

Grace Tidings

A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church



MARCH 2024

He is Risen! He is Risen Indeed!

What a glorious day Resurrection Sunday is as believers all over the world commemorating the resurrection of Jesus Christ, the Son of God, King of Kings, Lord of Lords, alive forevermore! Jesus is Alive! He is Alive indeed!

In the gospel of Luke, we learn about the two men on the road to Emmaus how Jesus suddenly appeared 'as a stranger' and walked with them on the afternoon of Our Lord's resurrection. Jesus asked the travelers what they were talking about (please see Luke 24:13-33). The men, who were discouraged, sad, and disheartened, told Jesus they were discussing the things that had happened in Jerusalem the past few days concerning Jesus of Nazareth. They were astonished at the Lord's questions because it appeared to them that this 'stranger' did not know what had happened to the One whom they had hoped would redeem Israel.

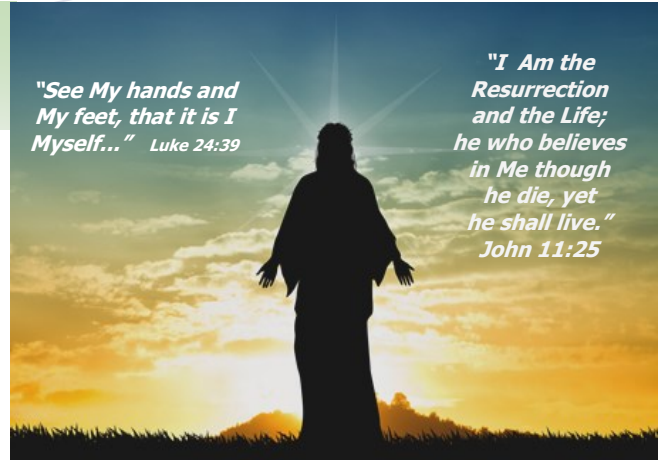
After listening to Cleopas (one of the two men) explain all that had happened, Jesus said to them, "... how foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken! Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter His glory? And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning Himself: Then he said unto them, O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Did not the Messiah to suffer these things and to enter into his glory? And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning Himself." (Luke 24: 25-27 KJV).

The Bible does not tell us specifically which Old Testament verses Jesus may have referred to as He explained all the prophecy that was written concerning Him. What we do know, however, is that Jesus searched the Scriptures with them, pointing out that, Messiah must suffer, die, and rise again before entering His glory.

(continued on Page 2)

"See My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself..." Luke 24:39

"I Am the Resurrection and the Life; he who believes in Me though he die, yet he shall live." John 11:25



AVALON GRACE CHURCH

3801 GUILFORD ROAD

NAPLES, FLORIDA 34112

(239) 774-4214

avalongracechurchofnaples@gmail.com

www.avalongracechurch.com

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

Bible Study, Thursday Evenings 7:00 PM

"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

He is Risen; He is Risen Indeed (Continued from Page 1)

Even though their eyes had not yet been opened and they did not recognize Jesus at that time, Luke tells us that their hearts burned within them as He spoke with them “. . . And they said one to another did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?” (v. 32)

Perhaps Jesus pointed out Isaiah 53:3: “He is despised and rejected of men; a man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from him; he was despised and we esteemed him not.”



Or Psalm 78: 2-8: “I will open my mouth in a parable: I will utter dark sayings of old: Which we have heard and known, and our fathers have told us. We will not hide them from their children, shewing to the generation to come, the praises of the LORD, and his strength, and his wonderful works that he hath done. For he established a testimony in Jacob, and appointed a law in Israel, Which he commanded our fathers, that they should make them known to their children: That the generation to come might know them, Even the children which should be born; Who should arise And declare them to their children: That they might set their hope in God, And not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments: And might not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation; A generation that set not their heart aright, and whose spirit was not steadfast with God..”

Like the men traveling the road to Emmaus, there are times in our lives when we are discouraged or confused especially when our hopes, plans, or expectations for ourselves or loved ones do not turn out the way we thought they would or for that matter, the way we thought they should. Circumstances beyond our control or bumps in the road that we just don't understand can leave us feeling disappointed, despondent, and bewildered . . . similar to the two men on the road to Emmaus.

The important thing to remember, I think – and this is vital – is that Jesus is with you and me regardless of the road we're traveling. He is ALIVE, in you and me, and right beside us! As we read and study God's Word, our hearts burn within us, we see Jesus manifested as He really is, and the Holy Spirit gently speaks to us through His Word and enlightens the eyes of our understanding.

He really does live inside you and me! That is so awesome – it is really huge! “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.” (Romans 8:11). Think about that! The same form of life and power that raised Jesus from the dead is in you and me - eternally! Think about the incredible possibilities of that truth and how God imparted His divine nature into our lives through His Word and the help of the Holy Spirit for His glory! How cool is that? It's totally mind boggling that God is willing to do that for us! What the Lord did for the men on the road to Emmaus, He does for us through this dispensation of God's glorious grace through our Apostle Paul.

As we open our Bibles every day and study the Scriptures together each Sunday morning at Avalon Grace Church, and in our own quiet time at home throughout the week, we compare scripture to scripture which takes time and effort as “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 KJV

We are so blessed! Jesus Christ is Risen Indeed! Have a blessed Resurrection Sunday.

In Christ, Pastor Phil

Mistaken Identity?

By Kathleen Smith (Portions from Toni Samuels, First Baptist Church of Phillipsburg, NJ)

In the classic 1959 film “North by Northwest”, Cary Grant plays the role of an advertising executive who is pursued by a group of international spies after they mistakenly target him for someone else. In this thriller directed by master of suspense Alfred Hitchcock, Grant’s character finds himself in a series of dangerous situations, including being attacked by an armed crop-dusting machine, one of the most famous scenes in the Hitchcock repertoire.

Unfortunately, many Christians also find themselves in a quagmire of mistaken identity as to who they are in Christ, what dispensation they are living in, that God is not always speaking to them specifically as they read the Word of God, and are ignorant as to who exactly the Lord Jesus Christ sent to us to help and enlighten us in this present dispensation of God’s glorious and undeserved grace, our apostle Paul.

As Pastor Phil has been teaching us over these past weeks,

as soon as one trusts Jesus Christ believing that He died to take away all our sin, we are baptized by the Holy Spirit into the family of God forever and ever. But sometimes the truth of our identity is somehow forgotten: we hear “You can’t do that, you’re not good enough, and you’ll never change. Why can’t you be more like _____? If only you were more _____ instead of so _____.”

As Pastor Phil has been teaching, Satan has limited control over this world, and his power is restricted; but still Satan uses a variety of tactics to try and steal our peace, joy, discourage us in our walk, point to our human weaknesses, and try to convince us that God’s unconditional love is conditional upon our performance as Christians.

So how can we refute the enemy’s accusations? By fighting back with God’s Word, which is the Sword of the Spirit. Here are a few examples:

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

I’m Unlovable

I’m not Valued

I’m too Weak

I’m too Young

I’m too Old

I’m Confused

TRUE IDENTITY ACCORDING TO GOD’S WORD

“But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.” (Romans 5:8 KJV)

“For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Romans 8: 38-39,)

“For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto good works, which God hath before ordained that we should walk in them.” (Ephesians 2:10)

“I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.” (Philippians 4:13)

“Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity.” (I Timothy 4:12)

“They shall still bring forth fruit in old age; they shall be fat and flourishing.” (Psalm 92:14)

“For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.” (I Corinthians 14:33)

“I will instruct thee and teach thee in the way which thou shalt go; I will guide thee with mine eye.” (Psalm 32:8)

(Continued Page 4)

Mistaken Identity (continued)

I'm not Worthy

"For by grace are ye saved, through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God; not of works lest anyone should boast." (Ephesians 2:8-9)

I am Unskilled

"A wise *man* will hear and will increase learning, And a man of understanding shall attain unto wise counsels . . ." (Proverbs 1: 5)

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



→ **OUR TRUE IDENTITY:**

"There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." (Romans 8:1)

WHO WE ARE IN CHRIST AND WHERE WE ARE IN GOD'S ETERNAL PLAN

"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)

"And hath raised us up together, and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus:" (Ephesians 2:6)

"Having made known unto us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure which he hath purposed in himself: That in the dispensation of the fullness of times he might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven, and which are on earth; even in him:" Ephesians 1: 9-10)

The Bible is rich with truths. There's no mistaking who we are in Christ. It has been settled for all eternity! ***"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that holy Spirit of promise, Which is the earnest of our inheritance until the redemption of the purchased possession, unto the praise of his glory."*** (Ephesians 1:13-14)

How can we avoid mistaken identity? "By taking heed, thereto, according to thy Word . . ." (Psalm 119:9)

Easter is a Time of Joy

By Helen Steiner Rice

**Let Not Your Heart Be Troubled
Let not your soul be sad
Easter is a time of joy
When all hearts should be glad.**

**Glad to know that Jesus Christ
Made it possible for men
To have their sins forgiven
And, like Him, to live again.**

**So at this joyous season
May the wondrous Easter Story
Renew our Faith so we may be
Partakers of "His Glory!"**

GOD'S LOVE DISPLAYED

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.
- ROMANS 5:8 KJV

www.joyfultoons.com © 2014 Michael D. Waters

March Reflections . . .

Quotes for the Wise & Young at Heart:

“. . . Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion; shout, O daughter of Jerusalem: behold, thy King cometh unto thee: he is just, and having salvation; lowly, and riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass.”
Zechariah 9:9

A best friend is like a four leaf clover: hard to find and lucky to have. ~Author Unknown

And he departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find Him. For He departed, and behold, He is here. ~ St Augustine

It was one of those March days when the sun shines hot and the wind blows cold: when it is summer in the light, and winter in the shade. ~Charles Dickens,
Great Expectations

“May you have the hindsight to know where you've been, The foresight to know where you are going, And the insight to know when you have gone too far”
~ Irish Blessing

The earth shook with the news

**HE IS NOT HERE;
HE IS RISEN !**

And in that moment,

joy REPLACED DESPAIR

hope PUSHED PAST FEAR

life CONQUERED DEATH

*not just that day, but for eternity.
We celebrate the*

resurrection

Of Christ

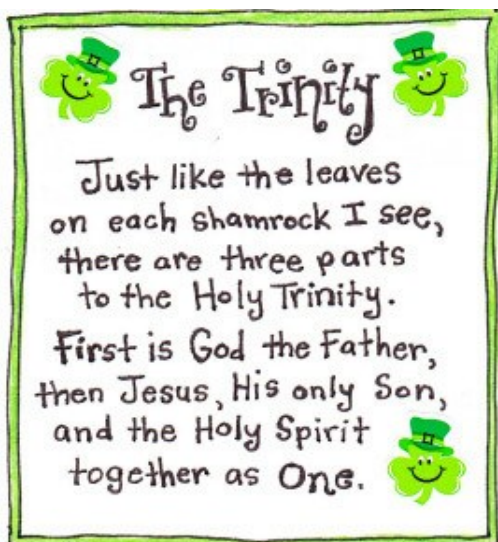
*For what it meant then and
What it means for us every day;*

a sacrifice

*that brings
FORGIVENESS, RENEWAL, AND
PEACE*

*To any of us
Who put our* *faith*

in **Jesus.**



God sent His son, they called Him, Jesus;
He came to love, heal and forgive;
He lived and died to buy my pardon,
An empty grave is there to prove my Savior lives!

Because He lives, I can face tomorrow
Because He lives, all fear is gone;
Because I know He holds the future,
And life is worth the living
Just because He lives!

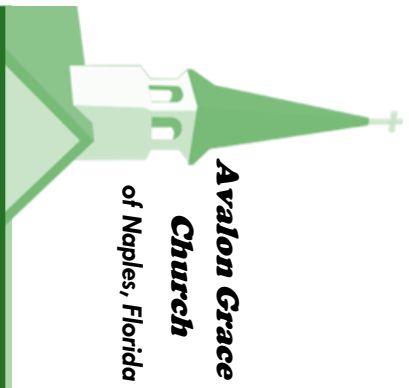


Coloring for Jesus

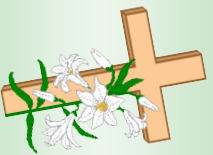


"... I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live:

And whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this? "- John 11:25-26 KJV



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida



March 2024



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2

3 4
9:45 Sunday
Breakfast
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School



**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**

MARCH

- 6th **Toby Stevens**
- 18th **Sharon Sims**
- 25th **Mike Stevens**

COMING IN APRIL 2024

- 7th **9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast**

1 7 1 8 1 9 2 0 2 1 2 2 2 3
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
The LORD'S Supper
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School
St. Patrick's Day
SPRING BEGINS



2 4 2 5 2 6 2 7 2 8 2 9 3 0
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School
PALM SUNDAY

PALM SUNDAY



3 1
10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School
EASTER