOHN 3:16

"For God the Father so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son (the Lord Jesus Christ) that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."\

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On the surface, this is a simple offer. Believe in Christ and be saved. In its depth, the verse is a short course in how unbelievable it is to have a relationship with the One and only God.

In today's lesson, we'll continue to study the Lord's education of Nicodemus, and we'll go behind the scenes of this verse and others in our study of the second passage in John, Chapter 3.

OPENING SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's hear some music! On the night before He was crucified, the Lord Jesus Christ taught us four important words that are inescapably true. Luke, Chapter 22, Verses 41 and 42...

/LUKE 22:42

And the Lord Jesus Christ withdrew from His apostles about a stone's throw...and He knelt down and began to pray saying...

/LUKE 22:42

*"Father, if You are willing, and I know you are, remove this cup from Me (the cup of the Cross) ... yet not My will, but Thy will be done." *

Thy will be done. In the end, God's will is always done because nothing happens in divine or human history without His permission.

Here's Hillary Scott to sing about the troubles we face as human beings...and she gives us a suggested solution in her song. The solution is **THY WILL BE DONE**.

/MUSIC - OPENING SONG

Let's Hear the Singing of the Lord's Praises

THY WILL BE DONE

*Hillary Scott *

/OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

We're grateful to You Heavenly Father for providing us with the absolute truth of

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the Word of God...

Father, thank you for the simplicity of salvation...we, like Nicodemus, have only two choices...we can believe in self or we can believe in Your Son, the Savior of the world, the Lord Jesus Christ...thank you for sending Him as a sin sacrifice for us so that when we invest our faith in Him, we are saved...thank you for letting Him wipe out our sin debt and for gifting us with divine righteousness as our admission ticket to heaven...

...as we study the lesson today, take us into the depth of the salvation offer and help us realize deeply in our souls Your unconditional love for us...

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

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Like You, Nicodemus Has Two Choices for Salvation...Faith in Himself or Faith in the Lord

LESSON PART ONE

Today we'll study the second passage in the Gospel of John, Chapter 3. It is the continuation of the Lord's evangelism to the Pharisee Nicodemus...a prominent man in the social circles of his day...a spiritual leader who ought to be learned in Old Testament Scripture...an unbeliever...and a teacher of Israel.

Let's look at today's passage of study to see what else the Lord is communicating to Nicodemus as He continues to evangelize to this unbelieving Jew. John, Chapter 3, Verses 14 to 21...

/JOHN 3:14

"As Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up..."

/JOHN 3:15

"...so that whosoever believes will in Him have eternal life."\'

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/JOHN 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life.”

/JOHN 3:17

“For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him.

/JOHN 3:18

“He who believes in Him is not judged...he who does not believe has been judged already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.”

/JOHN 3:19

“This is the judgment...that the Light has come into the world and men loved the darkness rather than the Light, for their deeds were evil.”

/JOHN 3:20

“For everyone who does evil hates the Light, and does not come to the Light for fear that his deeds will be exposed.”

/JOHN 3:21

“But he who practices the truth comes to the Light, so that his deeds may be manifested as having been wrought in God.”

Let’s study the passage verse-by-verse.

The second passage of John, Chapter 3 is a continuation of the education of Nicodemus, the self-righteous unbeliever. In John Chapter 3, Verse 3 the Lord shocks Nicodemus...

/JOHN 3:3

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one is born again he cannot see the kingdom of God.”

Nicodemus got his first glass of cold water in the face. Nicodemus couldn’t believe what he was hearing. The Lord gives Nicodemus the next unbelievable truth in John Chapter 3, Verse 5...

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/JOHN 3:5

Jesus said to Nicodemus, “Truly, truly, I say to you, unless one becomes a born again one through water and the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God.”

Water is a reference to The Gospel of Jesus Christ...the water of the Word of God. The Spirit refers to the baptism of God the Holy Spirit. Unless a person hears the Gospel of Jesus Christ and responds positively to it resulting in the baptism of Spirit, he cannot see the kingdom of God.

Nicodemus still can't believe it. So the Lord tells Nicodemus and his friends another truth. John, Chapter 3, Verse 8...

/JOHN 3:8

“The wind blows where it wishes...and you hear the sound of it...but you do not know where it comes from and you do not know where it is going...so it is with everyone who is a born-again one from the baptism of God the Holy Spirit.”

The wind is a symbol of God's breath. The Lord is telling Nicodemus that God's breath goes wherever He wants it to, and God's breath produces the results He wants it to. Unbelievers want to produce their salvation through good works, yet the only way to get saved is to let God do it. As human unbelievers, God tells us we are totally depraved and completely helpless to do anything to save ourselves.

What the Lord is telling Nicodemus is that his human works can't produce a spiritual life. Only God's breath can do it.

Nicodemus was still incredulous. He thought, “This can't be possible! I did everything right in my life...I studied Scripture deeply...and now you're telling me nothing I did matters!” These thoughts came from his mouth in weakly whispered words, “How can these things be?”

The Lord continues in John, Chapter 3, Verse 11...

/JOHN 3:11

“Truly, truly, I (the Lord Jesus Christ) am telling you, Nicodemus, things I know for sure...and I am testifying to you what I have seen with spiritual discernment...and none of you accept our testimony.”

Nicodemus must have brought his friends with him, because the Lord goes from

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speaking to Nicodemus in the singular to speaking to all who were there with Nicodemus in the plural. Nicodemus and his friends are rejecting the things the Lord is saying.

So Nicodemus claimed he did not understand the new birth. Nicodemus and his friends were not willing to accept that they could see the changes created by the new birth in those who believe in the Lord Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ rebuked Nicodemus for not knowing basic truths about salvation while being a teacher of Israel. John, Chapter 3, Verse 10...

/JOHN 3:10

Jesus said to Nicodemus, "Are you the teacher of Israel and do not understand these things?"

What is a rebuke?

/REBUKE

A sharp and stern disapproval...a reproof...a reprimand\

The Lord's next lesson takes Nicodemus into his strength. Since Nicodemus didn't understand any of the Lord's insights about salvation so far, the Lord took him to the Old Testament. John, Chapter 3, Verses 14 and 15...

/JOHN 3:14

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up..."

/JOHN 3:15

*"...so that whosoever believes will in Him have eternal life." *

The Lord Jesus Christ sings a Prince song ... "I Will Die 4 You!" The Lord Jesus Christ is telling Nicodemus and his friends, "To appropriate the benefit of what I did for you at the Cross, you must believe in Me...you must put your trust in Me and not in yourselves for salvation."

Like you, Nicodemus has two choices for salvation...faith in himself or faith in the Lord.

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The Lord takes Nicodemus into the Old Testament...in the TORAH...the first five books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy)...the only Old Testament books religious Jews acknowledge. Numbers, Chapter 21, Verses 4 to 9...

/NUMBERS 21:4

Then the sons of Israel (the Jews) set out from Mount Hor by way of the Red Sea, to go around the land of Edom...and the people became impatient because of the journey.

/NUMBERS 21:5

The people spoke against God and Moses, “Why have you brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no food and no water, and we loathe this miserable food (the Lord is giving us...manna from heaven).”

/NUMBERS 21:6

The Lord sent fiery serpents among the people and the serpents bit the people, so that many people of Israel died.

/NUMBERS 21:7

So the people came to Moses and said, “We have sinned because we have spoken against the Lord and you...intercede with the Lord that He may remove the serpents from us.” And Moses interceded (in prayer) for the people.

/NUMBERS 21:8

The Lord said to Moses, “Make a fiery serpent, and set it on a standard...and it shall come about, that everyone who is bitten, when he looks at the fiery serpent, will live.”

/NUMBERS 21:9

And Moses made a bronze serpent and set it on a standard...and it came about that if a serpent bit any man, when the man looked at the bronze serpent, he lived.

BELIEVE!

The snake bite is spiritual death. The fiery serpent is the Lord Jesus Christ's Person and Work at the Cross. God tells the people what to do to be saved. When the people look at the fiery serpent, they are placing their faith and trust in what the Lord commanded. When they do, they get to live. It's the same with us.

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Trust the Lord or do your own works was the Lord's message. When you do your own works, you will die. In other words, if the people wanted to make an antidote for the snake bite themselves, it would have been a lot of work to create something that did not have the possibility of working.

All they had to do to be saved is just to look...to do what God requests. What HE asks all of us is to BELIEVE!

No religious ritual can free us from sin...not fasts...not pilgrimages...not praying to statues...not being humble.

<EXAMPLE: Satan encourages us, through the flesh, to reflect on all the bad things we have done in our lives...all the SIN. So we do our best to "clean up our acts" and our best is not good enough. Yet one act of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ wipes out all of our SIN. After that, sins ought never be thought of again.>

The Lord says we have two choices for salvation...faith in self or faith in the Lord to be saved.

The next lesson for Nicodemus and company was a lesson of love. John, Chapter 3, Verse 16...

/JOHN 3:16

"For God the Father loved the world unconditionally and so much ...that He gave His only begotten Son (the completely unique One...100% God and 100% Man in One Person) ... that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but has eternal life."\

The Bible says God's love for us is GREAT. Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 4 and 5...

/EPHESIANS 2:4

*But God the Father...being rich in mercy...because of His GREAT unconditional love with which He loved us... *

/EPHESIANS 2:5

*...unconditionally...even when we were spiritually dead in our transgressions... made us believers in Christ spiritually alive and placed us into union with Christ (for by grace you have been saved)... *

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Paul has a wish for all believers in Christ in Ephesians, Chapter 3, Verses 18 and 19...

/EPHESIANS 3:18

...that you believers in Christ...meaning all the saints...may be able to comprehend what is the breadth and length and height and depth of God's unconditional love for us...

/EPHESIANS 3:19

....and that you may KNOW (through experience) the unconditional love of Christ which surpasses knowledge...and that you may be filled up to all the fullness of God.

What do we know about God's love?

God's love is GREAT...God's love is UNCONDITIONAL...God's love is INFINITE...God's love is BROAD...God's love is LONG...God's love is HIGH...God's love is DEEP... God's love is FULL...God's love is BOUNDLESS...God's love is UNFATHOMABLE...God's love is IMMEASURABLE...God's love is GIVING...God's love is SELFLESS...God's love is SACRIFICIAL...God's love is UNCHANGEABLE...

THE CROSS is a symbol of God's love.

God wants us to love the same way...unconditionally. But there are times when our love is rejected, as was the love of Hosea, in Chapter 1, Verses 2 and 3...

/HOSEA 1:2

*When the Lord first spoke through Hosea, the Lord said to him, "Go...take to yourself a wife of harlotry (a prostitute) and have children of harlotry...for the land commits flagrant harlotry...forsaking the Lord." *

/HOSEA 1:3

So Hosea went and took Gomer the daughter of Diblaim (DE-BLAME) ... and she conceived and bore him a son.

The Lord wanted Hosea to experience how Israel and the Jews treated the Lord. They rejected the Lord's love. So Hosea was a mirror for the benefit of Israel and the Jews, to show them their rejection, but they couldn't see themselves in what he

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was doing.

God's unconditional love provides us with everything we have. He provides no matter what. When we run from God's love, He pursues us.

What is the reality of God's unconditional love in your life? Can you feel it?

When we return from the break, we'll request an offering and then we'll continue our study of the second passage of John, Chapter 3, verse-by-verse.

/FIVE-MINUTE BREAK

INDESCRIBABLE

Chris Tomlin

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OFFERING INTRODUCTION

When God blesses us financially, He wants us to raise our standard of GIVING, not our standard of living. Remember, God is the One who seeks and saves the lost. The lost don't seek Him. Romans, Chapter 3, Verse 11 says...

/ROMANS 3:11

There is no creature who understands God or any divine thing...there is no creature who seeks a relationship with God...

In Luke, Chapter 15, Verse 4, Jesus says...

/LUKE 15:4

"What man among you, if he has a hundred sheep and has lost one of them, does not leave the ninety-nine sheep in the open pasture and go after the one sheep which is lost until he finds it?"

Unbelievers are lost. The Lord Jesus Christ is the Great Shepherd. All of His creatures are the sheep. What does the Great Shepherd do for the sheep who are lost, the ones not seeking a relationship with Him? He goes after them.

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Your generosity creates the opportunity for Barah Ministries to provide the gift of the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the unbelievers God brings to this ministry. When unbelievers hear the gospel, they can be found.

Let's listen to Deacon Denny Goodall present one of his always thoughtful and always inspiring offering messages.

/THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall\

/OFFERING VERSE

GALATIANS 6:9

Let us believers in Christ not lose heart in doing good...for in due time we will reap if we do not grow weary.

/OFFERING SONG

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU

Instrumental Version

/TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON

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LESSON PART TWO

Welcome back! The Lord is saying to Nicodemus, "Maybe if you don't understand the lessons so far, maybe you understand love." John, Chapter 3, Verse 16...

/JOHN 3:16

*"For God the Father loved the world unconditionally and so much...that He gave His only begotten Son (the completely unique One...100% God and 100% Man in One Person) ... that whosoever believes in Him shall not perish, but has eternal life." *

What is the evidence of God's love for us? GOD THE FATHER GAVE US HIS SON.

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Second Corinthians, Chapter 9, Verse 15...

/SECOND CORINTHIANS 9:15

Thanks be to God the Father for His indescribable gift (to all mankind...the Lord Jesus Christ...His Son!)

Here's another way to look at the depth of God's love for us...John, Chapter 3, Verse 16...

/JOHN 3:16a

"For God the Father (THE GREATEST LOVER) loved the world (THE GREATEST GROUP OF PEOPLE IN GOD'S EYES) unconditionally and so much (TO THE GREATEST DEGREE) ... that He gave (THE GREATEST ACT) His only begotten Son (THE GREATEST GIFT)..."

/JOHN 3:16b

...that whosoever (THE GREATEST OPPORTUNITY...AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL) believes (THE GREATEST SIMPLICITY) in Him (THE GREATEST SAVIOR) shall not perish (THE GREATEST PROMISE)...but will have (WITH THE GREATEST CERTAINTY) eternal life (THE GREATEST POSSESSION)."

All you can say to that is WOW! God the Son is the best gift God the Father had to offer...and He GAVE!

In giving God the Son to us, God the Father gave Himself to us as well. Isaiah, Chapter 53, Verse 10...

/ISAIAH 53:10

But the Lord (God the Father) was pleased to crush Him (the Lord Jesus Christ)...putting Him to grief...if the Lord Jesus Christ would render Himself as a guilt offering (which He did)...and the Lord will see Jesus' offspring...and the Father will prolong Jesus' days, and the good pleasure of the Lord (God the Father) will prosper in Jesus' hand.

Acts, Chapter 2, Verse 23...

/ACTS 2:23

...this Man (the Son of Man...the Lord Jesus Christ) ... was delivered over by the predetermined plan and foreknowledge of God the Father...and He was nailed to

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a Cross by the hands of godless men (unbelievers) ...and put to death.

John, Chapter 3, Verse 17...

/JOHN 3:17

“For God the Father did not send God the Son into the world to judge the world... but the Father sent the Son into the world that the world might be saved through believing in Him.

This “so great” salvation offer is not generic. It’s a personal offer to every single person who has ever lived on planet earth. Faith in Christ is the street the Lord Jesus asks us to walk down to salvation. Why? Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 6...

/HEBREWS 11:6

And without faith in Christ it is impossible to please God the Father...for he who comes to God the Father in prayer must believe that the Father exists and that He becomes a rewarder to those who seek a relationship with the Lord.

What happens when we invest our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation? First John, Chapter 5, Verse 4...

/FIRST JOHN 5:4

For whosoever is a born again one of God the Father is victorious over the world (Satan’s system of unbelief) ... and what gives believers in Christ the victory is our investment of faith in the Lord Jesus Christ.

To “have faith in” and “to believe in” come from the exact same Greek word...*pisteuo*. They mean the same thing. In the gospel of John...believe appears ninety-eight times.

In John, Chapter 1...believe appears three times

In John, Chapter 2...believe appears three times

In John, Chapter 3...believe appears seven times

What is the essence of John’s gospel? John says we can make our choice from two alternatives. John, Chapter 20, Verse 31...

/JOHN 20:31

...these things written in the Bible are written so all of you may BELIEVE that

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*Jesus is the Christ (the Messiah) ... God the Son in human form...and that by believing in Him you may have the resurrection life (eternal life) in His name. *

<EXAMPLE: When we get married, if we're smart, we don't put our faith in the other person. If we're not delusional, we KNOW the other person will disappoint us. We place our faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. He works all things together for our good. So when things don't go as we'd like, we know the Lord will fix it.

Also, we place our faith in ourselves in that when we are disappointed, and we will be endless times, we can choose to operate out of our own integrity using God's indwelling divine power.

Knowing the other person is human and thus flawed...knowing they need forgiveness endless amounts of times...we can grant forgiveness and live God's unconditional love because being flawed ourselves, we need the same thing from others. In loving and forgiving this way, we are reflecting the way the Lord Jesus Christ treats us. He is our Almighty God, who forgives us of every sin and who loves us unconditionally...a "no matter what" love.>

Hebrews, Chapter 11, Verse 1...

/HEBREWS 11:1

*Faith makes us sure of things we hope for and certain of things we cannot see. *

The Lord stands behind His Word. We can count on it without doubting His Word's veracity, even though we have never seen Him.

What is the fate of those who put their trust in Christ? John, Chapter 3, Verse 18...

/JOHN 3:18a

*"He who believes in the Lord Jesus Christ is not judged... " *

What about those who do not believe?

/JOHN 3:18b

*"...he who does not believe in the Lord Jesus Christ has been condemned already, because he has not believed in the Person and Work of the only begotten Son of God. " *

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Unbelief is hostility toward God. Why are unbelievers condemned? Because they have not believed! There is an eternal consequence for those who reject a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ. We don't like calling a spade a spade, but ignorance, indifference, and outright hostility is all rejection of a relationship with Christ when a person is spiritually dead.

It does not end well. John, Chapter 3, Verses 19 to 21...

/JOHN 3:19

"This is the judgment...that the Light (the Lord Jesus Christ) has come into the world, and unbelievers loved the darkness rather than the Light for their deeds were evil."\

/JOHN 3:20

"For the unbeliever...who lives a lifestyle of evil...hates the Light and does not come to the Light for fear that his evil deeds will be exposed."\

/JOHN 3:21

"But the believer in the Lord Jesus Christ...who practices the truth...comes to the Light so that his deeds may be made clearly visible as having been shaped (hammered out) by God."\

Why do unbelievers reject the "so Great" salvation offer? Psalm 14, Verses 1 to 3...

/PSALM 14:1

The fool (the unbeliever) says in his heart, "There is no God." Unbelievers are corrupt...they commit abominable deeds...there is not one of them who does good.\

/PSALM 14:2

The Lord has looked down from heaven upon the sons of men to see if there are any who understand God...if there are any who seek after God (and there are not).\

/PSALM 14:3

Unbelievers have all turned aside...together they have become corrupt...there is not one unbeliever who does good...not even one.\

Unbelief is a state of evil. Unbelievers prefer sin and evil. What unbelievers must

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realize is what all of us must realize...

We were born in a state of sin

It is not our fault but it is our circumstance

SALVATION OUR WAY

Keeps us in a state of CONDEMNATION and leads to THE WRATH OF GOD (The Lake of Fire) when we close our eyes in this life

Isaiah, Chapter 53, Verse 6...

/ISAIAH 53:6

All of us are like sheep who have gone astray...each of us has turned to his own way...but the Lord (God the Father) has caused the iniquity of us all to fall on the Lord Jesus Christ).

The alternative is SALVATION GOD'S WAY which removes us from a state of CONDEMNATION caused by spiritual death. Through grace God gives us a spiritual life so we can be saved. Once we are saved, we cannot lose our salvation. We'll live face-to-face with the Lord Jesus Christ for all eternity.

Which choice did Nicodemus make? Self or the Lord? It's an interesting question worth pursuing in our next lesson.

/THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Good News of Jesus Christ's Salvation Offer to the Human Race

The next ten minutes could be the ten most important minutes of your life. You'll be introduced to the good news concerning how you can spend all eternity in heaven when you close your eyes in this life. We want you to know that...

/GOD WANTS YOU!

He Wants You Make the Most Important Decision of Your Life\

...and what He wants for you is that you make the most important decision of your life.

Do you have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? If not, God considers you

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to be a sinner, which is a description of an unbeliever. Yet as one of God's creatures you are a focus of His concern and His mercy. God's attitude toward His creatures is described in Ephesians, Chapter 2, Verses 4 and 5...

/EPHESIANS 2:4

God...being rich in mercy (toward unbelievers) ... because of His great unconditional love with which He loved all of us...

/EPHESIANS 2:5

...even when we were spiritually dead...

God loves you unconditionally and forgives you totally, especially when you are at your worst. In the spiritual realm you are at your worst when you are spiritually dead, living a lifestyle that follows the direction of God's enemy, Satan, and his kingdom of darkness. A life of spiritual death and darkness is not the lifestyle God wants for you. John, Chapter 10, Verse 10 highlights the lifestyle the Lord is eager to provide...

/JOHN 10:10

I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came (from heaven to earth so) that My creatures may have the resurrection life... and have it abundantly.

The resurrection life is a lifestyle in the light.

All of us were born in a state of unrighteousness as members of the kingdom of darkness. Said another way, we were born physically alive and spiritually dead as ungodly, unrighteous unbelievers.

IT'S NOT YOUR FAULT you were born this way, but it is your circumstance.

Who says so? The Lord says so in His Word...First Corinthians, Chapter 15, Verse 22...

/FIRST CORINTHIANS 15:22a

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

Living a lifestyle of darkness means we don't have a relationship with the Lord

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Jesus Christ...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 6...

/FIRST JOHN 1:6

If we say we have fellowship with God and yet walk in a lifestyle of darkness, we lie and do not practice the truth...

What's the way out of a lifestyle of darkness? The Bible shines the light on the way out...John, Chapter 20, Verse 31 says...

/JOHN 20:31

...these things written in the Bible have been written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ...(the Messiah...the Son of God...the Lord...who took on human form as Jesus...the Christ) ... and that by believing in Him you may have the resurrection life (eternal life) in His name.

The way out of darkness can be summed up in one word...BELIEVE. When you choose to have a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, when you BELIEVE in Him, He will usher you personally into a lifestyle of light...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 5...

/FIRST JOHN 1:5

This is the message we apostles have heard from the Lord Jesus Christ personally and announce to you...that the Lord is Light...and in union with Him there is no darkness at all.

By trusting the Lord Jesus Christ to accomplish your salvation, He'll provide you with a lifestyle in the light...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 Gospel of Jesus Christ in 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."

So what do you have to do to have a relationship with the Lord? Acts, Chapter 16, Verse 31...

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/ACTS 16:31

*“Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved by God, you and everyone in your household who also believes.” *

JUST BELIEVE!

It's pretty simple. The Lord's invitation is described 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 He was raised from the dead on the third day...according to the Old Testament Scriptures...

RIGHT NOW, RIGHT WHERE YOU SIT, RIGHT THIS MOMENT you can have a relationship with the Sovereign God of the Universe, the Lord Jesus Christ, and He will welcome you into a lifestyle in the light...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.” *

The Lord's offer is directed to EVERYONE who wants to live a lifestyle in the light. In John, Chapter 6, Verse 37, the Lord says...

/JOHN 6:37b

...the ones who come to Me to BELIEVE in Me...I will certainly not cast out into the outer darkness...the Lake of Fire.

If you reject a relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, which is your prerogative... it's a choice to remain in spiritual darkness...Revelation, Chapter 21, Verse 8 says...

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/REVELATION 21:8

“For the cowardly and unbelieving and abominable and murderers and immoral persons and sorcerers and idolaters and all liars (all descriptions of the lifestyles of unbelievers who are in the dark) ... their part will be in the lake that burns with fire and brimstone, which is the second death.”

Unbelievers move from spiritual death to the second death in the Lake of Fire when they close their eyes in this life. The worst part is they do so voluntarily. It is NOT God's will for them.

Don't let that happen to you! Join God in heaven, the kingdom of Light, when you close your eyes in this life. Romans, Chapter 10, Verse 13...

/ROMANS 10:13

...for “whosoever will call on the name of the Lord Jesus Christ will be saved by God.”

First Peter, Chapter 2, Verse 9 describes the Lord as...

/FIRST PETER 2:9b

*...Him who has called you unbelievers out of darkness into His marvelous light... *

What will it be for you? Spiritual death in the dark or spiritual life in the light? Make the right choice. The Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom of light are waiting for your call.

/THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

The Good News of Jesus Christ's Salvation Offer to the Human Race

CLOSING SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's close with music! The Lord Jesus Christ has done many things for the benefit of believers in Christ. One of these things is He prays for us. In one of His best prayers, on the night before He went to the Cross, the Lord made a simple request from His Father, interceding for us in a powerful way. John, Chapter 17, Verse 17...

/JOHN 17:17

(Father)...sanctify believers in Christ in the truth...Your Word is truth.

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The Lord asked His Father to sanctify us...to set believers in Christ apart for a set of amazing privileges...among them the Word of God. There is nothing that keeps us on the right path more than the Bible...what the group Casting Crowns calls the VOICE OF TRUTH. Let's listen!

/MUSIC - CLOSING SONG

Let's Hear the Singing of the Lord's Praises

VOICE OF TRUTH
Casting Crowns

/CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...\

Almighty God and Father...

Take on our burdens...we know You consider our problems to be Your responsibility...make it clear to us that You are on the job a working all things together for our good as we go through the struggles of life...the relationship struggles...the financial struggles...the family struggles...the career struggles...the health struggles...

...we're counting on You for the victory...thank you for assuring us of victory in Your Word...we ask for Your continuing blessings and Your Shepherding through the power of God the Holy Spirit...in Christ's name...Amen.

/GOT BIBLICAL QUESTIONS OR WANT US TO PRAY FOR SOMEONE?

Ask the Pastor
[pastor@barahministries.com\](mailto:pastor@barahministries.com)

/KEEP ON STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD DAILY!

Thanks for watching!
Thanks for listening!\

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/SHARE THE LESSON WITH OTHERS

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[www.barahministries.com\](http://www.barahministries.com/)