

# WE ARE INSTRUMENTS OF RIGHTEOUSNESS



PSALM 89 1-5 NLT ROMANS 6:12-19 NLT

## MONDAY 7/3/23

PSALM 89 1-8//1 I will sing of the Lord's unfailing love forever! Young and old will hear of your faithfulness. 2 Your unfailing love will last forever. Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens.

ROMANS 6:12-19/// 12-13 Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. 13 Do not offer any part of yourself to sin as an instrument of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer every part of yourself to him as an instrument of righteousness.

**REFLECTION** I don't know about you but I dislike myself sometimes. When I get irritated I sometimes act like a bully. That is bad, but thank goodness I catch myself before I do any relational damage. The reason I catch myself before being a bully is I really don't like bullies. I am drawn, as a Christian, instead to be an instrument of God's righteousness. When sin begins to rise up in us we ought to remember our fellowship with Christ. Thanks goodness He is not a bully. As we grow in a loving relationship with God the less sin has power over us. We have a Spirit that helps us check our behavior before it causes damage. The power of sanctification (being made right with God) is played out in our lives when we are tested. As faith grows deeper in us, we see ourselves more and more as members of Christ. That changes the way we live in the world. Even when we act like brutish animals roaming the earth. Looking to cause damage we have a helper to prevent it. John 3:6 says, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh, and that which is born of the Spirit is Spirit." There is only one way to have true faith in God. That is by accepting Christ to save us from our sins and ourselves.

**PRAYER Psalm 89:1 I will sing of God Almighty's unfailing love for me! Lord Jesus your unfailing love will last forever. Praise your name. IJNA (Please type out In Jesus Name, Amen for all) prayers)**

## TUESDAY 7/4/23

PSALM 89 1-8//3 The Lord said, "I have made a covenant with David, my chosen servant. I have sworn this oath to him: 4 'I will establish your descendants as kings forever; they will sit on your throne from now until eternity.'"

ROMANS 6:12-19/// 14 For sin shall no longer be your master, because you are not under the law, but under grace. 15 What then, shall we sin because we are not under the law but under grace? By no means!

**REFLECTION** As a child my parents brought me to church twice on Sunday and I became very conscious of having sinned against all of God's commandments. That caused me much shame and guilt as a young child, so as a young teen I dropped God on the weekdays and lived pretending to be a Christian on Sunday. These two separate lives eventually crushed me. Proverbs 9:12 says, "If you become wise, you will be the one to benefit. If you scorn wisdom, you will be the one to suffer. I decided at an early age to run with wild horses." At the time, I thought being a hypocrite was the worst kind of behavior a person could have. So, for a number of years I surrounded myself with pagans who did not pretend to believe in God. Sin exercises its reigning power over us, even if we do not accept there is a God. Everyone who has turned their backs on God still instinctively and consciously wants to be loved. Every person has a soul seeking a home with God, but our corrupt nature prevents us from being the true image bearers of God. After the fall: The Lord said in Genesis 6:3, "My Spirit will not put up with humans for such a long time, for they are only mortal flesh. In the future, their normal lifespan will be no more than 120 years." As we become just flesh like the brute animals, the Spirit of God was taken from us. When we live under grace the Holy Spirit has been returned to us. For that to happen we need to first accept Christ as our Savior. Titus 3:4-6 says, "But when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of any works of righteousness that we had done, but according to his mercy, through the water of rebirth and renewal by the Holy Spirit."

## TUESDAY 7/4/23 CONTINUED

**PRAYER** Praise you Lord Jesus for renewing my spirit with your Spirit. Your mercy is great and your forgiveness life changing. Thank you! In Jesus Name Amen

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## WEDNESDAY 7/5/23

PSALM 89 1-8//5 All heaven will praise your great wonders, Lord; myriads of angels will praise you for your faithfulness.

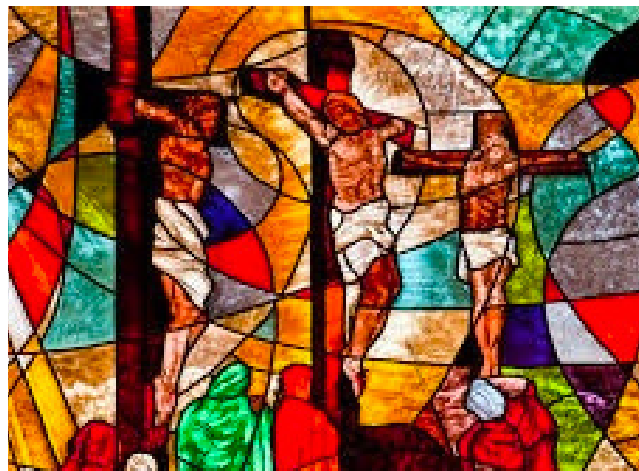
ROMANS 6:12-19/// 16 Don't you know that when you offer yourselves to someone as obedient slaves, you are slaves of the one you obey—whether you are slaves to sin, which leads to death, or to obedience, which leads to righteousness?

**REFLECTION** Let me ask you this simple question. Who are you attracted to? Who are you most likely to follow?

Someone who cares for you and loves you, or someone who wants to dominate you and tell you what you should do? Ask yourself why do we so often follow those who lead us away from God? The answer is, we are still slaves to sin. It seems everyday we are caught between our coupling with Christ and the sin that encircles our relationships. The pressure is sometimes overwhelming and no one can bear them both. So what to do? Understand first, we chose to sin by giving ourselves up to the workings of it. In other words, we act out based on our sentiments instead of our union

with Christ. To live by faith we ought to rely on grace and wisdom before reacting. The truth is we are redeemed from the tyranny of sin. Serving Christ is not that difficult when you truly embrace your freedom from bondage. We are so used to our brutish animal instincts we act out and sin is set into motion. So, by pausing and remembering Christ's righteousness in us we begin to express rightness to others. This is the act of obedience. So please remember the Spirit gives us the motivation to suppress our "old nature".

**PRAYER** All heaven will praise your great wonders, Lord Jesus and countless angels sing praises to your faithfulness. I pray this day your Spirit will help me be free of my "old nature" and share your love with others. In Jesus Name Amen.



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## THURSDAY 7/6/23

PSALM 89 1-8//6 For who in all of heaven can compare with the Lord? What mightiest angel is anything like the Lord?

ROMANS 6:12-19/// 17 But thanks be to God that, though you used to be slaves to sin, you have come to obey from your heart the pattern of teaching that has now claimed your allegiance.

**REFLECTION** We in America love to show our allegiance to our country and rightfully so. We do this by singing our national anthem at sporting events and saying the pledge of allegiance to our flag in our schools. This week we are celebrating Independence Day because we have been set free from George III, whom the founders label as a tyrant. As Christians we too have been set free from a tyrant. We thank God every Sunday that through Christ we are no longer servants of sin. This is not by our own merits but, through the special mercy of God. By continuing to give thanks, we learn more and about the great kindness of God. As we grow in faith we are encouraged to detest our sin. The actions of Christ show that without grace the whole human race would still be held captive under the dominion of sin. But by the bodily sacrifice of our Lord the kingdom of sin comes to an end. No one is set free from the bondage of the law and its dominion over us until the grace of God restores us. We are renewed by Christ's righteousness. The grace of God reigns in us, the Spirit of regeneration bursts forward.

**PRAYER** For who in all of heaven can compare with the Lord? The mightiest angel does not have the power of our Lord Jesus. In Jesus Name Amen

## FRIDAY 7/7/23

PSALM 89 1-8//7 The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround his throne.

ROMANS 6:12-19/// 18 You have been set free from sin and have become slaves to righteousness.

**REFLECTION** It is destructive and damaging to our faith to think, when we are set free by the blood of the Lamb, we continue to behave like we are still in a state of bondage. It is just plain irrational to think we are being brought again under the dominion of sin. We have been liberated by Christ once and for all. We have been released from the servitude of sin and joyfully released to embrace the kingdom of righteousness. Just like the early American's they turned away from England, we also must turn away from sin and point your minds in the direction of virtue and moral fortitude, John 8:36-37 says, So if the Son sets you free, you are truly free. Yes, I realize that you are descendants of Abraham. And yet some of you are trying to kill me because there's no room in your hearts for my message." We truly are liberated by the power and kindness of God from the tyranny of sin. This release from slavery is not the result of our own free will, but begins and ends with being liberated by the grace of God alone. We are to take no credit for this miracle.

**PRAYER The highest angelic powers stand in awe of God. He is far more awesome than all who surround His throne. In Jesus Name Amen**

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## SATURDAY 7/8/23

PSALM 89 1-8//8 O Lord God of Heaven's Armies! Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O Lord? You are entirely faithful

ROMANS 6:12-19/// 19 I am using an example from everyday life because of your human limitations. Just as you used to offer yourselves as slaves to impurity and to ever-increasing wickedness, so now offer yourselves as slaves to righteousness leading to holiness.

**REFLECTION** Early on in my desire to know God I tried to commune with Him based on my view of His laws. It was foolishness, I had a difficult time accepting God's authority over my life. In our quest to be right with God we do not have the right mind to find God. This simply means we are limited in our capacity to know God. We do not have the capacity of mind to imagine the freedom from sin that Christ obtains for us. Jesus is teaching Nicodemus about the difference between earthly knowledge and heavenly knowledge. He said in John 3: 12 But if you don't believe me when I tell you about earthly things, how can you possibly believe if I tell you about heavenly things? Human beings are depraved in nature, and weak in the flesh so it is arrogant to think we can know God without first being helped by God. So, that brings us to this idea how do we obtain righteous before God. Only righteousness can come from a place of righteousness and unclean comes from wickedness. Wickedness can not come out of righteousness. Sin and righteousness are so contrary to each other that a person can not be righteous in God's sight through our merits. God must send us His righteousness in Christ for us to obtain it. That is the reason Jesus Christ is the focal point of our faith.

**PRAYER O Lord God of Heaven's Armies, where is there anyone as mighty as you, O Lord? You are entirely faithful. In Jesus Name Amen**

