

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

September - October 2020

Spiritual Labor & Physical Labor

Dear Friends and Members,

As the summer crawls to an end, we look forward to Labor Day – always observed on the first Monday in September. It's a day set aside to commemorate America's work force and pay honor to the contributions workers have made to the strength, prosperity, and well-being of our country. Labor Day was created by trade and labor organizations in the late 19th century and became a federal holiday in 1894. Today, Labor Day is largely seen as the official end of the summer season, a day to relax at a leisurely pace or share a backyard cookout with family and friends.

Of course, most people look forward to a long, three-day weekend, yet not everyone enjoys work; in fact, some people dread the thought of it. Some people love to work,

enjoy what they do, and eagerly look forward to Monday mornings, while others who want to work find themselves unemployed through no fault of their own. Many people are faced with an unexpected lay-off and many are without work due to Corona Virus. Many people find it hard work just to establish a career in spite of a great college education, work experience, or an impressive professional resume.

For the believer in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, our work and how we perform it seeks to honor and glorify God who is the ultimate Worker, Creator, and Sustainer in two ways: Spiritual Labor and Physical Labor:

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Pastor Phillip McClellan, Jr.
Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims
(Newsletter Editor Kathleen Smith)

All Are Welcome!

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
(Sunday messages available on website)
Children's Sunday School 10:45 AM
Wednesday Evening Bible Study
Currently Suspended

**“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**

Spiritual Labor & Physical Labor (continued from Page 1)

SPIRITUAL LABOR

1. **Our spiritual labor** – it is important to be identified as a co-worker rather than of any one particular person. Our labor is but a small part of God's work in the world. We are privileged to be called to the work of God. Remember – He spoke in times past and it came into being as he created the world. Today, He could easily accomplish His plan on His own but instead He has allowed us to have a part and to receive a reward for our labor:

1 Corinthians 3:5-9

“⁵ Who then is Paul, and who *is* Appollos, but ministers by whom ye believed, even as the Lord gave to every man? ⁶ I have planted, Appollos watered; but God gave the increase. ⁷ So then neither is he that planteth any thing, neither he that watereth; but God that giveth the increase. ⁸ Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour. ⁹ For we are labourers together with God: *ye are* God's husbandry, ye are God's building.”

2 Corinthians 6:1

“We then, as workers together *with him*, beseech *you* also that ye receive not the grace of God in vain.”

1 Corinthians 15:58

“Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord.”

2. **Good works** – It is natural for us to be involved in the work of the Lord for that was His intention after giving us the gift of eternal life.

Ephesians 2:10

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.”

Colossians 1:10

“That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God.”

3. **Today** – for the most part, we do not despair of life being called into God's service. Yet some do and we too may also if the Lord tarries. Our willingness (yieldedness) is the key to prepare for what God would have us to do.

Philippians 2:30

“Because for the work of Christ he was nigh unto death, not regarding his life, to supply your lack of service toward me.”

PHYSICAL LABOR

1. **Why we work for our daily bread** – The Apostles during Christ's earthly ministry were taught to pray to God for Him to “give them their daily bread.” Luke 11:3. Christ told Paul to work so that he could eat, so as to lack nothing, to be chargeable to no man and to avoid the problems of idle hands.

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Spiritual Labor & Physical Labor (continued from Page 2)

1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

“¹¹And that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; ¹² That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and *that* ye may have lack of nothing.”

2 Thessalonians 3:8

“Neither did we eat any man’s bread for nought; but wrought with labour and travail night and day, that we might not be chargeable to any of you:”

2 Thessalonians 3:10-12

¹⁰“For even when we were with you, this we commanded you, that if any would not work, neither should he eat. ¹¹ For we hear that there are some which walk among you disorderly, working not at all, but are busy-bodies. ¹² No them that are such we command and exhort by our Lord Jesus Christ, that with quietness they work, and eat their own bread.”

2. **The work we do to sustain ourselves** points out to us that the time in which we live is NOT like that in which the early church in Jerusalem operated. They “sold all things and had them in common” were awaiting the return of the King. We look for the coming of our Head of the Church which is His Body.

So, like Paul, our example, we work for our daily bread to provide for ourselves and our families. It is not up to someone else to provide for those who are able to do so for themselves. But more importantly, we do all things “as unto the Lord” and not as “pleasing in man.” **Ephesians 6: 6-7:** “⁶ Not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but as the servants of Christ, doing the will of God from the heart; ⁷with good will doing service, as to the Lord, and not to men:”

3. **Labor that benefits the believer - now and in eternity:**

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

- Study / *spoudazo* (Greek) / diligent
- Workman / *anepaischuntos* (Greek) / unashamed laborer
- Rightly dividing / *orthofomeo* (Greek) / cut straight

Picture a hard working carpenter, honest and precise, putting in a days labor for a days wage. Studying the Bible needs to be like that so we can benefit from the wonderful gift of God’s Word. Correctly dividing the Bible does not bring shame. Rather it pleases God that His children desire the meat of the Word.

God sees the work He has given us to do as an extension of His provisions for His creation and His love for us by the redemptive work completed for us by His Beloved Son, Jesus Christ: “*In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God’s grace*” (**Ephesians 1:7**).

Being content or happy in our work does not necessarily depend on the type of work we do but rather on our attitude – “doing . . . as to the Lord, and not to men.” To make the most of our job, and be happy in our work is to recognize it is a gift from God. I like to think that just as the Lord loves a cheerful giver, He loves a cheerful worker!! As we relax and celebrate Labor Day this year, let us thank God for the useful work He has given us to do. Have a blessed Labor Day holiday in Him, Pastor Phil



The Eagle and The Storm

An eagle can sense that a storm is approaching long before it breaks. The eagle will fly to some high spot and wait for the winds to come. When the storm hits, it sets its wings so that the wind will pick the eagle up and lift it above the storm.

While the storm rages below, the eagle is soaring above it. The eagle does not escape the storm. It simply uses the storm to lift it higher. It rises on the winds that bring the storm. When the storms of life come upon us, we rise above them by setting our minds on Christ and reaffirm that our strength and faith are in Him. The storms do not have to overcome us. God promises to give strength and power as we trust in Him and it is in Him that we find the strength and power to rise above our struggles in the midst of the storms we face.

Isaiah 40:28-31(KJV): *“Hast thou not known? hast thou not heard, that the everlasting God, the LORD, the Creator of the ends of the earth, fainteth not, neither is weary? there is no searching of his understanding. He giveth power to the faint; and to them that have no might he increaseth strength. Even the youths shall faint and be weary, and the young men shall utterly fall: But they that wait upon the LORD shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they shall walk, and not faint.”*

Our steadfast faith in Jesus Christ and His resurrection and victory over death enables us to ride the winds of the storm that bring sickness, tragedy, failure and disappointment into our lives. We can soar above the storm. “I can do all things through Christ who strengtheneth me.” Philippians 4:13 (KJV)

Remember, it is not the burdens of life that weigh us down, it is how we handle them. By God’s grace, love, and power, we soar on wings like eagles, to freedom, on the winds of the storm as we remember and trust in God.



In Memory of all the Families who lost loved ones on September 11, 2001 and the days following . . .

Labor Day

By Bobby Gilles



**God of shop and marketplace,
Of farm and studio,
Factory and shipping lane,
Of school and busy home.
Bless the produce of our hands.
Redeem our work for Kingdom-use.
By Your grace, our efforts stand,
all offered up to You.**

**There in Eden, You proclaimed
That we should work the earth –
Stewards over all we named,
Delighting in their worth.
Through our fall we brought decay,
Lost access to Jehovah’s rest.
Through the cross, we rest in faith
And all our labor’s blessed.**

**In Your image we are made -
Creative like You are,
Forming goods for use and trade
Just like You formed the stars.
Send us out in power and skill
To worship through each task assigned.
By Your Spirit we fulfill
Thy holy, grand design.**



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Praise God for wheat,
 so white and sweet
 Of which to make our bread.
 Praise God for yellow corn,
 with which His waiting world is fed!
 Praise God for fish and flesh and fowl
 He gave to men for food.
 Praise God for every creature
 which He made and called it good!
 Praise God for winter's store of ice
 Praise God for summer's heat.
 Praise God for fruit trees bearing seed,
 "To you it is for meat."
 Praise God for all the bounty
 by which the world is fed,
 Praise God, ye children all,
 to who he gives your daily bread!
 - by Donna Park



INNER LIGHT

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," made his light shine in our hearts to give us the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Christ. - 2 CORINTHIANS 4:6 NIV

"You can never cross the ocean until you have courage to lose sight of the shore."

~ Christopher Columbus

**Avalon Grace
 Church Voices**



In an effort to stay connected between the months and many miles between us at Avalon Grace Church, we thought we would introduce a new talking venue to our Newsletter that

could be utilized as an opportunity for friends and members to personally communicate with our church

family. So many of you drop occasional notes or make telephone calls about how you are doing, perhaps requesting prayer, or news concerning health issues, your travels, and/or your family that you may want to share with everyone. Do you have a special praise to share, wish to express personal thanks for answered prayer, or encouragement you may have received?

This column could be the perfect place for you to express your heart with others. Going forward, if you should write to or email Avalon Grace Church with news or updates that you wish to share with everyone, in addition to sharing your letters and correspondence on Sunday morning with the congregation we could also share your news and greetings - with your permission of course - in this "Avalon Grace Church Voices" spot in the newsletter. This way, everyone both near and far will hear from you and kind of catch up with you or know how to pray for you. Please let me know what you think of this idea! - Pastor Phil

HELLO!

New Members!

“For as the body is one, and hath many members, and all the members of that one body, being many, are one body: so also [is] Christ. For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether [we be] Jews or Gentiles, whether [we be] bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit. For the body is not one member, but many.” 1 Corinthians 12:12-14



Hi! My name is Jim Anderson and I am happy to be a member of Avalon Grace Church. I moved to Florida from Minnesota about 5 years ago. I currently live in Ave Maria, Naples, Florida – a community surrounded by those who are of the Catholic religion! I am glad I found Avalon Grace Church! The Catholics in my community are super nice and are more welcoming and open to the gospel of God's abundance grace than Protestant folks.

But God plants us where he wants us to honor Him and further the Body of Christ! We are all God's children and I feel that I have mission field, if you will, in Ave Maria, Florida!

I worked for the County in Minnesota for 35 years and had various jobs including the DMV, Surveying and Mapping and Public Works. I am not very good at the marriage thing and have been divorced twice and have one step-child. My life until a few years ago was one in the world; but praise God for His incredible gift of salvation through His Son!

I always believed in God and knew all the Bible stories but never really understood how it all worked. After having gone through divorce and difficult times in my life, I promised God I was going to figure it all out. I talked to my pastor at the time and he gave me all the information I had heard for years and years which only confused me further. It just didn't make sense!

I happened to catch a Les Feldick broadcast on TV and here was a guy who spoke in common guy language. I have to say, at the time, I think the Holy Spirit came on me. I couldn't get enough! I bought all 82 books over time. I feel I have a pretty good understanding of how everything works now.

It's so important to find a Bible - and Grace - based church that rightly divides the word of truth. I went to at least 10 churches in the area where they focus on when Jesus walked the earth and how the Lord ministered to Israel and how He came for His own. Yet, they don't understand the gospel given to us in this dispensation of God's incredible grace (1 Corinthians 15: 1-4) and what it is to be saved in today's world simply by believing God's Word. I am so happy to be a member of Avalon Grace Church. I feel like I've come home and found my true church family.



Richard and Kathleen Smith have been attending Avalon Grace Church for about a year since moving from New Jersey to Florida in August 2018. They discovered Avalon Grace Church online after googling, “Grace Believing Churches.” It took them almost a year to find Avalon, having visited several churches throughout Lee and Collier Counties. Richard works as a Marketing / Communications Specialist and Creative Director Consultant.

Both Richard and Kathleen sensed God's leading to Florida for a few years, but didn't know exactly why God would have them leave their home in New Jersey. Believing that God had a purpose for them so far away from home they moved to Florida in August of 2018.

They are trained facilitators in the Grief Share program - a ministry designed to help others who have lost loved ones through death, often by tragic circumstances; both having experienced the loss of children and loved ones in years past. Part of the “why” of their desire to help others is believing that people experiencing sorrow and pain may come to a saving knowledge of the gospel of God's grace and trust Jesus Christ as Savior. God is so close and near to the brokenhearted . “The Lord is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit.” Psalm 34:18

Richard and Kathleen live in Village Walk of Bonita Springs. They have one daughter, Ashley and her husband Mark and their granddaughter Margot, who live in Orefield, Pennsylvania with many nieces and nephews who live in Philadelphia, PA. They have a cat, little Abigail who is a 6 pound fluffy gray and white 16 year old Maine Coon playful as a kitten who sounds like an elephant when she runs up and down the stairs.

Finding Avalon Grace Church is an answer to prayer. We are so thankful to be members of this special fellowship! Thank you!



For the past several years we have had the pleasure of having the Stevens family join our local fellowship. Mike, Jessica, Emma, Toby, Rylan, Christian, and Avery are moving back to Ohio where they have family and work waiting.



Mike and Jessica ask for prayer that they would find a good grace believing church in their new area. We will miss them but pray this move will bring many blessings for them.

Be A Friend

by Edgar Guest



*Be a friend.
You don't need money;
Just a disposition sunny;
Just the wish to help another;
Get along some way or other;
Just a kindly hand extended
Out to one who's unbefriended;
Just the will to give or lend,
This will make you someone's friend.*

*Be a friend.
You don't need glory.
Friendship is a simple story.
Pass by trifling errors blindly,
Gaze on honest effort kindly,
Cheer the youth who's bravely trying,
Pity him who's sadly sighing;
Just a little labor spend
Be a friend.*

*The pay is bigger
(Though not written by a figure)
Than is earned by people clever
In what's merely self-endeavor.
You'll have friends instead of neighbors
For the profits of your labors;
You'll be richer in the end
Than a prince, if you're a friend.*



“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

“Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints;”
Ephesians 6:18

Reminder! Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed on Saturday night, October 31, 2020!





**Avalon Grace
Church
of Naples, Florida**



SEPTEMBER

- 8th Patty Hisler
- 12th Linda Hancin
- 15th John Lombard
- 20th Rylan Stevens
- 23rd Joshua McClellan

September 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5
6 9:45 Breakfast 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	7 LABOR DAY	8	9	10	11	12
13 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS <i>Grandparents Day</i>	14	15	16	17	18 <i>Rosh Hashanah</i>	19
20 10:30 Worship & the LORD'S SUPPER 10:45 Child. SS	21	22 <i>Autumn Begins</i>	23	24	25	26
27 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS <i>Yom Kippur</i>	28	29	30			



OCTOBER

- 5th Sharon Riedel
- 19th Marcine Cooney

October 2020

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4 9:45 Breakfast 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	5	6	7	8	9	10
11 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	12 <i>Columbus Day</i>	13	14	15	16	17
18 10:30 Worship & the LORD'S SUPPER 10:45 Child. SS	19	20	21	22	23	24
25 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	26	27	28	29	30	31 <i>Halloween</i>

Set your clock one hour back before you go to bed on Saturday, October 31st!

