

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

September - October 2021

Labor Ordained by God

Each September, Labor Day is set aside to celebrate the value and dignity of work. It is a holiday weekend, many enjoying time off with family at picnics, the beach or watching fireworks, yet many continue to work for the good of all Americans despite the holiday weekend (hospital staff, police, firemen, emergency workers, restaurant employees, gas station attendants, and so on).

The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers have made to America's strength, prosperity, and well-being. The first Labor Day holiday was celebrated on Tuesday, September 5, 1882, in New York City, in accordance with the plans of the Central Labor Union at that time in history.

By 1894, 23 more states had adopted the holiday, and on June 28, 1894, President Grover Cleveland signed a law making the first Monday in September of each year a national holiday. While the Labor Day holiday is rooted in America's history and

traditions; actual work and labor are rooted in the Word of God:

WORK IS ORDAINED BY GOD

It was His creative invention from the beginning.

The Bible declares that God worked (Genesis 1). By working we resemble God - after all, we are made in God's image. Like God, you have the ability to work, make plans, implement them, and be creative.

Additionally, God gave us the task of ruling over and taking care of His creation (Gen. Genesis 1:28, Genesis 2:15).

WORK IS FOR A LIFETIME

"In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till thou return unto the ground; for out of it wast thou taken: for dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." (Genesis 3:19). God intends that humans are to work as long as they live. The magical age of 65 shouldn't end meaningful, purposeful work.

(continued on Page 2)



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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**

Labor—Ordained by God (continued from Page 1)

WORK IS NOT A PUNISHMENT

God did not create work as drudgery, but as a gift of fulfillment to life. "There is nothing better for a man, than that he should eat and drink, and that he should make his soul enjoy good in his labour. This also I saw, that it was from the hand of God. For who can eat, or who else can hasten hereunto, more than I?" (Ecclesiastes 2:24-25)?

WORK HAS THREE PURPOSES

To provide money or resources to supply the necessities of life; to provide for a quality of life in the satisfaction of doing a job well; and to serve and glorify God.

WORK CALLS FOR OBEDIENCE

Even when the boss isn't looking, a good worker is consistent and diligent to the task and loyal to the organization: "Servants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh; not with eyeservice, as menpleasers; but in singleness of heart, fearing

God;" (Colossians 3:22). Our *real* boss is Jesus Christ. See our jobs as service to Him - not simply as our employer. Employers should treat employees with respect and fairness.

WORK SHOULD BE DONE WITH EXCELLENCE

We are to *render service, as to the Lord, and not to men* (Ephesians 6:6-7); not to be men-pleasers but God-pleasers. God's standard of excellence needs to be the human standard.

WORK IS HONORABLE.

All professions and all kinds of work, assuming they are legal and biblically ethical, are honorable before the Lord. There is no separation between sacred and secular work. All work brings glory to God and fulfillment to you, if it is done to God's glory (1 Corinthians 10:31).

WORK PROVIDES AN OPPORTUNITY FOR WITNESS

You manifest a powerful message, both verbal and nonverbal, of a super-

natural approach to work. The world today needs this powerful witness to the reality of Christ and the difference that He makes in His followers. (Matthew 5:16).

Having a job can be hard work; being a homemaker and mother is equally hard work at times. The Lord sees it all. Even for those who truly enjoy their jobs, it's a blessing to have a Labor Day breather. But until the day comes when our work is over, our task is to make our labor a testimony to God's glory and His grace in our everyday life.

Work hard, rest well, and glorify our precious LORD in all that you do! Be good to one another, pray for one another always stay humble... always stay kind... God Bless you all and have a wonderful Labor Day holiday!

In Christ, Pastor Phil

Remembering September 11th

In the 20 years since September 11, 2001, a whole new generation has been born. Many young Americans today cannot relate to the horror and sadness of 9/11; similar to baby boomers being born after the atrocities of Pearl Harbor.

But we remember the innocent victims who died without cause that day – so many of them being dearly loved mothers, fathers, precious sons & daughters, brothers and sisters, husbands and wives, family members, friends, public servants and emergency personnel. . . .

Pray for the families that lost loved ones that day and for the brave men and women who gave their lives trying to save others.

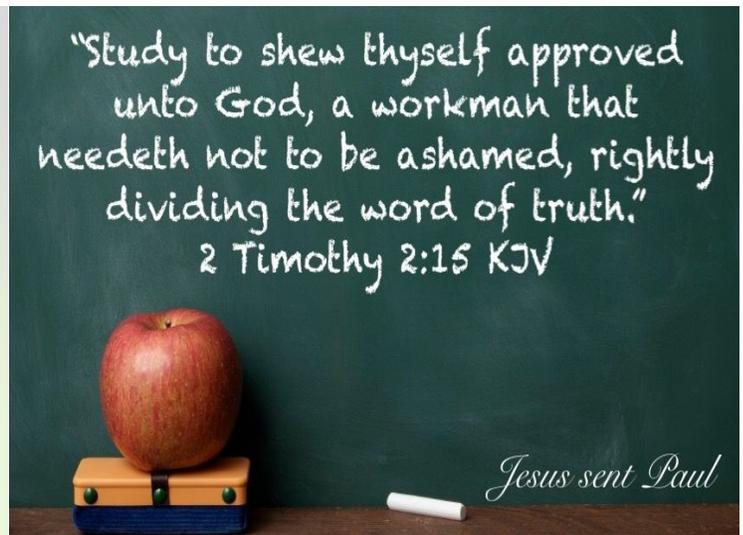


The day is
remembered
and quietly kept
No words are needed,
we shall never forget.
For those we love
don't go away
They walk beside
us every day.
Unseen and
unheard,
but always near
So loved, so missed,
And, so very dear.

Weekly Bible Study . . .

Plans are underway to resume our weekly Bible Study this fall. We have truly missed gathering together in an informal setting digging into the Word of God together. Hopefully, we can again begin meeting by way of online technology with the option for those who are able to meet in Fellowship Hall here at Avalon Grace Church. We are still ironing out the specifics.

More details will follow via email from Pastor Phil with regard to resuming our weekly Bible Study. Stay turned!!



Why God Created Woman from Man's Rib

It's amazing how God made man, and so beautiful how he made woman!

Why did God create Woman from Man's rib, when He could have simply created her from dust, as He did Man? This is a story that puts a beautiful touch on the reasoning:

"When I created the heavens and the earth, I spoke them into being. When I created man, I formed him from the dust of the earth and breathed life into his nostrils. But you, woman, I fashioned after I breathed the breath of life into man because your nostrils are too delicate. I allowed a deep sleep to come over him so I could patiently and perfectly fashion you. Man was put to sleep so that he could not interfere with My creativity. From one bone I fashioned you. I chose the bone that protects man's life. I chose the rib, which protects his heart and lungs and supports him, as you are meant to do."

"Around this one bone I shaped you. I modeled you. I created you perfectly and beautifully. Your characteristics are as the rib, strong yet delicate and fragile. You provide protection for the most delicate organ in man, his heart. His heart is the center of his being; his lungs hold the breath of life. The rib cage will allow itself to be broken before it will allow damage to the heart. Support man as the rib cage supports the body."

"You were not taken from his feet, to be under him, nor were you taken from his head, to be above him. You were taken from his side, to stand beside him and be held close to his side and near to his heart. You are my beautiful daughter and I love you. You have grown to be a splendid woman of excellence, and my eyes fill when I see the virtue in your heart. Your eyes: don't change them. Your lips: how lovely when they part in prayer. Your nose so perfect in form, your hands so gentle to touch. I've caressed your face in your deepest sleep; I've held your heart close to mine. Of all that lives and breathes, you are the most like me."

"Adam walked with me in the cool of the day and yet he was lonely. He could not see me or touch me. He could only feel me. So everything I wanted Adam to share and experience with me, I fashioned in you: my holiness, my strength, my purity, my love, my protection and support. You are special because you are the extension of me."

"Man represents my image, woman represents my emotions. Together, you represent the totality of God. So man: treat woman well. Love her; respect her, for she is fragile. In hurting her, you hurt me. What you do to her, you do to me. In crushing her, you only damage your own heart, the heart of your Father and the heart of her Father. Woman, support man with your whole heart. In humility, show him the power of emotion I have given you. In gentle quietness show your strength. In love, show him that you are the rib that protects his inner self."

Autuman Reflections



IS THE HARVEST TRULY OVER?

By Donna Web



Is the harvest truly over since we've gathered in our store?
Our cellars are filled with goodies, could we really ask for more?
We've worked for this all summer in the heat and burning sun;
For we know when autumn's over, winter is sure to come.
Now the harvest is all gathered and we have time to rest;
We can sit back in such comfort like a bird within her nest.
Is this really what our lives are like, do we work a little while;
Then sit back in satisfaction and look to God and smile?
Just look, our nest is feathered; Oh, God You've been so good!
Or do we turn and look about and see the things we should?
The harvest still is waiting, just lift up your eyes and see;
The fields are white and ready and are waiting for you and me.
God's reaping's still not over, His autumn's still not done
We've work that still needs doing, precious souls still need be won.
Let's thank the Lord for good things, be not weary in our toil;

A TIME TO TRUST

By Louisa Godissart McQuillen

We welcome in the harvest
As in every year before
When geese take to the Heavens
And seasons change once more.
We trust the hand of God
To send the need rain,
And bring abundant harvests
When fall rolls 'round again.
It's time for wood-smoke fires,
It's time for leaves to fall
And its time to trust in God above
For all needs big and small.

Is it not wheat harvest to day? I will call
unto the Lord, and he shall send thunder
and rain; that ye may perceive and see
that your wickedness is great, which ye
have done in the sight of the Lord, in ask-
ing you a king. ~ I Samuel 12:17 (KJV)

FALLING LEAVES

By L. Marshall

October comes!
Leaves change
God arrays His world
In colors of red and gold!
Beauty we see so bold.
His majesty we see
In every single tree!
What magnificent hues,
And how varied they can be.
A child in the air,
Change is here
In God's call
For falling leaves.



" While the earth
remaineth, seedtime and
harvest, and cold and heat,
and summer and winter,
and day and night
shall not cease. "

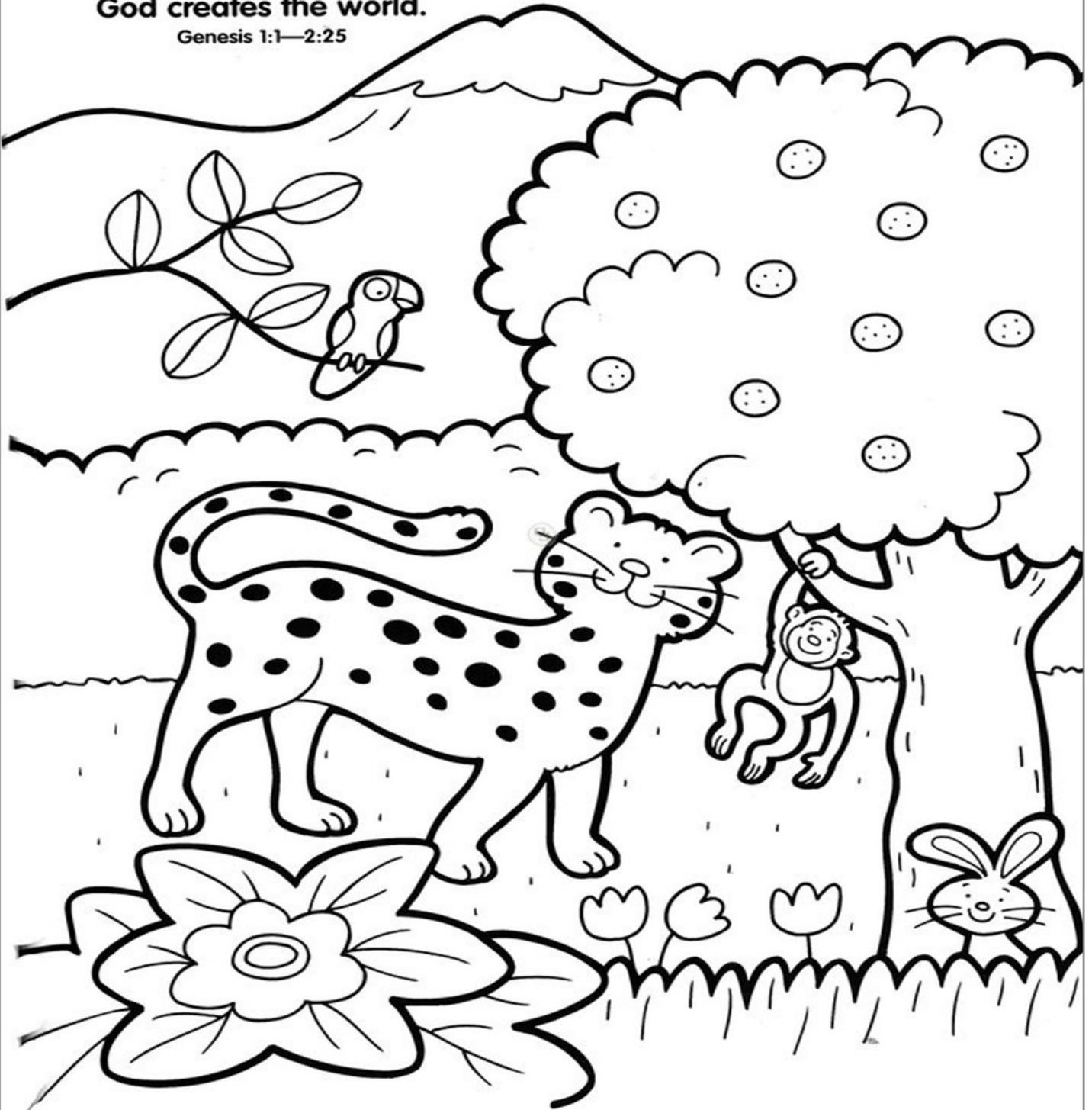
~ Genesis 8:22



Coloring for Jesus

God creates the world.

Genesis 1:1—2:25



“ And God made the beast of the earth after his kind, and cattle after their kind, and every thing that creepeth upon the earth after his kind: and God saw that it was good. .” Genesis 1:25 KJV



**Avalon Grace
Church
of Naples, Florida**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



SEPTEMBER

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



OCTOBER

- 5th Sharon Riedel
- 19th Marcine Cooney

September 2021

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

October 2021

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