

September 6, 2026

Words of Welcome

Psalm 89:1-4 (ESV)

- 1 A Maskil of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the steadfast love of the LORD, forever; with my mouth I will make known your faithfulness to all generations.
- 2 For I said, "Steadfast love will be built up forever; in the heavens you will establish your faithfulness."
- 3 You have said, "I have made a covenant with my chosen one; I have sworn to David my servant:
- 4 'I will establish your offspring forever, and build your throne for all generations.'" Selah

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Scripture Reading

James 5:7-12 (ESV)

- 7 Be patient, therefore, brothers, until the coming of the Lord. See how the farmer waits for the precious fruit of the earth, being patient about it, until it receives the early and the late rains.
- 8 You also, be patient. Establish your hearts, for the coming of the Lord is at hand.
- 9 Do not grumble against one another, brothers, so that you may not be judged; behold, the Judge is standing at the door.
- 10 As an example of suffering and patience, brothers, take the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord.
- 11 Behold, we consider those blessed who remained steadfast. You have heard of the steadfastness of Job, and you have seen the purpose of the Lord, how the Lord is compassionate and merciful.
- 12 But above all, my brothers, do not swear, either by heaven or by earth or by any other oath, but let your "yes" be yes and your "no" be no, so that you may not fall under condemnation.

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Praise to the Lord (Joyful, Joyful)

Verse 1

Praise to the Lord the Almighty the King of creation
O my soul praise Him
For He is your Health and Salvation
Come all who hear now to His Temple draw near
Join me in glad adoration

Verse 2

Praise to the Lord
Above all things so wondrously reigning
Shelt'ring you under his wings
And so gently sustaining
Have you not seen? All that is needful has been
Sent by his gracious ordaining

Verse 3

Praise to the Lord
Who will prosper your work and defend you
Surely His goodness and mercy shall daily attend you
Ponder anew what the Almighty can do
If with His love He befriends you

Chorus

Joyful joyful we adore Thee
God of glory, Lord of love
Hearts unfold like flowers before Thee
Op'ning to the sun above

Verse 4

Praise to the Lord oh let all that is in me adore Him
All that has life and breath
Come now with praises before Him
Let the amen sound from His people again
Gladly forever adore Him

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Is He Worthy

Verse 1:

Do you feel the world is broken? (We do)
Do you feel the shadows deepen? (We do)
But do you know that all the dark won't stop
The light from getting through? (We do)
Do you wish that you could see it all made new? (We do)

Verse 2:

Is all creation groaning? (It is)
Is a new creation coming? (It is)
Is the glory of the Lord to be
The light within our midst? (It is)
Is it good that we remind ourselves of this? (It is)

Chorus:

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
Is He worthy? Is He worthy
Of all blessing and honor and glory?
Is He worthy of this? He is

Verse 3:

Does the Father truly love us? (He does)
Does the Spirit move among us? (He does)
And does Jesus, our Messiah hold forever those He loves? (He does)
Does our God intend to dwell again with us? (He does)

Chorus 2:

Is anyone worthy? Is anyone whole?
Is anyone able to break the seal and open the scroll?
The Lion of Judah who conquered the grave
He is David's root and the Lamb who died to ransom the slave
From every people and tribe, every nation and tongue
He has made us a kingdom and priests to God
To reign with the Son
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Of all blessing and honor and glory
Is He worthy? Is He worthy?
Is He worthy of this?

Tag:

He is! Is He worthy? Is He worthy of this? He is!

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O Church Arise

Verse 1:

O Church arise and put your armor on
Hear the call of Christ our captain
For now, the weak can say that they are strong
In the strength that God has given
With Shield of Faith and Belt of Truth
We'll stand against the devil's lies
An army bold whose battle cry is love
Reaching out to those in darkness

Verse 2:

Our call to war, to love the captive soul
But to rage against the captor
And with The Sword that makes the wounded whole
We will fight with faith and valor
When faced with trials on every side
We know the outcome is secure
And Christ will have the prize for which He died
An inheritance of nations

Verse 3:

Come see the cross where love and mercy meet
As the Son of God is stricken
Then see His foes lie crushed beneath His feet
For the Conqueror has risen
And as the stone is rolled away
And Christ emerges from the grave
This victory march continues till the day
Every eye and heart will see Him

Verse 4:

So, Spirit come put strength in every stride
Give grace for every hurdle
That we may run with faith to win the prize
Of a servant good and faithful
As saints of old still line the way
Retelling triumphs of His grace
We hear their calls and hunger for the day
When with Christ we stand in glory

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New City Catechism

33: Should Those Who Have Faith in Christ Seek Their Salvation Through Their Own Works, or Anywhere Else?

Full Answer

No, they should not, as everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ. To seek salvation through good works is a denial that Christ is the only Redeemer and Savior.

Children's Answer

No, everything necessary to salvation is found in Christ.

Scripture

GALATIANS 2:16

Yet we know that a person is not justified by works of the law but through faith in Jesus Christ, so we also have believed in Christ Jesus, in order to be justified by faith in Christ and not by works of the law, because by works of the law no one will be justified.

Commentary

JOHN CALVIN

We maintain that of whatever kind a man's work may be, he is regarded as righteous before God simply on the ground of gratuitous mercy; because God, without any respect to works, freely adopts him in Christ, by imputing the righteousness of Christ to him as if it were his own. This we call the righteousness of faith, that is when a man, empty and drained of all confidence in works, feels convinced that the only ground of his acceptance with God is a righteousness which is wanting in himself, and is borrowed from Christ. The point on which the world goes astray (for this error has prevailed in almost every age), is in imagining that man, however partially defective he may be, still in some degree merits the favour of God by works. . . . God reconciles us to himself, from regard not to our works but to Christ alone, and by gratuitous adoption makes us his own children instead of children of wrath. So long as God regards our works, he finds no reason why he ought to love us. Wherefore it is necessary that he should bury our sins, impute to us the obedience of Christ which alone can stand his scrutiny, and adopt us as righteous through his merits. This is the clear and uniform doctrine of Scripture, "witnessed," as Paul says, "by the law and the prophets" (Rom. 3:21).

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Come, Behold the Wondrous Mystery

Verse 1:

Come behold the wondrous mystery, in the dawning of the King
He the theme of heaven's praises, robed in frail humanity

Chorus 1:

In our longing, in our darkness, now the light of life has come
Look to Christ, who condescended, took on flesh to ransom us

Verse 2:

Come behold the wondrous mystery, He the perfect Son of Man
In His living, in His suffering, never trace nor stain of sin

Chorus 2:

See the true and better Adam, come to save the hell-bound man
Christ the great and sure fulfillment, of the law; in Him we stand

Verse 3:

Come behold the wondrous mystery, Christ the Lord upon the tree
In the stead of ruined sinners, hangs the Lamb in victory

Chorus 3:

See the price of our redemption, see the Father's plan unfold
Bringing many sons to glory, grace unmeasured, love untold

Verse 4:

Come behold the wondrous mystery, slain by death the God of life
But no grave could e'er restrain Him, praise the Lord; He is alive!

Chorus 4:

What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes

Chorus 5:

What a foretaste of deliverance, how unwavering our hope
Christ in power resurrected, as we will be when he comes

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Sermon
Babylon Falls

Revelation 15:1-19:10 (ESV)

15:1 Then I saw another sign in heaven, great and amazing, seven angels with seven plagues, which are the last, for with them the wrath of God is finished.

2 And I saw what appeared to be a sea of glass mingled with fire-- and also those who had conquered the beast and its image and the number of its name, standing beside the sea of glass with harps of God in their hands.

3 And they sing the song of Moses, the servant of God, and the song of the Lamb, saying, "Great and amazing are your deeds, O Lord God the Almighty! Just and true are your ways, O King of the nations!

4 Who will not fear, O Lord, and glorify your name? For you alone are holy. All nations will come and worship you, for your righteous acts have been revealed."

5 After this I looked, and the sanctuary of the tent of witness in heaven was opened,

6 and out of the sanctuary came the seven angels with the seven plagues, clothed in pure, bright linen, with golden sashes around their chests.

7 And one of the four living creatures gave to the seven angels seven golden bowls full of the wrath of God who lives forever and ever,

8 and the sanctuary was filled with smoke from the glory of God and from his power, and no one could enter the sanctuary until the seven plagues of the seven angels were finished.

16:1 Then I heard a loud voice from the temple telling the seven angels, "Go and pour out on the earth the seven bowls of the wrath of God."

2 So the first angel went and poured out his bowl on the earth, and harmful and painful sores came upon the people who bore the mark of the beast and worshiped its image.

3 The second angel poured out his bowl into the sea, and it became like the blood of a corpse, and every living thing died that was in the sea.

4 The third angel poured out his bowl into the rivers and the springs of water, and they became blood.

5 And I heard the angel in charge of the waters say, "Just are you, O Holy One, who is and who was, for you brought these judgments.

6 For they have shed the blood of saints and prophets, and you have given them blood to drink. It is what they deserve!"

7 And I heard the altar saying, "Yes, Lord God the Almighty, true and just are your judgments!"

8 The fourth angel poured out his bowl on the sun, and it was allowed to scorch people with fire.

9 They were scorched by the fierce heat, and they cursed the name of God who had power over these plagues. They did not repent and give him glory.

10 The fifth angel poured out his bowl on the throne of the beast, and its kingdom was plunged into darkness. People gnawed their tongues in anguish

11 and cursed the God of heaven for their pain and sores. They did not repent of their deeds.

12 The sixth angel poured out his bowl on the great river Euphrates, and its water was dried up, to prepare the way for the kings from the east.

13 And I saw, coming out of the mouth of the dragon and out of the mouth of the beast and out of the mouth of the false prophet, three unclean spirits like frogs.

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- 14 For they are demonic spirits, performing signs, who go abroad to the kings of the whole world, to assemble them for battle on the great day of God the Almighty.
- 15 ("Behold, I am coming like a thief! Blessed is the one who stays awake, keeping his garments on, that he may not go about naked and be seen exposed!")
- 16 And they assembled them at the place that in Hebrew is called Armageddon.
- 17 The seventh angel poured out his bowl into the air, and a loud voice came out of the temple, from the throne, saying, "It is done!"
- 18 And there were flashes of lightning, rumblings, peals of thunder, and a great earthquake such as there had never been since man was on the earth, so great was that earthquake.
- 19 The great city was split into three parts, and the cities of the nations fell, and God remembered Babylon the great, to make her drain the cup of the wine of the fury of his wrath.
- 20 And every island fled away, and no mountains were to be found.
- 21 And great hailstones, about one hundred pounds each, fell from heaven on people; and they cursed God for the plague of the hail, because the plague was so severe.
- 17:1 Then one of the seven angels who had the seven bowls came and said to me, "Come, I will show you the judgment of the great prostitute who is seated on many waters,
- 2 with whom the kings of the earth have committed sexual immorality, and with the wine of whose sexual immorality the dwellers on earth have become drunk."
- 3 And he carried me away in the Spirit into a wilderness, and I saw a woman sitting on a scarlet beast that was full of blasphemous names, and it had seven heads and ten horns.
- 4 The woman was arrayed in purple and scarlet, and adorned with gold and jewels and pearls, holding in her hand a golden cup full of abominations and the impurities of her sexual immorality.
- 5 And on her forehead was written a name of mystery: "Babylon the great, mother of prostitutes and of earth's abominations."
- 6 And I saw the woman, drunk with the blood of the saints, the blood of the martyrs of Jesus. When I saw her, I marveled greatly.
- 7 But the angel said to me, "Why do you marvel? I will tell you the mystery of the woman, and of the beast with seven heads and ten horns that carries her.
- 8 The beast that you saw was, and is not, and is about to rise from the bottomless pit and go to destruction. And the dwellers on earth whose names have not been written in the book of life from the foundation of the world will marvel to see the beast, because it was and is not and is to come.
- 9 This calls for a mind with wisdom: the seven heads are seven mountains on which the woman is seated;
- 10 they are also seven kings, five of whom have fallen, one is, the other has not yet come, and when he does come he must remain only a little while.
- 11 As for the beast that was and is not, it is an eighth but it belongs to the seven, and it goes to destruction.
- 12 And the ten horns that you saw are ten kings who have not yet received royal power, but they are to receive authority as kings for one hour, together with the beast.
- 13 These are of one mind, and they hand over their power and authority to the beast.
- 14 They will make war on the Lamb, and the Lamb will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful."

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- 15 And the angel said to me, "The waters that you saw, where the prostitute is seated, are peoples and multitudes and nations and languages.
- 16 And the ten horns that you saw, they and the beast will hate the prostitute. They will make her desolate and naked, and devour her flesh and burn her up with fire,
- 17 for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled.
- 18 And the woman that you saw is the great city that has dominion over the kings of the earth."
- 18:1 After this I saw another angel coming down from heaven, having great authority, and the earth was made bright with his glory.
- 2 And he called out with a mighty voice, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great! She has become a dwelling place for demons, a haunt for every unclean spirit, a haunt for every unclean bird, a haunt for every unclean and detestable beast.
- 3 For all nations have drunk the wine of the passion of her sexual immorality, and the kings of the earth have committed immorality with her, and the merchants of the earth have grown rich from the power of her luxurious living."
- 4 Then I heard another voice from heaven saying, "Come out of her, my people, lest you take part in her sins, lest you share in her plagues;
- 5 for her sins are heaped high as heaven, and God has remembered her iniquities.
- 6 Pay her back as she herself has paid back others, and repay her double for her deeds; mix a double portion for her in the cup she mixed.
- 7 As she glorified herself and lived in luxury, so give her a like measure of torment and mourning, since in her heart she says, 'I sit as a queen, I am no widow, and mourning I shall never see.'
- 8 For this reason her plagues will come in a single day, death and mourning and famine, and she will be burned up with fire; for mighty is the Lord God who has judged her."
- 9 And the kings of the earth, who committed sexual immorality and lived in luxury with her, will weep and wail over her when they see the smoke of her burning.
- 10 They will stand far off, in fear of her torment, and say, "Alas! Alas! You great city, you mighty city, Babylon! For in a single hour your judgment has come."
- 11 And the merchants of the earth weep and mourn for her, since no one buys their cargo anymore,
- 12 cargo of gold, silver, jewels, pearls, fine linen, purple cloth, silk, scarlet cloth, all kinds of scented wood, all kinds of articles of ivory, all kinds of articles of costly wood, bronze, iron and marble,
- 13 cinnamon, spice, incense, myrrh, frankincense, wine, oil, fine flour, wheat, cattle and sheep, horses and chariots, and slaves, that is, human souls.
- 14 "The fruit for which your soul longed has gone from you, and all your delicacies and your splendors are lost to you, never to be found again!"
- 15 The merchants of these wares, who gained wealth from her, will stand far off, in fear of her torment, weeping and mourning aloud,
- 16 "Alas, alas, for the great city that was clothed in fine linen, in purple and scarlet, adorned with gold, with jewels, and with pearls!
- 17 For in a single hour all this wealth has been laid waste." And all shipmasters and seafaring men, sailors and all whose trade is on the sea, stood far off
- 18 and cried out as they saw the smoke of her burning, "What city was like the great city?"

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- 19 And they threw dust on their heads as they wept and mourned, crying out, "Alas, alas, for the great city where all who had ships at sea grew rich by her wealth! For in a single hour she has been laid waste.
- 20 Rejoice over her, O heaven, and you saints and apostles and prophets, for God has given judgment for you against her!"
- 21 Then a mighty angel took up a stone like a great millstone and threw it into the sea, saying, "So will Babylon the great city be thrown down with violence, and will be found no more;
- 22 and the sound of harpists and musicians, of flute players and trumpeters, will be heard in you no more, and a craftsman of any craft will be found in you no more, and the sound of the mill will be heard in you no more,
- 23 and the light of a lamp will shine in you no more, and the voice of bridegroom and bride will be heard in you no more, for your merchants were the great ones of the earth, and all nations were deceived by your sorcery.
- 24 And in her was found the blood of prophets and of saints, and of all who have been slain on earth."

- 19:1 After this I heard what seemed to be the loud voice of a great multitude in heaven, crying out, "Hallelujah! Salvation and glory and power belong to our God,
- 2 for his judgments are true and just; for he has judged the great prostitute who corrupted the earth with her immorality, and has avenged on her the blood of his servants."
- 3 Once more they cried out, "Hallelujah! The smoke from her goes up forever and ever."
- 4 And the twenty-four elders and the four living creatures fell down and worshiped God who was seated on the throne, saying, "Amen. Hallelujah!"
- 5 And from the throne came a voice saying, "Praise our God, all you his servants, you who fear him, small and great."
- 6 Then I heard what seemed to be the voice of a great multitude, like the roar of many waters and like the sound of mighty peals of thunder, crying out, "Hallelujah! For the Lord our God the Almighty reigns.
- 7 Let us rejoice and exult and give him the glory, for the marriage of the Lamb has come, and his Bride has made herself ready;
- 8 it was granted her to clothe herself with fine linen, bright and pure"-- for the fine linen is the righteous deeds of the saints.
- 9 And the angel said to me, "Write this: Blessed are those who are invited to the marriage supper of the Lamb." And he said to me, "These are the true words of God."
- 10 Then I fell down at his feet to worship him, but he said to me, "You must not do that! I am a fellow servant with you and your brothers who hold to the testimony of Jesus. Worship God." For the testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.
- 11 Then I saw heaven opened, and behold, a white horse! The one sitting on it is called Faithful and True, and in righteousness he judges and makes war.
- 12 His eyes are like a flame of fire, and on his head are many diadems, and he has a name written that no one knows but himself.
- 13 He is clothed in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The Word of God.
- 14 And the armies of heaven, arrayed in fine linen, white and pure, were following him on white horses.

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- 15 From his mouth comes a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations, and he will rule them with a rod of iron. He will tread the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty.
- 16 On his robe and on his thigh he has a name written, King of kings and Lord of lords.
- 17 Then I saw an angel standing in the sun, and with a loud voice he called to all the birds that fly directly overhead, "Come, gather for the great supper of God,
- 18 to eat the flesh of kings, the flesh of captains, the flesh of mighty men, the flesh of horses and their riders, and the flesh of all men, both free and slave, both small and great."
- 19 And I saw the beast and the kings of the earth with their armies gathered to make war against him who was sitting on the horse and against his army.
- 20 And the beast was captured, and with it the false prophet who in its presence had done the signs by which he deceived those who had received the mark of the beast and those who worshiped its image. These two were thrown alive into the lake of fire that burns with sulfur.
- 21 And the rest were slain by the sword that came from the mouth of him who was sitting on the horse, and all the birds were gorged with their flesh.

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All Glory Be to Christ

Verse 1

Should nothing of our efforts stand
No legacy survive
Unless the Lord does raise the house
In vain its builders strive

Verse 2

To you who boast tomorrow's gain
Tell me what is your life?
A mist that vanishes at dawn
All glory be to Christ!

Chorus

All glory be to Christ our King!
All glory be to Christ!
His rule and reign we'll ever sing,
All glory be to Christ!

Verse 3

His will be done His kingdom come
On earth as is above
Who is Himself our daily bread
Praise Him the Lord of love

Verse 4

Let living water satisfy
The thirsty without price
We'll take a cup of kindness yet
All glory be to Christ!

Verse 5

When on the day the great I am
The faithful and the true
The Lamb who was for sinners slain
Is making all things new

Verse 6

Behold our God shall live with us
And be our steadfast light
And we shall ere his people be
All glory be to Christ!

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**Benediction
(Congregation)**

2 Corinthians 13:11-14 (ESV)

- 11 Finally, brothers, rejoice. Aim for restoration, comfort one another, agree with one another, live in peace; and the God of love and peace will be with you.
- 12 Greet one another with a holy kiss.
- 13 All the saints greet you.
- 14 The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.