

PAUL'S LETTER TO THE ROMANS
Lesson 51-February 16, 2025

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

Rory Clark
Pastor-Teacher

Good Morning!

Welcome to Barah Ministries...an intimate, local Christian Church with a worldwide impact. My name is Pastor Rory Clark. Thanks for listening to this Bible lesson!

TODAY'S BIBLE LESSON
The Lord Protects Us with Authority

LESSON INTRODUCTION

You've heard it. You've thought it. You've said it. "I don't want anyone telling me what to do!" These are the thoughts of a rebel rejecting authority. Yet when our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ came down from the heavens to take on human form, rejecting His Father's authority was never a thought. Rejecting human authority was never a thought. Luke, Chapter 22, Verses 41 and 42...

LUKE 22:41

Jesus withdrew from his disciples at the Mount of Olives...about a stone's throw away...and He knelt down and began to pray saying...

LUKE 22:42

"Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me (referring to His journey to the Cross)...yet not My will, but Yours be done."

In today's lesson, the Lord gives us a primer in authority orientation as we transition to our study of Romans, Chapter 13.

OPENING SONG INTRODUCTION

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Let's hear some music! Obedience to authority. That's what the Lord wants for us. He wants us to have the right attitude toward authority. Here's Keith and Kristyn Getty encouraging us to listen to Him in their song...SPEAK O LORD. Let your minds reflect on this amazing song's messages and words.

MUSIC

OPENING SONG

Let's Sing the Lord's Praises

SPEAK O LORD

Keith and Kristyn Getty

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray...

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

Father, thank you for putting authority in place to protect us...thank you for changing our minds through Your Word so we have the right attitude toward authority...not merely an attitude of begrudging compliance where we listen to the rebellious flesh in us and grumble about authority...but an attitude of authority orientation from the heart...

...when you put us in positions of authority, show us how not to be tyrants...show us how to win hearts through the use of personal power...help us set examples with our lives that demonstrates the ways authority orientation honors You...

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

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LESSON PART ONE

Romans, Chapters 1 to 8 taught us how to GET right with God. We call that salvation. How can we be saved? How can we get to heaven when we close our eyes in this life?

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God provides Christians with Romans, Chapters 12 to 16 to show us how to LIVE right with God. We call that sanctification. How can I reflect my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ in everything I do?

We've completed our study of Romans, Chapter 12...an extensive list of commanding exhortations for how to BE in the Christian Way of Living. Do you remember what God wants for Christians?

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Present your bodies as a living and holy sacrifice... acceptable to God the Father

Do not be conformed to this world

Keep on being transformed by God the Holy Spirit through the renewing of your mind

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Use your spiritual gift for the benefit of the body of Christ

Let your unconditional love be without hypocrisy

Abhor what is evil

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Cling to what is good

Be devoted to one another in brotherly love

Give preference to one another in honor

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Avoid lagging behind in diligence (don't be lazy!)

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Be fervent in spirit

Serve the Lord

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Rejoice in hope

Persevere in tribulation

Be devoted to prayer

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Contribute to the needs of the saints

Practice hospitality

Bless those who persecute you

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Do not curse those who persecute you

Rejoice with those who rejoice

Weep with those who weep

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Be of the same mind toward one another

Do not be haughty in mind (arrogant)

Associate with the lowly

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Do not be wise in your own estimation

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Never pay back evil for evil to anyone

Respect what is right in the sight of all men

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Be at peace with all men

Never take your own revenge

Leave room for the wrath of God

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

If your enemy is hungry, feed him

If your enemy is thirsty, give him a drink

Do not be overcome by evil

WHAT DOES GOD WANT FOR US CHRISTIANS?

Overcome evil with good

That's quite a list. It's a self-direction report card. We can use these commands from the Lord to order our conduct and to check ourselves. Second Corinthians, Chapter 13, Verse 5 encourages you to...

SECOND CORINTHIANS 13:5

Test yourselves to see if you are in the faith...examine yourselves! Or do you not recognize this about yourselves, that Jesus Christ is indwelling you—unless indeed you fail the test?

Now we move on to the study of Romans Chapter 13...fourteen verses divided into three parts. In Verses 1 to 7 we learn that...

ROMANS 13, Verses 1 to 7

Authority is put in place by God for our benefit

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In Verses 8 to 10 we learn that...

ROMANS 13, Verses 8 to 10

The only debt God wants us to have is unconditional love

In Verses 11 to 14 we learn to...

ROMANS 13, Verses 11 to 14

Put on Christ as we put on clothing

Let's hear the first passage of Romans, Chapter 13, Verses 1 to 7...a passage that should be pretty familiar to you, especially if you are a parent.

ROMANS 13:1

Every person is to be in subjection to the governing authorities. For there is no authority except from God, and those authorities which exist are established by God.

ROMANS 13:2

Therefore, whoever resists authority has opposed the ordinance of God...and they who have opposed the ordinance of God will receive condemnation upon themselves.

ROMANS 13:3

For rulers are not a cause of fear for good behavior, but they are a cause of fear for evil behavior. Do you want to have no fear of authority? Do what is good and you will have praise from authority...

ROMANS 13:4

...for authority is a minister of God to you for good. But if (3) you do what is evil, be afraid...for authority does not bear the sword for nothing...for authority is a minister of God, an avenger who brings wrath on the one who practices evil.

ROMANS 13:5

Therefore, it is necessary to be in subjection to authority, not only because of wrath (an external reason), but also for conscience' sake (an internal reason).

ROMANS 13:6

For because of authority, you also pay taxes, for rulers are servants of God,

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devoting themselves to this very service.

ROMANS 13:7

Render to all authority what is due them: tax to whom tax is due...custom to whom custom is due...fear to whom fear is due...honor to whom honor is due.

Here's the structure you'll notice in these first seven verses.

ROMANS 13, Verses 1 and 2

Delegated Authority is God's Idea

ROMANS 13, Verses 3 and 4

Delegated Authority Serves God's Purposes

ROMANS 13, Verses 5 to 7

Delegated Authority Deserves Our Respect

Those are the messages about authority directly from our God.

Authority.

Will you obey or will you rebel?

The problem authority addresses is lawLESSness. The solution is lawFULness. God wants us to abide by the laws of the land. God put authority in place as a protective measure to ensure lawfulness. The only place in God's kingdom where lawlessness is allowed is hell...the home of the rebels...the home of hellions. What is a hellion?

HELLION

A rowdy, disorderly, or mischievous person.

What protection does authority provide? Freedom!

Authority without freedom is tyranny. We call life under a regime like this a dictatorship. We know world-famous dictators...Adolf Hitler...Joseph

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Stalin...Benito Mussolini...Julius Caesar...Kim Jong-un...Saddam Hussein...and Muammar Gaddafi to name a few. A dictator is a political leader who possesses absolute power.

Freedom without authority is anarchy...chaos. Imagine a home that is run by teenagers. (Some of you don't have to imagine because you allow it)! Absolute chaos! No rules. Do as you please. What a horrible situation to be in when parents want to be friends with their children. The children turn into tyrants.

Let's see what God has to say about authority. What does He want us to learn? Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 1...

ROMANS 13:1

Every BELIEVER IN CHRIST is to be in subjection to the civil authorities in power. For there is no civil authority in power except ones that were put in power by God the Father...and those civil authorities which exist in power are put in place by God the Father.

God assigns both good authority and evil authority to their positions. Whoa! Can that be right?

QUIZ

Who is the ruler of this world? Who put him in his position? Who calls him the ruler of this world? Are believers in Christ to be in submission to authority in the ruler of this world's kingdom? Do we want to be in submission to him? No. But we don't want to be in submission to God either. That's why we sin.

God wants us to obey those in authority and to give them the respect they are due because He put them in place. God can work His perfect plan through quite imperfect people.

As Christians, we are obligated to comply with the structures of authority which God has established in the fallen, broken, less than perfect world. Governments and those in positions of authority throughout the ages have a history of being self-serving, flawed individuals, and they keep on falling short of the guidelines they are charged to uphold. This sad reality is not to deter us from following the Lord's request about being obedient to authority.

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Refusing control is sin. Many people engage in lawlessness and have contempt for authority. It's built in to humans. It's in the flesh.

Despite constant evidence to the contrary, people expect those in authority to be perfect. They can't look past the person to the position.

<THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES>

This is God's general rule concerning authority...Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 2...

ROMANS 13:2

Therefore, whoever rebels against authority has rebelled against the ordinance of God...and they who have opposed the ordinance of God (are rebelling against God as well...and) they will receive (both divine and civil) condemnation upon themselves.

Jesus was under the authority of Pontius Pilate. Peter and Paul were under the authority of Nero, one of the worst dictators and the worst people of all time. He made Hitler look like a choir boy.

None of them resisted authority. Here are Jesus's comments to Pontius Pilate, the fifth governor of the Roman province of Judaea...in John, Chapter 19, Verse 9...

JOHN 19:9

...and Pontius Pilate entered the Praetorium and said to Jesus, "Where are You from?" But Jesus gave him no answer.

The Praetorium was the tent of a Roman general in a military camp. John, Chapter 19, Verses 10 and 11...

JOHN 19:10

So Pilate said to Jesus, "You do not speak to me? Do You not know that I have authority to release You, and I have authority to crucify You?"

JOHN 19:11a

Jesus answered, "You would have no authority over Me, unless it had been given you from above (by God the Father)..."

What does it mean to be "in subjection" to authority?

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SUBJECTION

Being under the voluntary control of another

Ephesians, Chapter 5, Verses 22 to 24...

EPHESIANS 5:22

Wives, be in subjection to your own husbands, just as you are in subjection to the Lord.

EPHESIANS 5:23

For the husband is the head of the wife (God placed him in that position), just as Christ also is the head of the church, He Himself being the Savior of the body.

EPHESIANS 5:24

But as the church is in subjection to Christ, so also wives ought to be in subjection to their own husbands in everything.

Authority, and subjection to it, was put in place for the wife's protection. Yet many wives recoil at the thought of subjection. They act as rebels, even though they were the ones who selected their husband.

There is not a single one of us who isn't in subjection to authority. Subjection is powerful. It is not weak. God put authority in place all throughout our society. Parents and Children...Coaches and Players...Husbands and Wives... Government and Citizens...Police and Citizens...Firefighters-Citizens...Teachers and Students.

Some think that by the merit of their positions in life, they don't have to obey authority. God thinks differently.

<PRO GOLFER DRIVING ON THE SIDEWALK>

When we return from the break we'll take the offering and then we'll look at the other two sections of this passage.

FIVE-MINUTE BREAK

NOBODY

Casting Crowns

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OFFERING INTRODUCTION

Christians follow the Lord's example in everything, especially in giving. John, Chapter 3, Verse 16 says...

JOHN 3:16

"God the Father loved the world unconditionally...and He loved the world so much...that He GAVE His uniquely born Son..."

What are you willing to give to the God who gave His Son's life for you?

Giving is a form of worship. Giving expresses your faith in God. Giving communicates your gratitude to God for all He gives to you.

What's the best time for Christians to give? There must never be a time when we don't give. Everything we have comes from God. When we give, we simply redirect the resources God has given us to His purposes. Don't worry about the amount you give. God will return it to you abundantly. Let your giving rival God's giving and watch what flows to your life. Give something...give anything...give now...and keep on giving.

Let's welcome up Deacon Denny Goodall with one of his always inspiring offering messages.

THE OFFERING

Deacon Denny Goodall

OFFERING VERSE

FIRST PETER 5:7

...slamming all your cares on His back, because He cares for you (God considers your problems to be His responsibility).

OFFERING SONG

THERE IS NONE LIKE YOU

Instrumental Version

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LESSON PART TWO

Delegated authority serves God's purposes. Let's continue at Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 3...

ROMANS 13:3

For rulers (in authority) are not a cause of fear for those who have good behavior (for those who are obedient)...but rulers are a cause of fear for those who indulge in evil (those who are disobedient). Do you want to have no fear of authority? Keep on doing what is good and you will have praise from the authority...

God knows that when we do the right thing, even evil authority is pleased. First Peter, Chapter 3, Verse 17...

FIRST PETER 3:17

For it is better, if God should will it so, and He does, that you suffer for doing what is right rather than for doing what is wrong.

Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 4...

ROMANS 13:4a

...for the authority is a minister of God (a diakonos...a deacon) ...given as a grace gift to you for your own good. But if you keep on doing what is evil, be afraid...for the authority does not keep on bearing the sword (like firearms and capital punishment) for nothing...

ROMANS 13:4b

...for the authority is God's ministering officer...an avenger...who brings wrath (punishment for wrongdoing) on the one who practices evil.

God sanctions capital punishment. It is a crime deterrent. Man, of course, inserted his Satan-inspired viewpoint, and now we house and feed criminals in their own corrupt society, known as prison. There were no prisons in first century Israel! There were stones.

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Funny thing...those who claim to be pacifists are the first to call the police when someone is breaking into their house. They “bag on” authority until they need it.

Behind every authority is God's intention to do good. God is most concerned with our attitude toward authority. The proper attitude is not, “I just want to do my own thing.” For most people, the problem is ALWAYS the authority, and the problem is NEVER an unwillingness to come under the rule of authority. Law abiders LOVE law enforcers. A lot of our struggles in life happen because we won't comply with authority. <CUSTOMS>

The final section of the passage...delegated authority deserves our respect... Romans, Chapter 13, Verse 5...

ROMANS 13:5

Therefore it is necessary to be in subjection to authority...not only because of the wrath wielded by those in authority...(an external reason)...but also for your conscience' sake (an internal reason...from the heart...because your conscience is always imploring you to be obedient to God's way).

How does God want us to honor those in authority who are acting dishonorably? We pray for them...we find something good in them...we hold our tongues, giving them respect and honor...with no slander and no libel. Romans, Chapter 13, Verses 6 and 7...

ROMANS 13:6

For because of authority you also pay taxes (paying tribute to authority with taxes)...for rulers in authority are servants of God...devoting themselves to this service (to God...full time)...the service called ministering.

ROMANS 13:7

Render to all authorities what is due them...tax to whom tax is due...custom to whom custom is due (a duty on imports)...respect to whom respect is due (we are to regard authority with awe)...honor to whom honor is due.

We are obligated to support authority financially. Here are Jesus's thoughts on paying taxes to authority...Matthew, Chapter 22, Verses 15 to 22...

MATTHEW 22:15

Then the Pharisees went and plotted together how they might trap Jesus in what

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He said.

MATTHEW 22:16

And they sent their disciples to Him, along with the Herodians, saying, "Teacher, we know that You are truthful and teach the way of God in truth, and defer to no one...for You are not partial to any".

MATTHEW 22:17

"Tell us then, what do You think? Is it lawful to give a poll-tax to Caesar, or not?"

A POLL TAX was levied on every adult regardless of income or ability to pay and allowed citizens to go to the polls to vote.

MATTHEW 22:18

But Jesus perceived their malice, and said, "Why are you testing Me, you hypocrites?"

MATTHEW 22:19

"Show Me the coin used for (paying) the poll-tax." And they brought Him a denarius.

MATTHEW 22:20

And Jesus said to them, "Whose likeness and inscription is this on the denarius?"

MATTHEW 22:21

They said to Jesus, "Caesar's." Then Jesus said to them, "Then render to Caesar the things that are Caesar's...and render to God the things that are God's."

MATTHEW 22:22

And hearing this, they were amazed, and leaving Him, they went away.

The Lord calms us with these words...First Timothy, Chapter 2, Verses 1 and 2...

FIRST TIMOTHY 2:1

First of all, then, I urge that entreaties and prayers, petitions and thanksgivings, be made on behalf of all men...

FIRST TIMOTHY 2:2

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...for kings and all who are in authority, so that we may lead a tranquil and quiet life in all godliness and dignity.

Authority is a tough job. They need us and we need them. So honor them as God would have us do.

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

EPHESIANS 2:4

But God...being rich in mercy (toward unbelievers) ... because of His great unconditional love with which He loved 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 live a lifestyle that follows the direction of God's enemy, Satan, and his kingdom of darkness. A life in spiritual darkness is not the life God wants for you. John, Chapter 10, Verse 10 highlights the life God is eager to provide...

JOHN 10:10

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I (the Lord Jesus Christ) came that My creatures may have the resurrection life... and have it abundantly.

The resurrection life is a life in the light.

All of us were born in a state of unrighteousness...as citizens of the world...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 this is true 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 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 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 a 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, He will usher you personally into a lifestyle of light...First John, Chapter 1, Verse 5...

FIRST JOHN 1:5

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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 message 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...

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 WHERE YOU SIT, RIGHT NOW, 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

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“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... your choice to remain in spiritual darkness...Revelation, Chapter 21, Verse 8...

REVELATION 21:8

“But 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...the lifestyles 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...

The Lord Jesus Christ and His kingdom of light are waiting for your call.

THE GOSPEL MESSAGE

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

CLOSING SONG INTRODUCTION

Let's close with music! According to Nick Day, AUTHORITY lives in us. Let's listen to his beautiful song about the authority of the universe whom we adore, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

MUSIC

CLOSING SONG

Let's Sing the Lord's Praises

AUTHORITY

Nick Day

CLOSING PRAYER

Let us pray...

Almighty God and Father...

Thank you for the authority you have inserted into our lives...teach us to obey...

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

THE ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please make it a habit to listen to the announcements. They are posted separately. Keep current on the things going on and coming up in Barah Ministries.

DISCUSSING THE LESSON AND PRAYER CIRCLE

Join us Live or on Zoom Immediately Following the Lesson

GOT BIBLICAL QUESTIONS?

Ask the Pastor
pastor@barahministries.com

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WANT US TO PRAY FOR SOMEONE?

Send your request to pastor@barahministries.com

KEEP ON STUDYING THE WORD OF GOD DAILY!

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

www.barahministries.com