



Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

July / August 2024

FREEDOM IS A GRACE DOCTRINE!

Preaching the grace of God is preaching liberty in Christ Jesus. If liberty is to be preserved so must the pure preaching of God's grace.

A celebration of true independence in our country that began with thirteen colonies should start with a celebration of the liberty granted us in Christ first recorded in Paul's thirteen epistles!

On July 4th, 1776, the Constitution of the United States did not yet exist. There was not yet any Bill of Rights. The Articles of Confederation had not yet been drawn up. The thirteen colonies of America were completely free.

In America, Independence Day is the anniversary of when thirteen colonies unanimously declared their freedom as independent States from Great Britain. Underneath the throne of the British sovereign was believed to be the very stone that Jacob slept on at

Bethel: "And he called the name of that place Beth-el: but the name of that city *was called* Luz at the first." ([Gen 28:19](#)).

Many believed the British Empire to be God's kingdom on earth, and for some, having the stone of Jacob representing God's house on earth proved it.

If God is working through any one nation today then he is not working through the church, the Body of Christ, which has no national boundaries: "Where there is neither Greek nor Jew, circumcision nor uncircumcision, Barbarian, Scythian, bond *nor* free: but Christ *is* all, and in all." ([Col 3:11](#)).

Those who thought the British Empire was God's empire were rejecting how God works in the dispensation of the grace of God. Every place that rejects God's grace, the rejection of freedom naturally follows.

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**Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
Kathleen Smith, Editor**

All Are Welcome!

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study 7:00 PM**

**"And to make all men see
what is the fellowship of the mystery,
which from the beginning of the world
hath been hid in God, who created
all things by Jesus Christ: . . ."**

- Ephesians 3:9

FREEDOM IS A GRACE DOCTRINE!

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America's Declared Independence

When the Americans declared independence they were standing against any perceived divine institution in the British crown.

America was populated, among others, by seekers of religious freedom who did not require any authority from Jacob's stone (called the Stone of Destiny) under Britain's throne.

The descendants of those religious dissidents signed the Declaration of Independence.

They rejected the idea that Britain was God's nation to rule the world as revived Israel. They stood on a right to be free from the rules, contracts, and boundaries of the English empire.

Though most of the American independents did not fully understand the gospel of the grace of God, they declared unanimously that God was dispensing liberty to all men.

Our Declaration of God's Grace

Similarly, two thousand years ago Paul made a declaration of independence in his thirteen epistles.

According to the dispensation of God's grace, God offered salvation independent from Israel's laws, covenants, and boundaries. The gospel of God's grace is salvation in liberty.

Inspired by the Holy Spirit, Paul declared the fall of the only nation God ever ordained, Israel, and declared salvation to the entire world by God's grace without distinction.

Where grace reigned, there was liberty ([Rom 5:21](#); [Gal 5:1](#)). Where the dispensation of the grace of God was rejected, people were put back under the bondage of Jacob's sons and Israel's laws ([Gal 2:4](#); [Gal 4:9](#); [Gal 5:1-4](#)).

Paul taught that Christ made us free. If to live is Christ, then if we cannot live free in Christ, then to die is gain ([Phil 1:21](#)). Without liberty, wherewith Christ hath made us free, Christ died in vain ([Gal 2:21](#)), and our own life in Christ is vain ([1 Cor 15:14](#)).

Only within the framework of God's grace does it make sense to cry "give me liberty or give me death"! Where God's grace is rejected, so is liberty. Liberty stands where God's grace is preached.

Thank God for His Grace

The pure preaching of God's grace by Paul was short lived in church history as many began to turn away from him during his own lifetime ([2 Tim 4:15](#)). Liberty in the church became hidden under apostolic tradition, centralized church authority, manmade rules and liturgical laws, religious politics, and ideas about being spiritual Israel.

Freedom is a grace doctrine. Preaching the grace of God is preaching liberty in Christ Jesus. If liberty is to be preserved so must the pure preaching of God's grace.

A celebration of true independence in our country that began with thirteen colonies should start with a celebration of the liberty granted us in Christ first recorded in Paul's thirteen epistles.

Thank God for freedom, thank God for his dispensation of grace through Jesus Christ our Lord.

May your July 4th celebration with loved ones and friends reflect not only our gratitude for our country's independence, but so much more . . . our freedom in Christ!

- Pastor Phil

The above article was gently lifted from Grace Ambassadors.com - July 2, 2016

July 4th - Our Nation's Birthday



"Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord; and the people who he hath chosen for his own inheritance." - Psalm 33:12

"If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." - 2 Chronicles 7:14

*My country, 'tis of thee,
Sweet land of liberty,
Of thee I sing;
Land where my fathers died,
Land of the pilgrims' pride,
From every mountainside
Let freedom ring!*

*Our father's God to Thee,
Author of liberty,
To Thee we sing.
Long may our land be bright,
With freedom's holy light,
Protect us by Thy might,
Great God our King.*

*(Samuel Francis Smith, 1831 -
Andover, Massachusetts)*



Legend has it that on September 7, 1813, the United States got its nickname, "Uncle Sam." The name is linked to Samuel Wilson, a meat packer from Troy, New York, who supplied barrels of beef to the United States Army during the War of 1812. Wilson stamped the barrels with "U.S." for United States, but soldiers began referring to the grub as "Uncle Sam's." The local newspaper picked up on the story and Uncle Sam eventually gained widespread acceptance as the nickname for the U.S. Federal Government.

Perhaps the most famous image of Uncle Sam was created by artist James Montgomery Flagg (1877-1960). In Flagg's version, Uncle Sam wears a tall top hat and blue jacket and is pointing straight ahead at the viewer. During World War I and World War II, this portrait of Uncle Sam with the words "I Want You For U.S. Army" was used as a recruiting poster.

In September 1961, the U.S. Congress recognized Samuel Wilson as "the progenitor (forerunner) of America's national symbol of Uncle Sam." Wilson died at age 88 in 1854, and was buried next to his wife Betsey Mann in the Oakwood Cemetery in Troy, New York, the town that calls itself "The Home of Uncle Sam."

MY SAVIOR, TIS OF THEE

My Saviour, tis of thee,
Our God of liberty, of thee I sing
Hand whereby Jesus died
Planned to be crucified
There every man was tried let freedom ring!

By nature sin in me
Man's blood can't set me free, I look above
My faults became the chain
Thy law was made the rein
His death was made my gain, commend his love!

I stand in liberty
No army captures me; the work is done
Great men of old have fought
Against what pride has wrought
Not knowing what you bought, freedom is won!

All nationalities,
In bonds or poverty, can be set free
God, help us to be bold
Our souls to you are sold
Thy gospel must be told, make all men see

Quotes for the Wise and Young at Heart:

"You have to love a nation that celebrates its independence every July 4th, not with a parade of guns, tanks, and soldiers who file by the White House in a show of strength and muscle, but with family picnics where kids throw Frisbees, the potato salad gets iffy, and the flies die from happiness. You may think you have overeaten, but it is patriotism." ~ Erma Bombeck

"I have lived, Sir, a long time, and the longer I live, the more convincing proofs I see of this truth - God governs in the affairs of men, and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without His notice, is it possible that an empire can rise without His aid?" ~ Benjamin Franklin

"We here resolve that the dead shall not have died in vain, that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom; and that government of the people, by the people, and for the people, shall not perish from the earth." ~ Abraham Lincoln

"For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only *use* not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. For all the law is fulfilled in one word, even in this; Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself." ~ Galatians 5: 13-14

Summertime,
And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin'
And the cotton is high
Your daddy's rich
And your mamma's good lookin'
So hush little baby
Don't you cry
One of these mornings
You're going to rise up singing
Then you'll spread your wings
And you'll take to the sky
But till that morning
There's a'nothing can harm you
With daddy and mamma standing by



"The wind goeth toward the south, and turneth about into the north; it whirleth about continually, and the wind returneth again according to his circuits.

All the rivers run into the sea; yet the sea is not full; unto the place from whence the rivers come, thither they return again.

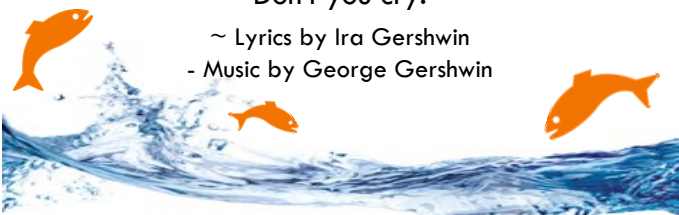
All things are full of labour; man cannot utter *it*: the eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing.

The thing that hath been, *it is* that which shall be; and that which is done is that which shall be done: and *there* is no new thing under the sun." - Ecclesiastes 1: 6-9 KJV



Summertime,
And the livin' is easy
Fish are jumpin'
And the cotton is high
Your daddy's rich
And your mamma's good lookin'
So hush little baby
Don't you cry.

~ Lyrics by Ira Gershwin
- Music by George Gershwin

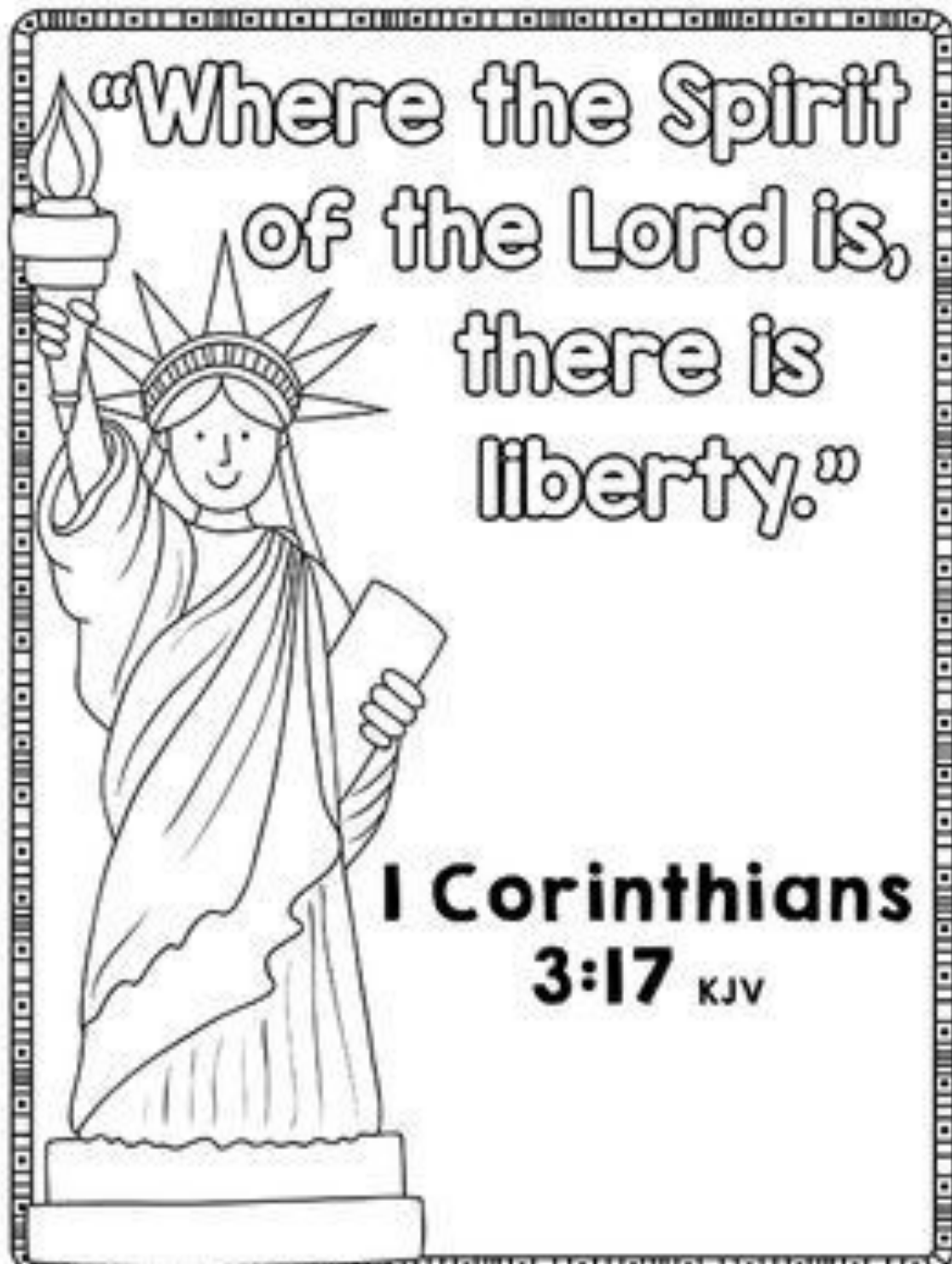


LIGHTHOUSE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I am come a light into the world, that whosoever believeth on me should not abide in darkness. — JOHN 12:46 KJV



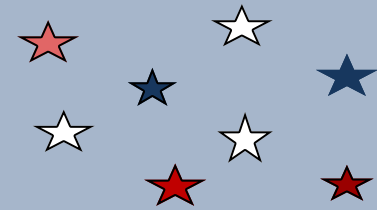
“If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed.” - John 8:36



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida



July 2024



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4 5 6

FOURTH OF JULY



7 8 9 10 11 12 13

9:45 Sunday
Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
The LORD's Supper
Observed
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School

28 29 30 31

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



- 9th Judy Asher
- 14th Christine Plimpton
- 14th Richard Smith
- 19th Jaelyn Sims
- 27th Janice Smith
- 28th Jocelyn Barrett

COMING IN AUGUST

- 4th 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast



“To every thing there is a season and a time to every purpose under heaven . . .”

Ecclesiastes 3:1

August 2024

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



3rd Avery Stevens

7th Maggie Forbes

24th Yvonne McClellan

28th Judy Anderson Sims

29th Bruce Sims

4 5 6 7 8 9 10
 9:45 Sunday
 Breakfast
 10:30 AM Sunday
 Worship
 10:45 AM Children's
 Sunday School

11 12 13 14 15 16 17
 10:30 AM Sunday
 Worship
 10:45 AM Children's
 Sunday School

18 19 20 21 22 23 24
 10:30 AM Sunday
 Worship
 The LORD's Supper
 Observed
 10:45 AM Children's
 Sunday School

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

**1st 9:45 AM Sunday
 Breakfast**

25 26 27 28 29 30 31
 10:30 AM Sunday
 Worship
 10:45 AM Children's
 Sunday School