

**ROMANS**  
**Lesson 217–August 23, 2015**

**Welcome To**  
**BARAH MINISTRIES**  
**a Christian Church**  
**Rory Clark**  
**Pastor-Teacher**

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...a worldwide Christian Church based in Mesa, AZ...my name is Pastor Rory Clark.

Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17 says...

2CO 5:17

*Therefore if anyone is in Christ, and all believers in Christ are, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

When we deal with human problems, most of the time we deal only with the symptoms... seldom do we deal with the cause. For the last few weeks I have had what I'd describe as "walking pneumonia," which is a benign version of pneumonia that is the result of a lung infection from bacterial microorganisms that mimic the milder and more gradual symptoms of the common cold. Of course I have not made time to go to the doctor, so instead I have done what most amateurs do...I have self-medicated the symptoms rather than going to the doctor who might deal with the causes.

It's altogether appropriate that I should use a medical example here, because I have done what most of us do in the human realm, especially in the matter of our health. We find and treat symptoms, rather than getting at the causes. It may be that my "lung infection" symptoms may indeed be caused by a food allergy...maybe the cause of the symptoms that mimic a lung infection are happening because I ingest too much wheat. Maybe the cause level of my problem is toxic food, and the problem expresses itself as "cold" symptoms." By the way...I am not soliciting medical advice here. ☺

So it is with the spiritual life. Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1...

ROM 8:1

*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST*

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*JESUS.*

There is an expression Paul uses repeatedly in his letters...and this expression shows up in both of the verses we have introduced so far...Second Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 17 and Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1...

2CO 5:17

*Therefore if anyone is IN CHRIST, and all believers in Christ are, he is a new creature; the old things passed away; behold, new things have come.*

ROM 8:1

*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST JESUS.*

...the expression is IN CHRIST. It's an expression which indicates that believers in Christ have a deep, intimate, spiritual and personal relationship with the One and Only God, the Sovereign Being of the Universe, the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The Lord Jesus Christ is the cause.

Cause tells us why things happen. The Lord Jesus Christ is the cause. He is the reason we are new creatures. He is the reason there is no condemnation.

For anything worthwhile, the Lord Jesus Christ is the cause.

God the Holy Spirit is the Lord's agent on our behalf. Titus, Chapter 3, Verse 5...

TIT 3:5

*The Lord Jesus Christ saved us, not on the basis of deeds which we have done in self-righteousness, but according to His mercy, by the washing of regeneration and by the renewing by the agency of God the Holy Spirit...*

Excerpts from John, Chapter 3...

Verse 3...

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JOH 3:3

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

Verses 6 to 8...

JOH 3:6

*“That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of God the Holy Spirit is spirit.”*

JOH 3:7

*“Do not be amazed (Nicodemus) that I said to you, ‘You must be born again.’”*

JOH 3:8

*“The wind blows where it wishes and you hear the sound of it, but do not know where it comes from and where it is going; so is everyone who is born of the Spirit.”*

The Lord Jesus Christ is the cause of our salvation. The Lord Jesus Christ is the cause of our spiritual life. The Lord Jesus Christ is the cause of everything. Welcome to a place where you can learn about Him and worship Him. There is no one like Him.

**MUSIC AND REFLECTION**

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

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU

LeBlanc Songs for Worship

The opening song sings His praises...it’s called, THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU.

**OPENING PRAYER**

*Let us pray...*

We’re grateful Heavenly Father for the privilege of studying the absolute

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truth...the Word of God...

Truly there is no one like You Father, and there is certainly no one like Your Son...the Lord Jesus Christ...He is the still point of a turning world...He is the One we worship, He is the One we praise, and we thank you for sending Him to us for the redemption of our sins...

Help us to know Him and to know You through the study of the Word of God...help us to pass along His wonder and Your wonder to everyone we meet...help us to depend on our Mentor and Teacher, God the Holy Spirit, for everything...

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

**TODAY'S STUDY**  
**Christ is the Cause**

There is a seemingly benign expression in Romans, Chapter 8, Verse 1 that has divinely inspiring implications...

ROM 8:1

*Therefore there is now no condemnation for those who are IN CHRIST JESUS.*

IN CHRIST

These words, among other words, have taken on a different meaning for me in the spiritual realm...one of the words is dependence.

DEPENDENCE

To rely on...to count on...to trust for support...to be in subordination or subjection to...

When I acknowledge that I am dependent on God the Holy Spirit...then other words take on new meaning for me as well...

God is leading me...God is speaking to me through His Word...God is perfecting me...God cares for me... there is no condemnation...at salvation,

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God the Holy Spirit moved in with me...God the Holy Spirit and the entire Trinity indwell me...I am...

**IN CHRIST**

My spiritual eyes see these things altogether differently than they used to see them. In the past, these were just nonsensical thoughts and nonsensical words used by overly emotional Christians. Now these words are true in my soul. They only become true when we realize what dependence is...when we realize that we are merely a symptom, but that the Lord Jesus Christ is the cause.

Let's stop to enjoy the offering...and then we'll hear more about Christ as cause in our lives.

**THE OFFERING**

Deacon Denny Goodall

We appreciate your gifts. Because the Lord provides you with a way to be generous, you get a chance to give of your treasure so that others can benefit. There is no greater expression of the unconditional love of God than giving. Here's what Paul has to say to the believers in Christ at Corinth concerning giving...Second Corinthians, Chapter 9, Verses 6 to 8...

2CO 9:6

*Now this I (Paul) say...he who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly...and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.*

In other words, be generous...the more seeds that are sown, the bigger the harvest.

2CO 9:7

*Each one of us must do just as he has purposed in his heart, not grudgingly or under compulsion, for God loves a joyfully willing giver.*

God loves an attitude in you that WANTS TO give...not an attitude in you that thinks you HAVE TO give...

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2CO 9:8

*And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that always having all sufficiency in everything, you may have an abundance for every good deed...*

If you are benefitting from this teaching, show your appreciation through your gift. Let's welcome Deacon Denny Goodall to take the offering.

**THE OFFERING**

Deacon Denny Goodall

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We are sanctioned by God to charge for anything we provide that allows you to worship God. We choose not to exercise that right. No price appears on any material from Barah Ministries so that anyone who wants to learn about God can do so free of charge.

Barah Ministries Financial Policy

Even though the materials are free of charge, they are not free of cost. We need and appreciate your financial support so we can continue to share the Word of God with the hearers God provides. Please be generous in your support of God's work through this ministry.

**OFFERING VERSE**

PRO 3:5-6

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

**OFFERING MUSIC**

*FLIGHT OF THE EAGLE*

*Dave McClure, Instrumental*

**TODAY'S STUDY**

**Christ is the Cause**

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As believers in Christ we are indwelled by the Lord Jesus Christ...  
Colossians, Chapter 1, Verses 25 to 27...

COL 1:25

*Of this church I (Paul) was made a minister according to the stewardship from God the Father bestowed on me for your benefit, so that I might fully carry out the preaching of the Word of God...*

COL 1:26

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

COL 1:27

*...to whom God the Father willed to make known what is the glorious riches of this mystery among the Gentiles, which is the Lord Jesus Christ indwelling you, the hope of glory.*

The Lord Jesus Christ is indwelling us believers in Christ. He is the new covenant. He is the cause of everything. Anything not connected to Christ will not survive. Anything not connected to Christ is worthless. John, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

JOH 1:3

*All things came into being through the Lord Jesus Christ, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being.*

The Lord controls the universe...Hebrews, Chapter 1, Verse 3...

HEB 1:3a

*And the Lord Jesus Christ is the radiance of God the Father's glory and He is the exact representation of the Father's nature, and the Lord Jesus Christ upholds all things by the word of His power.*

The world...Satan's kingdom...Satan the enemy of God...becomes more and more evil by the day. The Lord doesn't change. He is, always has been, always will be righteous and since He is perfect there is no need to change.

IN CHRIST

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What do those words mean to you and me...what is the significance of being “in Christ?” Let’s take a music break and we’ll investigate IN CHRIST more.

**MUSIC BREAK**  
*BE THOU MY VISION*  
*Selah*

**TODAY’S STUDY**  
**Christ is the Cause**

The Lord Jesus Christ is the cause of everything wonderful. Second Corinthians, Chapter 11, Verse 3...

2CO 11:3

*But I (Paul) am afraid that, as the serpent deceived Eve by his craftiness, your minds will be led astray from the simplicity and purity of devotion to Christ.*

We are nothing except that we are...

IN CHRIST

Galatians, Chapter 2, Verse 20 says...

GAL 2:20

*I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ lives indwelling me; and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave Himself up for me.*

IN CHRIST

God the Father’s seal rests on anything associated with His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians, Chapter 1, Verses 3 to 10...

EPH 1:3

*Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us believers in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in union with Christ...*



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EPH 1:4

*...just as God the Father chose us to be in union with the Lord Jesus Christ before the foundation of the world, that we would be holy and blameless before the Father. In unconditional love...*

EPH 1:5

*...God the Father predestined us believers in Christ to adoption as sons through Jesus Christ to Himself, according to the kind intention of His will...*

EPH 1:6

*...to the praise of the glory of the Father's grace, which He freely bestowed on us in the Beloved (the divinely loved Christ).*

EPH 1:7

*In the Lord Jesus Christ we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses (through His blood), according to the riches of His grace...*

EPH 1:8

*...which He lavished on us. In all wisdom and in all insight...*

EPH 1:9

*God the Father made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His kind intention which He purposed in Christ...*

EPH 1:10

*...with a view to an administration suitable to the fullness of the times, that is, the summing up of all things in Christ, things in the heavens and things on the earth.*

**IN CHRIST**

Is there anything better to be? Colossians, Chapter 2, Verses 9 to 12...

COL 2:9

*For in Christ all the fullness of Deity dwells in bodily form...*

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COL 2:10

*...and in Christ you have been made complete, and Christ is the head over all rule and authority...*

COL 2:11

*...and in Christ you were also circumcised with a circumcision made without hands, in the removal of the body of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ...*

COL 2:12

*...having been buried with Him in baptism, in which you were also raised up with Him (in resurrection from the dead) through faith in the working of God the Father, who raised Christ from the dead.*

As I look forward to the next forty years of my life...the old things have lost their power. I don't care much about having...I don't care much about doing...all those things are fine I guess...but I care a lot about being.

What I notice is that anything in the having and doing realm is completely uninteresting to me. What is more and more interesting every day, to me, is CHRIST. Philippians, Chapter 2, Verses 2 to 11...

PHI 2:3

*Do nothing from selfishness or empty conceit, but with humility of mind regard one another as more important than yourselves...*

PHI 2:4

*...do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.*

PHI 2:5

*Have this attitude in yourselves which was also in Christ Jesus...*

PHI 2:6

*...who, although He existed in the form of God, did not regard equality with God the Father as a thing to be grasped and held...*

PHI 2:7

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*...but emptied Himself, taking the form of a bond-servant, and being made in the likeness of men.*

**PHI 2:8**

*Being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself by becoming obedient to the point of death, even death on a Cross.*

**PHI 2:9**

*For this reason also, God highly exalted Him, and bestowed on Him the name which is above every name...*

**PHI 2:10**

*...so that at the name of Jesus every knee will bow, of those who are in heaven and on earth and under the earth...*

**PHI 2:11**

*...and that every tongue will confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

## **IN CHRIST**

Perhaps the reason the mass of humanity lead lives of quiet desperation is that when the steam of the lies of what we think are valuable lose their power...we seek to go back into the lies for more steam. There is none there...on CHRIST.

There is much to learn about the established and irrevocable fact that we believers are IN CHRIST...for now, the only thing to know is that because of it, we are special to God the Father. Maybe it's time to stop concerning ourselves with symptoms and to really get to the cause of everything in our lives...CHRIST.

### **When the Lord Jesus Christ Promises Salvation, It's a Guarantee!**

**ACT 16:31**

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

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JOH 14:6

*Jesus said to doubting Thomas, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through believing in Me.”*

JOH 3:36

*“He who believes in the Son has eternal life (the ZOE life); but he who does not obey the (command to believe in the) Son will not see (the Zoe) life, but instead the wrath of God the Father (the Lake of Fire) abides on him.”*

**CLOSING SONG**

*WALK IN THE LIGHT*

*June Murphy*

**CLOSING PRAYER**

Let us pray...

THANKS  
INTERCESSION  
PETITION

And we pray that You continue to open the eyes of our heart with Your Word so that we can be obedient to the path You have set for us...and so that we can see the course You have us on. We ask this through the power of God the Holy Spirit, in Christ's name, Amen.

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

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