



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

July 2026

AMERICA: World's Greatest Experiment

- Pastor J.C. O'Hair (1876-1954)

“When in the course of human events...” Thus began the American Declaration of Independence. [Adopted] by the delegates to the [Second] Continental Congress in Philadelphia, July 4, 1776, it is still one of the most important documents in world history.

It started a new nation, the first independent republic since that of ancient Greece. It proclaimed that “all men are created equal” and have the right to “life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.” It opposed tyranny of government over people, stoutly holding that all civil authority should “derive from the people.”

After five years of debate the delegates met in Philadelphia in 1787 to form a constitution. The idea of such a document was without precedent at that time. It was finished and signed on September 17, 1787, and ratified by the states in 1789. The first

Amendments were known as the “Bill of Rights.” John Adams called the Constitution “The greatest single effort of national deliberation that the world has ever seen.”

The Great American Experiment has stood the test of time. But will it continue to stand, against the destructive pressures that eat away at nations today? Will “government of the people, for the people” soon perish from the earth?

The answer depends upon the American People “under God” as Lincoln said. The American colonies were largely settled by God-fearing people, who came from Europe in quest of a place where they could worship God and serve Him in freedom.

(Continued of 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

AMERICA: (Continued from Page 1)

God poured out His blessing upon them because they honored Him. "Them that honor Me I will honor, and they that despise Me shall be lightly esteemed."
(1 Samuel 2:30)

Liberty itself comes from God. "Blessed is the nation whose God is the Lord" (Psalm 33:12). As Abraham Lincoln resolved, in his immortal Gettysburg address, "that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom." We have wandered far from the God of our fathers. Perhaps the "Great Emancipator" did not realize it, but he put his finger upon the only way back to God—by new birth!

"Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God: (John 3:3). This is the spiritual rebirth that every one of us needs of God. But God wants to give us His gift of eternal life, for "the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

But this great gift is only available through God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, Who paid for our sins with His own blood on the cross of Calvary. "But as many as received Him (Christ), to them gave He power to become the sons of God" (John 1:12). "If the Son therefore shall make you free, ye shall be free indeed" (John 8:36). "Believer on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved" (Acts 16:31). He wants to be your Savior—today!

Enjoy your 4th of July holiday!

Pastor Phil



QUOTES FOR THE WISE & YOUNG AT HEART

"Independence Day: freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed—else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die."

— Dwight D. Eisenhower

"This nation will remain the land of the free only so long as it is the home of the brave." — Elmer Davis

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

"Freedom is never more than one generation away from extinction." — Ronald Reagan

"I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men; For kings, and for all that are in authority; that we may lead a quiet and peaceable life in all godliness and honesty." - 1 Timothy 2: 1-2

CHURCH TEA PARTY

A Joyful'toon by Mike Waters



For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places.

— EPHESIANS 6:12 KJV

Woman to Woman

BEYOND LABELS: Living our identity in Christ as Women - By Diana Kresnye

For generations, society has dictated to women who we should be, changing the rules every few years just to keep things interesting. In the 1980's an Enjoli perfume commercial boldly declared, "I can bring home the bacon, fry it up in a pan" (apparently, proving our worth requires both a paycheck and a perfectly crispy breakfast)!

More than four decades later, the expectations haven't eased; we're still expected to do it all. But Scripture offers a different answer, one that frees us from the pressure to perform. Our identity isn't found in gender, achievements, or shifting cultural expectations, but in Christ alone.

Our Identity Is Secure in Christ: Colossians 3:3 reminds us, "*For ye are dead, and your life is hid with Christ in God.*" Society's expectations shift, but God's truth doesn't.

Instead of striving to fit into cultural molds, we're called to embrace our identity as members of the Body of Christ, fully accepted and secure in Him, not because of what we accomplish, but because of what He achieved.

Christ, Not Culture, Defines Us: In today's world, the definition of womanhood is constantly shifting, almost by the minute. But as believers, we're called to embrace God's unchanging truth, where our worth isn't rooted in roles or achievements, but in our identity as those redeemed by Christ.

Rejecting the "Battle of the Sexes Mentality: Secular thinking frequently fosters tension between men and women, distorting God's original purpose for both. Yet Galatians 3:28 declares that in Christ, there is "*neither male nor female,*" because our standing before God isn't based on gender but redemption.

This affirms that our worth and purpose aren't determined by societal hierarchy but by our identity in Him.

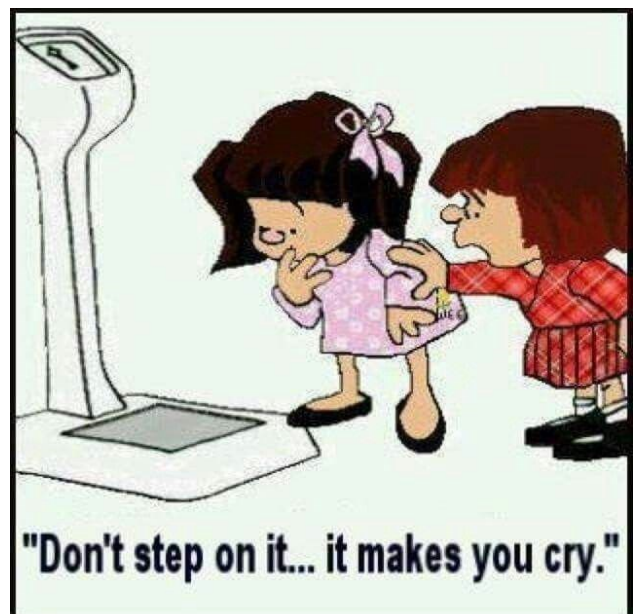
Freedom from External Labels: Feminism often encourages women to define ourselves by career, power, or self-sufficiency, yet this focus leads to pressure, comparison, and exhaustion!

Rather than chasing validation through external achievements, we can rest in the assurance that our true purpose is found in Him, regardless of the roles, labels, or positions we fulfill.

The Freedom of Grace: The world urges us to prove our worth, whether through success, beauty, or influence. Yet this endless pursuit only breeds insecurity.

2 Corinthians 5:17 declares that when we are in Christ, we are "*a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*"

As believers, we're fully accepted in Christ. There's no need to measure ourselves against others. Instead of chasing approval, we can live in the freedom of grace - fully accepted, fully secure, and fully at rest in Him!



Time to Grow Up

By Pastor Kevin Sadler, 2009



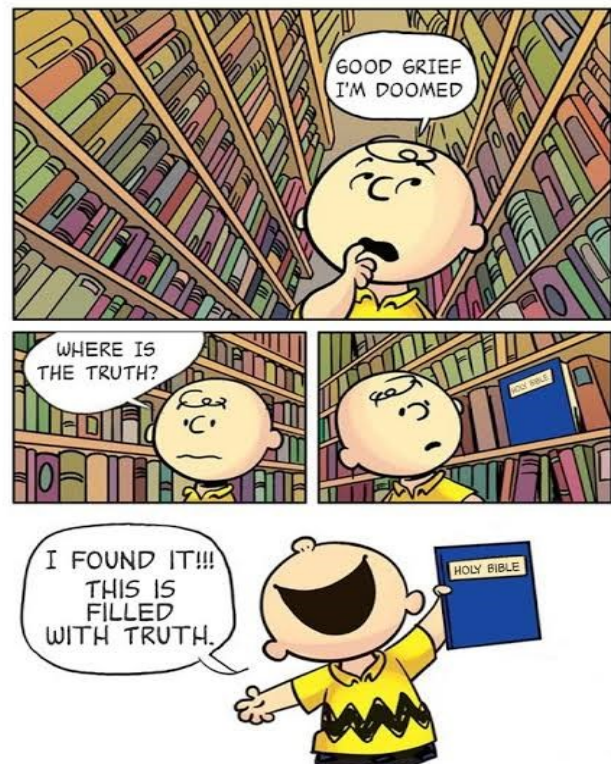
“And I, brethren, could not speak unto you as unto spiritual, but as unto carnal, even as unto babes in Christ. I have fed you with milk, and not with meat: for hitherto ye were not able to bear it, neither yet now are ye able.” - 1 Corinthians 3: 1-2

When we trust Christ as our personal Savior, we undergo “regeneration” (Titus 3: 5) or new birth. At that point, we are babes in Christ. There is joy when one is saved and born into the family of God, but there is sorrow, and rightfully so, when one remains a babe and doesn’t grow spiritually. The Corinthians were failing to grow in Christ and this grieved the heart of Paul. He longed for that joy of watching babes in Christ, whom he had led to the Lord “henceforth be no more children...and...grow up into Him in all things, which is the Head, even Christ.” - Ephesians 4: 14-15

Natural babies and “babes in Christ” have similar characteristics. Babies are dependent and unable to feed themselves. They often get into trouble and make a mess. They need to be watched closely and demand a lot of time and attention. They have no control and no concern for others. They fuss, cry, and want their way. These are natural things that are typical and expected of babies; but when believers like the Corinthians, who were no longer new to the faith, exhibited characteristics like this, something was wrong, and it was time for them to grow up. Paul pointed out to the Corinthians, “I have fed you with milk, and not with meat.” The Word of God is our spiritual food. We receive spiritual nourishment through taking in God’s Word by reading, studying, and hearing it taught. Just as much as we need physical nourishment to live and grow, we need spiritual nourishment through the regular intake of God’s Word to live and grow. Like newborns, babes in

Christ begin with milk. The milk of the Word “be the first principles of the oracles of God” (Hebrews 5:12), or the elementary things of God’s Word. As newborns grow, however, they need solid food. So it should be with babes in Christ that, as they grow, they should begin taking in the meat of the Word and be able to receive “the deep things of God.” - 1 Corinthians 2:10

God calls each believer to grow and mature in Christ by His Word (2 Timothy 3: 16-17). And when it comes to our spiritual growth, we should never think that we have arrived. “When Pablo Casals reached 95, a young reporter threw him a question: ‘Mr. Casals, you are 95 and the greatest cellist that ever lived. Why do you still practice six hours a day?’ And Mr. Casals answered, ‘Because I think I’m making progress.’ “ May we never stop making progress in God’s Word rightly divided!



Charlie Brown Theology at www.reasonsforhopeJESUS.com

American History Test



Test your knowledge of American history in this 10-question patriotic quiz. See if you can get all of them right before checking the answers on Page 7.

1. When did the Continental Congress formally adopt the Declaration of Independence?

- a) July 2, 1776
- b) July 4, 1776
- c) August 2, 1776
- d) September 17, 1787

1____

2. Which country gifted the Statue of Liberty to the United States?

- a) Great Britain
- b) Spain
- c) Italy
- d) France

2____

3. What do the 13 stripes on the American flag represent?

- a) The original 13 colonies
- b) The first 13 presidents
- c) The 13 signers of the Constitution
- d) The 13 branches of the military

3____

4. Who wrote the lyrics to "The Star-Spangled Banner"?

- a) Betsy Ross
- b) Francis Scott Key
- c) John Philip Sousa
- d) Thomas Jefferson

4____

5. Which city was the first to celebrate Independence Day on July 4th?

- a) Norfolk, VA
- b) Washington, DC
- c) New York, NY
- d) Philadelphia, PA

5____

6. How many people signed the Declaration of Independence?

- a) 32
- b) 25
- c) 18
- d) 56

6____

7. Fourth of July celebrations increased heavily in the U.S. after what war?

- a) War of 1812
- b) American Civil War
- c) World War I
- d) World War II

7____

8. What is the form of government of the United States?

- a) Republic
- b) Constitution-based federal republic
- c) Representative democracy
- d) Federal-based democracy

8____

9. How many times is the Liberty Bell symbolically tapped each Independence Day to honor the original colonies?

- a) 13 times
- b) 50 times
- c) 76 times
- d) 1 time

9____

10. Which document officially declared the 13 American colonies separate from Great Britain?

- a) The U.S. Constitution
- b) The Bill of Rights
- c) The Declaration of Independence
- d) The Articles of Confederation

10____

Two Important Gardens by Pastor Kevin Sadler

The Bible teaches us about two important gardens with drastically different outcomes - the Garden of Eden (Gen. 2:8) and the Garden of Gethsemane (John 18:1):



In the Garden of Eden was the first Adam (1 Cor. 15:45). In the Garden of Gethsemane was the last Adam, Jesus Christ.

In the Garden of Eden, Satan possessed the serpent. In the Garden of Gethsemane, Satan possessed a man, Judas (Luke 22:3).

In the Garden of Eden, Adam took the fruit from Eve's hand (Gen. 3:6). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ took the cup from His Father's hand (John 18:11).

In the Garden of Eden, Adam proudly chose his will over God's (Gen. 2:16-17; 3:6). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ humbly chose the Father's will (Matt. 26:39,42).

In the Garden of Eden, Adam disobeyed God (Rom. 5:12). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ obeyed God (Phil. 2:8).

In the Garden of Eden, God sought Adam (Gen. 3:8-9). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ sought God (Matt. 26:36).

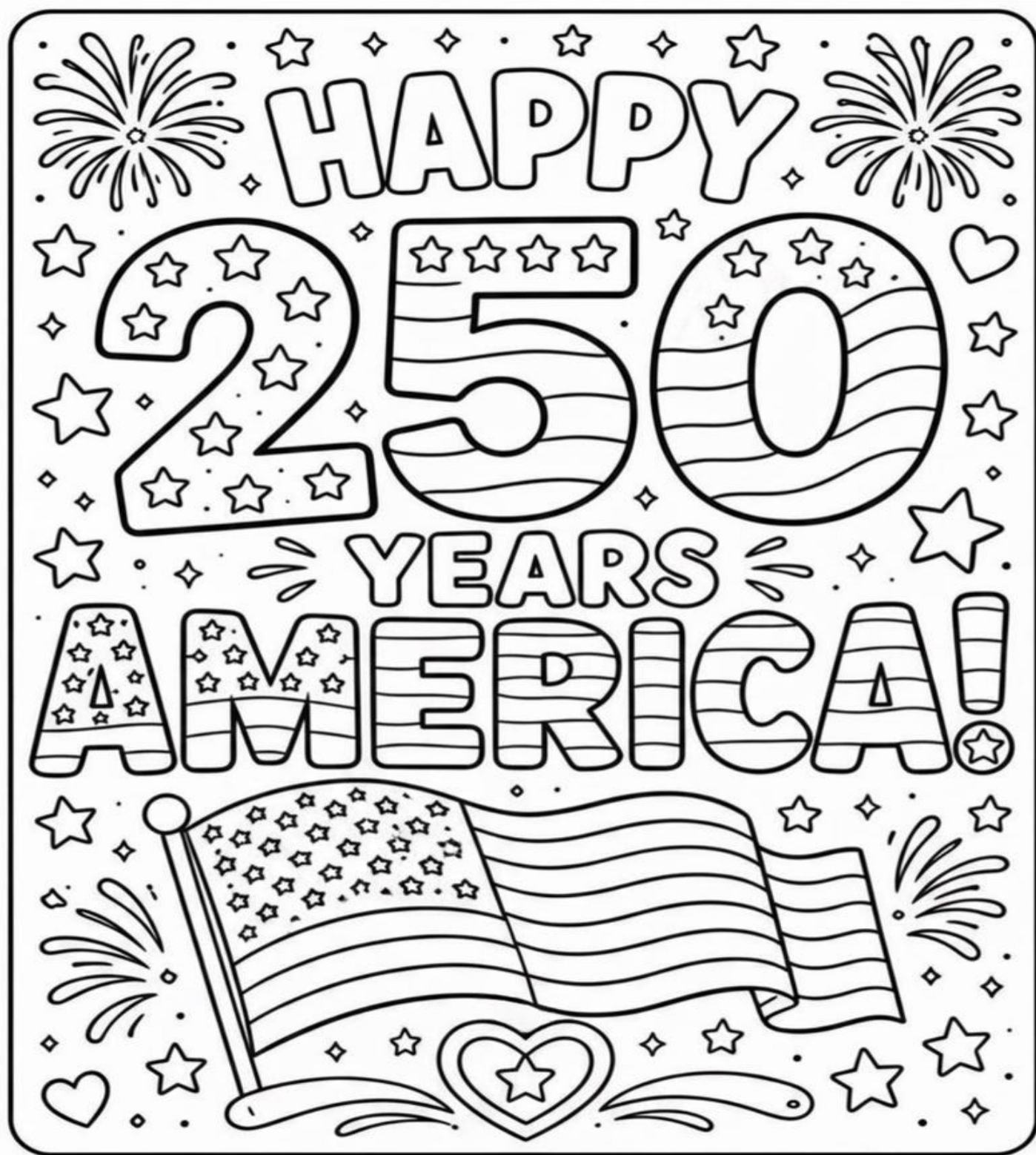
In the Garden of Eden, Adam's decision affected all who are related to him (Rom. 5:12-14). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ's decision affects all who are related to Him by faith (Rom. 5:15-19).

In the Garden of Eden, Adam partook of a tree that led to death (Gen. 2:16-17). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ was arrested and willingly went to a tree that led to life (1 Pet. 2:24).

In the Garden of Eden, Adam's rebellion brought sin, death, corruption, and suffering into the world (Rom. 5:12). In the Garden of Gethsemane, Christ's submission to the cross will bring deliverance and liberty from the curse to the world (Rom. 8:2, 19, 21).

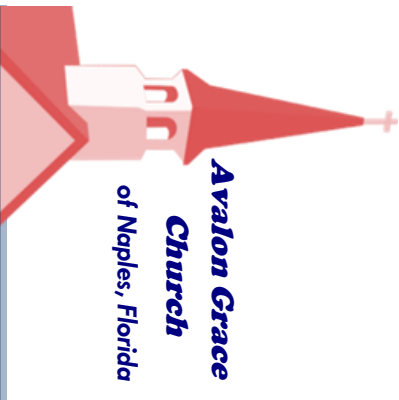


After our Lord died on the cross, His body was placed in "a garden; and in the garden a new sepulcher" (John 19:41). Through Christ's death and resurrection (in a garden), He has triumphed over sin and death, and over all that Adam's fall in the Garden of Eden brought to this world. Our Savior has "abolished death, and hath brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (2 Tim. 1:10).



Now the Lord is that Spirit: and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty. 2 Corinthians 3:17

Quiz Answers: 1. B; 2. D; 3. A; 4. B; 5. D; 6. D; 7. A; 8. B; 9. A, 10. C



July 2026



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

4 Independence Day



5

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

6

7

8

9

10

11

12

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

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24

25

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

26

27

28

29

30

31

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



- 9th Judy Asher
- 7th Kristin Scholz
- 14th Richard Smith
- 19th Jaclyn Sims
- 27th Janice Smith
- 28th Jocelyn Barrett

COMING IN AUGUST
2nd 9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast