

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

January 2024

THINGS OLD AND THINGS NEW

Doesn't it seem like yesterday that we were welcoming the new year of 2023? And here we are, in a blink, the year 2024 of our Lord is upon us. Traditionally, the start of a New Year is an opportunity for a fresh start, the promise of a clean slate; personal introspection and inventory for a do-over or I can do better this New Year of 2024!

Most of us can say that our good intentions and resolutions made on New Year's Eve fail miserably year after year! We promise ourselves that we will stick to a new diet and lose weight, spend less money on things we really don't need, exercise every day, eat healthier, develop more patience, pray more, or be more disciplined in reading and studying God's Word.

We all see a new year as packing away the old, and time for a new beginning. The truth is that the new calendar year does not afford any new wisdom or power to change anything. Only Jesus can do that!

The true opportunity for a "fresh start, clean slate, and a do-over" is found only in the Lord Jesus Christ. He provides the power to forgive your sins (your past), through his death, the power to walk in newness of resurrection life (your future), and the wisdom to change your mind through studying the word of God rightly divided (present).

The renewing impulse that New Year's Day gives to the world is what Jesus Christ provides to all who will believe every month, every day, every hour by his grace.

(Continued on Page 2)



AVALON GRACE CHURCH

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.

Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims

Kathleen Smith, Editor

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

His grace will be needed each day in this new year of 2024 as you are reminded how changing times and the



world's culture do not change anything. Only the Lord Jesus Christ can change you, and that change begins in your soul by faith. From this point on, we walk in it. We redeem the time by renewing our minds by reading and studying God's Word.

You do not need to wait for a countdown from mid-night until tomorrow nor a new year to avail yourself of God's love for you and His gracious provision by His death, burial, and resurrection. His free gift of eternal life is yours simply by trusting in what He did for you a sinner in need of a Savior. That is the power and strength of the gospel and grace of God. Greater than just a new year is the new life you have in Christ as a new creature. The calendar is far less significant now that all things become new. From now on, He is our great joy and hope and future.

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

"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 1:9

Janet and the entire McClellan family wish you all a blessed New Year full of joy, good health and peace!

Pastor Phil

(Portions of this article gently lifted with permission from Grace Ambassadors.com).

Another Year Is Dawning

Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be,
In working, or in waiting,
Another year with Thee.
Another year of mercies,
Of faithfulness and grace;
Another year of gladness
In the shining of Thy face.
Another year of progress,
Another year of praise,
Another year of proving
Thy presence all the days.
Another year of service,
Of witness of Thy love,
Another year of training
For holier work above.
Another year is dawning,
Dear Master, let it be
On earth, or else in heaven
Another year for Thee.

--Francis Ridley Havergal (1874)

His Unfailing Presence

Another year I enter
Its history unknown;
Oh, how my feet would tremble
To tread its paths alone!
But I have heard a whisper,
I know I shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."
What will the New Year bring me?
I may not, must not know;
Will it be love and rapture,
Or loneliness and woe?
Hush! Hush! I hear His whisper;
I surely shall be blest;
"My presence shall go with thee,
And I will give thee rest."

--Unknown Author

AN ATHEIST'S VIEW ON LIFE

(Read this Top to Bottom)

I will live my life according to the truth and my beliefs
God does not exist and the Bible is just fairy tales
It is just foolish to think
That there is a loving God with a plan to redeem me.
That an all-powerful God brings redemption and healing to the pain and suffering in the world
By trusting in Jesus Christ, His death, burial, and resurrection
is a comforting thought; however
It
Is only wishful thinking
People can do as they please without eternal consequences
The idea that
I am deserving of Hell
Because of sin
Is a lie meant to make me a slave to others
I believe
“The more you have, the happier you will be”
Our existence has no true meaning or purpose.
In a world with no God
There is freedom and all things are possible to be who I want to be.
But with God,
Everything is fine
It is ridiculous to think
I am lost and in need of a Savior.

A CHRISTIAN'S VIEW ON LIFE

(Read this Bottom to Top)



An optimist stays up
Until midnight to
see the
New Year in.

A pessimist stays up
To make sure the
Old Year leaves.

- William E. Vaughan

COOKIE CUTTER CHRISTIANS? A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



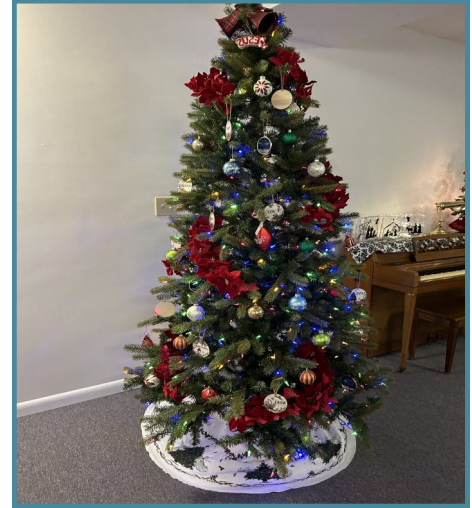
Wherefore receive ye one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God.
- ROMANS 15:7 KJV

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DECEMBER 10, 2023 - OUR ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PROGRAM . . .



Avalon Grace Church commemorated Our Lord's birth with our annual Christmas Program on Sunday, December 10th. Several people participated by reading portions of Scripture from Matthew and Luke, followed by singing Christmas hymns ending with "Joy to the World." A light luncheon provided by the church followed in Fellowship Hall with refreshments, fellowship, and fun! Thank you to Janet McClellan and Pastor Phil for all your hard work in planning and coordinating this special day for us!





May the coming year be one of increased riches of God's marvelous grace for all of us . . .

Hearing His voice more clearly,
Knowing His heart more deeply,
Resting in His love more fully,
Trusting His care more completely,
Walking His pathway more peacefully,
Knowing His presence more intimately,
Blessed by His goodness abundantly . . .

As we spend time reading the Scriptures and we

"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the Word of truth."

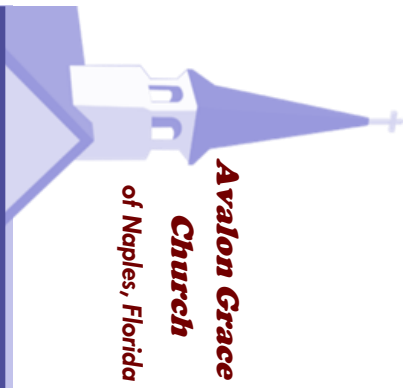
- 2 Timothy 2:15

Coloring for Jesus



“But Jesus said, Suffer little children, and forbid them not, to come unto me: for of such is the kingdom of heaven.” - Matthew 19:14

Happy New Year !!




Avalon Grace
Church
of Naples, Florida

January 2024



**HAPPY
NEW YEAR**

	SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
	1	2	3	4	5	6	
							
7	9:45 Sunday Breakfast						
	10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
	10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						
1 4	10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
	10:45 AM Children's Sunday School	Martin Luther King, Jr. Day					
2 1	10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
	The LORD'S Supper Observed						
	10:45 AM Children's						
2 8	10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
	10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**

**NO BIRTHDAYS FOR
JANUARY**

**COMING IN FEBRUARY
2024**

**4th 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast**