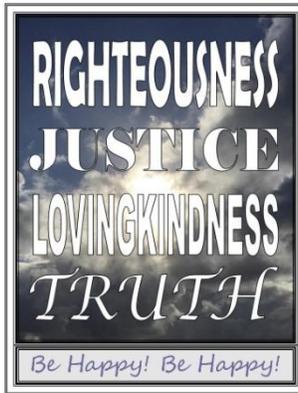


Be Happy! Be Happy!



***"Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne;  
Lovingkindness and truth go before You."***

***Psalm 89:14***

You see it... from your place of darkness, as if in the middle of a tunnel, the light so far at the end, its very brilliance shining from light-years away. What a wondrous sight, it's radiance blinding as you come closer, but closer still you come. You've never seen anything like it, nor ever will, for there is nothing that could compare. Breathtaking in all its glory. Approaching seems as daunting as walking into the sun, and who would even attempt such a thing, as you would surely be consumed before you were even near. And yet, you continue to approach.

Approaching the throne of the Living God.

Does that cause hesitation? Do you stop the advance to think before you dare to come closer? It is, after all, a throne that Psalms 89:14 declares has as its very foundation in righteousness and justice. Those two characteristics are the framework for His holy throne. Two things, by the way, that we can never attain on our own for the standard of righteousness requires perfection, meaning, to live according to the plan as it was drawn up. Something to which we fall completely short of as we jump off-track daily to follow our own desires. Psalm 14:1-3 reveals there are "none righteous, no not one", for all have turned away from God's plans for their lives. Think about it, ladies, we are seriously sin-sick. Diseased. Infected by the ways of this world, and our poor choices as we succumb to its allure, forgetting the standard given. We walk in sin, and then we dare to walk right up to His throne and speak to Him, seated on His throne of Righteousness.

Ladies, it's not only a throne of righteousness but one of justice, too, and in His justice He shows no partiality, as we see in verses like Galatians 2:6 or Romans 2:11. It doesn't matter how cute you are, or how "good" you try to be, as the Judge of all that He created, He calls it like it is. There would be no justice without One to judge, and judge He will, but He does so correctly and without bias. He is able to judge because as our Creator He knows us better than we know ourselves. Our holy God knows our sin, and He knows just how far off from His righteousness it's taken us. One step away is too far, for it takes us off a precipice for which we cannot climb up.

BUT here's where the verse gets really good. God doesn't leave us far off. This is where we see His GRACE move in. Look at the rest of **verse 14** - ***"lovingkindness and truth go before You."*** Yes, His standard is righteousness and justice, and yes, rightfully we deserve to be separated from Him forever. That would be just, for He in His righteousness can have no part of sin. BUT, instead, His lovingkindness and truth go before Him. Are you getting this picture? God, sitting on His throne of Righteousness and Justice, puts lovingkindness and truth between Him and us.

Lovingkindness is an unfailing kind of love. It's steadfast. It speaks of His complete faithfulness to us, even when we ourselves are unfaithful. What love, what kindness. It endures forever. In the same

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way that righteousness and justice are a part of His character, so is lovingkindness and truth. He will always, always, always be loving and faithful. He's not going to change and be different tomorrow. He is true, and His character speaks for itself, revealing truth. It goes before Him like a banner.

The truth is that He loves us so much that He sent a Savior. In Christ we have the gospel message, the good news, that He has made a way. He loves YOU that much. The truth of the gospel makes it possible for us to approach the Holy God, the righteous and just. The truth is that apart from His love we would be lost, but now, because of His great truth, we, who were far off, are brought near. When once we were in darkness, we have been brought into the Light.

**Psalm 85:10** says, ***"Lovingkindness and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed each other."*** All because of Christ. You and I can be at peace with a God who requires perfect righteousness because, in Christ, righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

Such an amazing truth. It could have been quite different really. Think about this. What if it were His righteousness and justice that we bumped up against first? Strikes fear in my heart. But because of His lovingkindness and truth we truly can approach the throne of God without fear, for His lovingkindness and truth go before Him. And perfect love casts out fear.

**Verse 15 of Psalm 89** goes on to say, ***"Blessed are the people who know the joyful sound! O Lord, they walk in the light of Your countenance."*** Blessed - the term means inner happiness. Those who "know the joyful sound" of His truth. At the time it was a coming Messiah, for us today, it is those who have heard the good news and accepted Christ as their Savior. Those are the ones who have happiness inside. Are your insides happy? Have you heard the joyful sound of His truth? If you have, then you are to be one who walks in the light of His countenance. Walking in a manner worthy, a representative of the righteous and just God we serve, that comes to us through lovingkindness and truth.

The truth is we all need God.

The joyful sound of His truth has gone before Him, wrapped in the package of His lovingkindness in the form of a Savior. In Jesus Christ He provided a way for us to be able to come to Him, the Living God whose throne is founded on righteousness and justice.

And once again we see the equation that bumping into His grace produces great joy! So, be blessed - be happy, be happy, and walk in the light of His countenance.

*Father, we would still be in darkness were it not for the light of Your truth. We would still be unable to come to You were it not for Jesus' sacrifice on our behalf. The truth of the gospel makes our lives very different. Or it should. Forgive us Father when we fail to live to Your standard of righteousness. Forgive us when we jump off to follow our own desires and take for granted this incredible gift of Your*

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*grace. Thank You that in knowing Your grace we are provided great joy. May we walk in light of Your countenance. In Christ! Amen.*

Verses for your study:

Psalm 86:12-13, 15

John 8:12, 46

Romans 2:11

Galatians 2:6

Ephesians 2:13, 5:8

Colossians 1:10

1 John 4:16-19