

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

January 2025

AN OLD RESOLUTION FOR A NEW YEAR

We live in exciting times. While the world is making New Year resolutions to be more patient, lose weight and exercise more, in 2025, the Body of Christ's New Year's resolution is unchanged because we are:

"Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Savior Jesus Christ." – Titus 2:13

Now, there's nothing wrong in wanting to lose weight, eat healthier, lower our blood pressure by exercise or walking every day; we all want to be the best and healthiest we can be! And that's a good thing and in fact mirrors God's love and care for us.

Yet there are so many believers who are stuck in the kingdom gospel and not the gospel of grace. For example, consider the following:

James 1:1 and all of the Hebrew epistles are continually wrongly applied to the church – the Body of Christ - of this current dispensation of God's grace instead of the twelve tribes of Israel:

"James, a servant of God and of the Lord Jesus Christ, **to the twelve tribes** which are scattered abroad . . ."

What's that? James specifically tells us that he is writing to the **twelve tribes of Israel** and does **not** say he is writing to the "Gentiles" or "The Body of Christ."

And . . . 1 Peter 2:9: "But ye are a chosen generation, a **royal priesthood, an holy nation**, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into His marvelous light."

(Continued on Page 2)



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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
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All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Sunday Messages available on website:
(www.avalongracechurch.com)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM

**"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

AN OLD RESOLUTION FOR A NEW YEAR (Continued from Page 1)

Since the Body of Christ is not made up of priests or is it a nation, but it a 'new creation' Peter was speaking to Israel, not us.



In fact the apostle Peter, in II Peter 3: 15-16 encourages Israel to listen to Paul even though he (Paul) is hard to understand:

"And account *that* the longsuffering of our Lord *is* salvation; even as our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; As also in all *his* epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as *they do* also the other scriptures, unto their own destruction."

Why is that? Jesus gave the apostle Paul new information by revelation directly from the Risen, Lord Jesus Christ - Information that was kept secret (or hidden) since the foundation of the world and was not foretold to the Old Testament prophets. God, in His mercy and love for us, set Israel in a "time out" because of their unbelief. And we receive eternal life simply believing that Christ died for our sins, was crucified, dead and buried but rose again.

The key to understanding the Bible and our current position in God's plan for humanity until He comes and meets us in the clouds is found in 2 Timothy 3:16-17:

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

And . . . 2 Timothy 2:15: "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Therefore, as we welcome 2025, let us strive to make all men see what is the fellowship of the mystery of Jesus Christ which had been hid, but now is revealed, fulfilling the intended purpose of God in Christ for his church (see

Ephesians 3: 9-21).

Happy New Year, Pastor Phil

Rom 13:11: And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed.

Rom 13:12: The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light.

PSALM 98: 1-9

O sing unto the LORD a new song; for he hath done marvelous things: his right hand, and his holy arm, hath gotten him the victory.

The LORD hath made known his salvation: his righteousness hath he openly shewed in the sight of the heathen.

He hath remembered his mercy and his truth toward the house of Israel: all the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Make a joyful noise unto the LORD, all the earth: make a loud noise, and rejoice, and sing praise.

Sing unto the LORD with the harp; with the harp, and the voice of a psalm.

With trumpets and sound of cornet make a joyful noise before the LORD, the King.

Let the sea roar, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein.

Let the floods clap their hands: let the hills be joyful together

Before the LORD; for he cometh to judge the earth: with righteousness shall he judge the world, and the people with equity.

NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS . . .



A NEW YEAR'S POEM

By Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892)

Ring out, wild bells, to the wild sky,
The flying cloud, the frosty light;
The year is dying in the night;
Ring out, wild bells, and let him die.

Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring, happy bells, across the snow;
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.

Ring out the grief that saps the mind,
For those that here we see no more;
Ring out the feud of rich and poor,
Ring in redress to all mankind.

Ring out a slowly dying cause,
And ancient forms of party strife;
Ring in the nobler modes of life,
With sweeter manners, purer laws.

Ring out the want, the care, the sin,
The faithless coldness of the times;
Ring out, ring out my mournful rimes
But ring the fuller minstrel in.

Ring out false pride in place and blood,
The civic slander and the spite;
Ring in the love of truth and right,
Ring in the common love of good.

Ring out old shapes of foul disease;
Ring out the narrowing lust of gold;
Ring out the thousand wars of old,
Ring in the thousand years of peace.

Ring in the valiant man and free,
The larger heart, the kindlier hand;
Ring out the darkness of the land,
Ring in the Christ that is to be.

The English poet Alfred, Lord Tennyson (1809–1892), was the Poet Laureate during the reign of Queen Victoria. Although some critics dismissed his poetry as too sentimental, Tennyson was extraordinarily popular. He is one of the most-quoted poets ever, with many of his phrases having passed into popular usage, such as "better to have loved and lost / Than never to have loved at all."

FOR THE WISE AND YOUNG AT HEART

"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream." - C.S. Lewis

"Remember ye not the former things, neither consider the things of old. Behold I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth, shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert." - Isaiah 43: 18-19 KJV

"Freedom is never voluntarily given by the oppressor; it must be demanded by the oppressed." - Martin Luther King, Jr.

"A New Year's resolution is something that goes in one year and out the other." - Author Unknown

"For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the Lord, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end."

- Jeremiah 29:11

"As the old year retires and a new one is born, we commit into the hands of our Creator the happenings of the past year and ask for direction and guidance in the new one. May He grant us His grace, His tranquility and His wisdom!"

- Peggy Toney Horton

OPEN WIDE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



I am the LORD thy God, which brought thee out of the land of Egypt: open thy mouth wide, and I will fill it. — PSALM 81:10 KJV

DECEMBER 8, 2024 - OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM . . .



Avalon Grace Church commemorated Our Lord's birth with our annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 8th. Several people participated by reading portions of Scripture from Matthew and Luke, chronicling our Lord's birth followed by special music and song from Olivia, Samuel, and Sabrina McClellan, and Jaclyn and Bruce Sims and Yvonne McClellan. It was a great time of fellowship and joy! A light luncheon provided by the church followed in Fellowship Hall with refreshments and a fun time! Thank you Janet McClellan and Pastor Phil for all your hard work in planning and coordinating this special day for us!

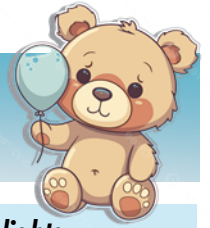




DECEMBER 8, 2024 - OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM . . .



MORE NEW YEAR REFLECTIONS . . .



“Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning.” – James 1:17 KJV

When we think about that which is *new*, we seem to always begin from that which is *old*. January is always thought of as a time of new beginnings and new opportunities. The newness of new can be exciting; it offers promise and hope in our lives. If we think of January as “ringing in the new,” then it stands to reason that December rang out the old. Accordingly, we have an age-old image of Father Time, grey-bearded, hunched-over, wearied and sorrowful, a visual that is quickly recognized as the end of a year, that which is now no longer new.

In contrast to Father Time is the “new-year” image, the sweetness of a new-born baby: a new life and a new beginning. Is there anything in this world more representative of the newness of new than a baby? Babies are beautiful, innocent, joyful, full of wonder, and full of God’s love and grace. Babies are all about new beginnings, promise, and hope. And we are reminded every day in every way of new beginnings, promises and hope for all since there are new-born babies not just in January but born throughout the year.

In the following poem, a parent asks questions about the miracle and wonder of their new-born, the newness of new. As you read this delightful poem, I invite you to consider that the newness of new is in new-born babies as it is in ourselves as well, to ask questions about the miracle and wonder of life, to discover each day in January and throughout our years our new beginnings, promises, and hope that we have in Christ.

“Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.” – 2 Corinthians 5:17 KJV

The Baby

By George MacDonald

Where did you come from, baby dear?
Out of the everywhere into the here.

Where did you get your eyes so blue?
Out of the sky as I came through.

What makes the light in them sparkle and spin?
Some of the starry twinkles left in.

Where did you get that little tear?
I found it waiting when I got here.

What makes your forehead so smooth and high?
A soft hand stroked it as I went by.

What makes your cheek like a warm white rose?
Something better than anyone knows.

Whence that three-cornered smile of bliss?
Three angels gave me at once a kiss.

Where did you get that pearly ear?
God spoke and it came out to hear.

Where did you get those arms and hands?
Love made itself into hooks and bands.

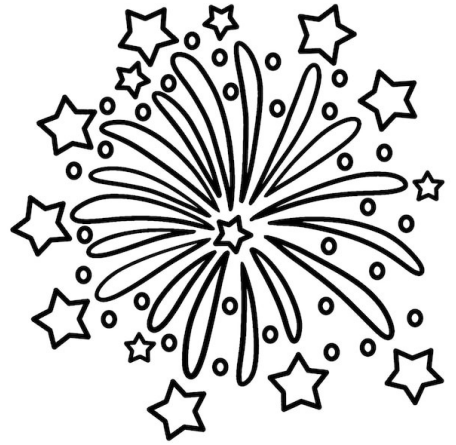
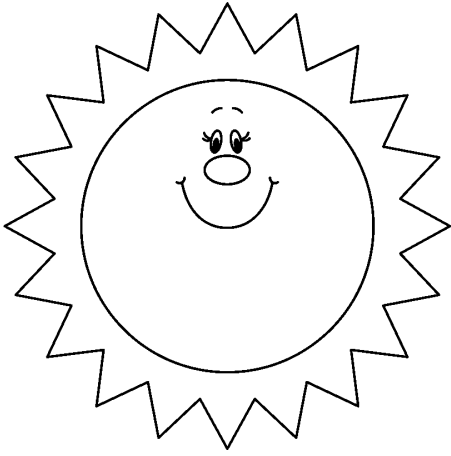
Feet, whence did you come you darling things?
From the same box as the cherubs’ wings.

How did they all just come to be you?
God thought about me, and so I grew.



Coloring for Jesus

2025



**Therefore, if anyone
is in Christ;
the new
creation
has come:
The old has
gone...**

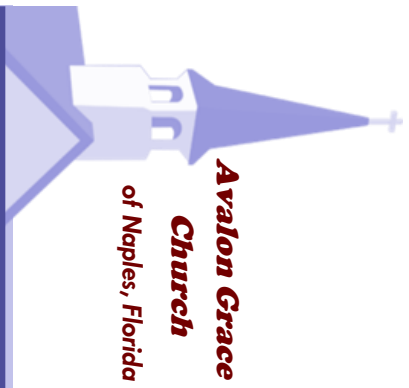


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**the new
is here!**

2 Corinthians 5:17

Happy New Year !!



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida



January 2025

SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



**BIRTHDAYS FOR
JANUARY**

11TH RICHARD BEAN

5 9:45 Sunday Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

6 7 8 9 10 11

1 2 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

1 3 1 4 1 5 1 6 1 7 1 8

1 9 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
The LORD'S Supper Observed
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

2 0 2 1 2 2 2 3 2 4 2 5

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day

2 6 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday Worship
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

2 7 2 8 2 9 30 31

**COMING IN FEBRUARY
2025**

**2nd 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast**