

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

July 2023

Freedom In Christ

The tradition of singing “My Country, Tis of Thee” in churches on July 4th began in 1831 at Park Street Church in Boston. For one hundred years it was generally accepted as the national anthem. Did you know that it was not until 1931 that “The Star Spangled Banner” became the official national anthem of America?

“My Country, Tis of Thee” was written by a 21 year old Samuel Francis Smith. He had just decided to become a minister after studying at Harvard.

While studying at Andover Theological Seminary he wrote the now popular words of this beloved hymn. Mr. Smith considered the greatest thing he could do for his country was to preach the gospel, as he would spend his entire life in ministry and die on a train while traveling to a preaching engagement.

As the apostle Paul said, “For, brethren, ye have been called unto liberty; only use not liberty for an occasion to the flesh, but by love serve one another. — Galatians 5:13

To some extent, there is some powerful similes in our nation’s Independence Day to our freedom in Christ.

On July 4, 1776, thirteen colonies in North America decided to sever allegiance to the King of England and created the Declaration of Independence and signed it into being.

The Revolutionary War has already begun and this was a bold statement of unity and determination to gain freedom from Great Britain’s rule:

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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

“

Freedom In Christ (Continued from Page 1)

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.”

Think about it; for all living Americans, July 4th is a gift. Our freedom as Americans is a gift. We didn't earn it or work for it - we received it from the people who lived, fought, and died to ensure and preserve our freedom.

Our freedom in Christ is from Jesus. We didn't earn it or work for it; He died for it: **“For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”** (I Cor. 15: 3-4).

The greatest thing we can do to serve God and our country is, of course, to pray for its leaders and to witness to our neighbors and friends about Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ and the true freedom that only He can provide. Let us share our freedom in Christ with everyone!

Enjoy your 4th of July holiday!

Pastor Phil



Reflect & Pray



I need Thee every hour, most gracious Lord;
No tender voice like Thine can peace afford.
I need Thee, O I need Thee; every hour I need Thee!
O bless me now, my Savior, I come to Thee.

—Hawks/Lowry

***Our greatest strength comes from
dependence on our strong God.***

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

By James Francis Smith—1808-1895

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

**My native country, thee,
Land of the noble free,
Thy name I love;
I love thy rocks and rills,
Thy woods and templed hills;
My heart with rapture thrills,
Like that above.**

**Let music swell the breeze,
And ring from all the trees
Sweet freedom's song;
Let mortal tongues awake;
Let all that breathe partake;
Let rocks their silence break,
The sound prolong.**

**Our fathers' 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.**



QUOTES FOR THE WISE & YOUNG AT HEART:

“There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus hath made me free from the law of sin and death.” (Romans 8:1-2)

“My dream is of a place and a time where America will once again be seen as the last best hope of earth.” - Abraham Lincoln

“Who in their infinite wisdom decreed that Little League uniforms be white? Certainly not a mother.” - Erma Bombeck

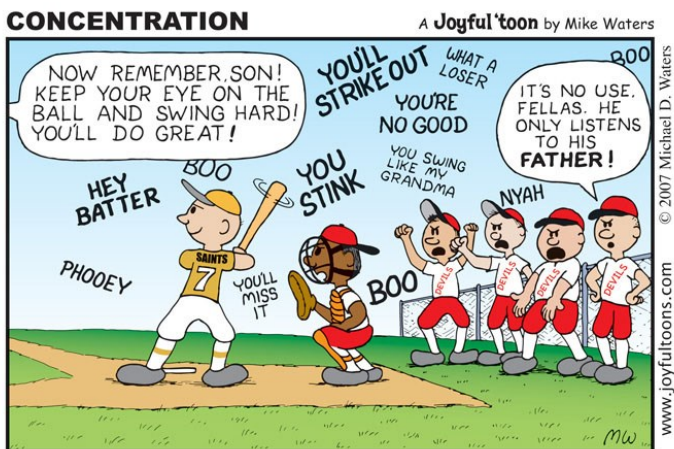
“Independence Day: freedom has its life in the hearts, the actions, the spirit of men and so it must be daily earned and refreshed – else like a flower cut from its life-giving roots, it will wither and die.” – Dwight D. Eisenhower

“Observe good faith and justice toward all nations. Cultivate peace and harmony with all.” - George Washington

Here’s a quick self-test quiz on

chapters 1 and 2 of the book of Acts which we have studied in previous months. Before you attempt to answer the questions, please read Chapters 1 and 2 in your Bible then answer the questions below:

- To whom was the Book of Acts written? (1:1)
 - Barnabas
 - Churches in Asia Minor
 - Theophilus
 - Timothy
 - Titus
- Before he ascended, what two things did Jesus command the disciples to do? (1:8)
 - Repent and be baptized
 - Believe and obey
 - Receive Holy Ghost and be witnesses
 - Fear God and keep His commandments
 - None of the above
- What word was used to describe the certainty of the resurrection of Jesus? (1:3)
 - Accurate
 - Definite
 - Infallible
 - Positive
 - Sure
- In what city did the initial outpouring of the Holy Ghost occur? (2:5)
 - Caesarea
 - Jerusalem
 - Joppa
 - Samaria
 - None of the above
- What was NOT mentioned as one of the things the new disciples continued to do? (2:42)
 - To the apostles’ doctrine
 - Fellowship
 - Breaking of bread
 - Prayer
 - Fasting
- The resurrection was a fulfillment of whose prophecy (2:25-27)
 - David
 - Joel
 - Isaiah
 - Moses
 - None of the above



Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee: because he trusteth in thee. - ISAIAH 26:3 KJV

There are many unions all over the world, but in only one place is true unity to be found: in the Lord Jesus Christ. The children of fallen Adam have always been divided. Adam's first two children could not get along together. One killed the other. And now that the race has multiplied there are about three billion separate, individual wills in the world. Some of Adam's children try to get along together amicably and enjoy some measure of success, but this always takes effort. It does not come naturally. Even the dearest lovers must be prepared to yield to each other's wishes frequently to get along well together. There is no true unity in this world.

But where Adam's children have been divided by sin, they may be saved and truly united in Christ. As Christ became one with us when He died our death (the wages of sin) at Calvary, so we may become one with Him as in faith we acknowledge that that death was not His but ours. This is what the Apostle referred to when he asked:

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into His death?" (Rom. 6:3).

This verse does not refer to water baptism, for no one can be baptized into Christ — become one with Him — by a physical ceremony. The only way to become one with Him is to accept by faith the fact that He died our death on the cross. The meeting place must always be Calvary. And as we acknowledge His death as ours and become one with Him, we automatically become one with each other.

"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body" (I Cor. 12:13).

Unity in Christ is not something for which Christians are to strive. It is a fact of grace to be recognized and enjoyed by faith. True believers in and out of all denominations have been baptized into one body, whether or not they recognize this.

Now it is for us to appropriate and enjoy this unity in Christ, **"endeavoring to keep the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace"** (Eph. 4:3) i.e., seeking to experience the unity which the Spirit has made.

Only those who have been baptized into Christ by faith can appreciate the blessed oneness which believers may enjoy.



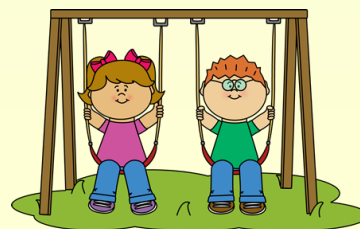
The Swing

By Robert Louis Stevenson

How do you like to go up in a swing?
Up in the air so blue?
Oh, I do think it the pleasantest thing
Ever a child can do!

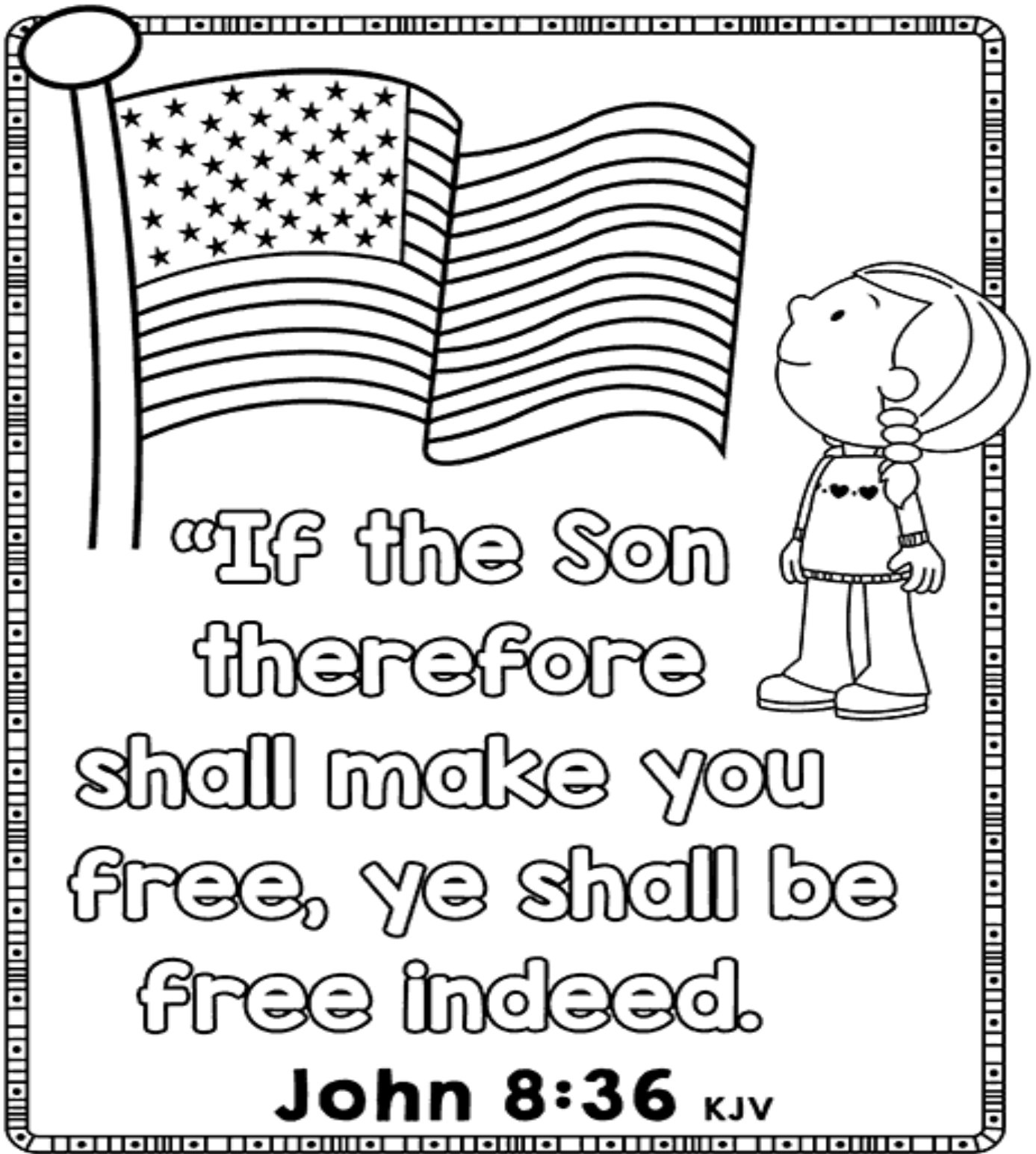
Up in the air and over the wall,
Till I can see so wide,
Rivers and trees and cattle and all
Over the countryside—

Till I look down on the garden green,
Down on the roof so brown—
Up in the air I go flying again,
Up in the air and down!

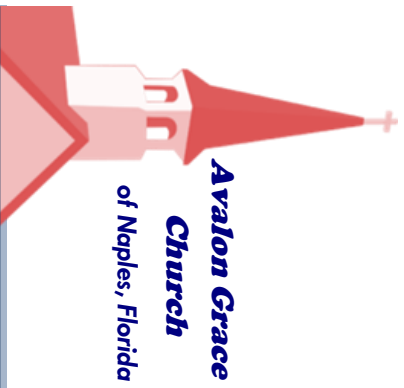


Answers to Quiz from Page 3:

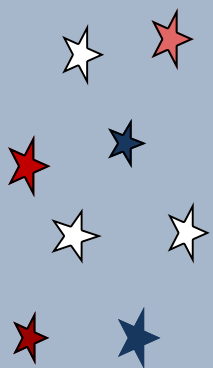
1)C 2)C 3)C 4) B 5) E 6) A



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



July 2023



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

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

6th 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast

2

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

3

4

FOURTH OF JULY

5

6

7

8

9 10:30 AM Sunday Worship

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

10

11

12

13

14

15

7

16

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

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

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

24

25

26

27

28

29

30

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

31