

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

July 2022

## True Freedom

*“Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” Galatians 5:1 KJV*

In 1776, the 13 British colonies in North America protested the limitations placed on them by the king of England and engaged in a struggle that gave birth to a brand-new republic. The infant nation soon adopted that now-famous document known as the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States.

Almost 2,000 years ago, the Lord Jesus cried out on the cross, “It is finished,” proclaiming the believer’s “declaration of independence.” All of humanity was under the tyranny of sin and death. But Christ, the sinless One, took our place on Calvary and died for our sins. Having satisfied God’s righteous demands, He now sets us free for eternity all those who trust in Him, in his death, burial, and resurrection.

Paul wrote, “Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:” (Gal. 3:13).

Romans 8: 1-2 assures us, “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.”

Galatians 5:1 urges all who have been redeemed to: “Stand fast therefore in the liberty wherewith Christ hath made us free, and be not entangled again with the yoke of bondage.” We are thankful to God for the freedom we enjoy in our nation. But above all, believers everywhere can praise God for the freedom that is found in Christ!

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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.avaolongracechurch.com)  
Children’s Sunday School 10:45 AM  
Thursday Evening Bible Study 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**

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?

*In understanding true freedom, “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 the way 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

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 about Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ. Let us share our freedom in Christ with everyone!

Enjoy your 4<sup>th</sup> of July holiday!

Pastor Phil

(Portions of this article taken from Richard DeHann and Julie Ackerman Link - Our Daily Bread Ministries)

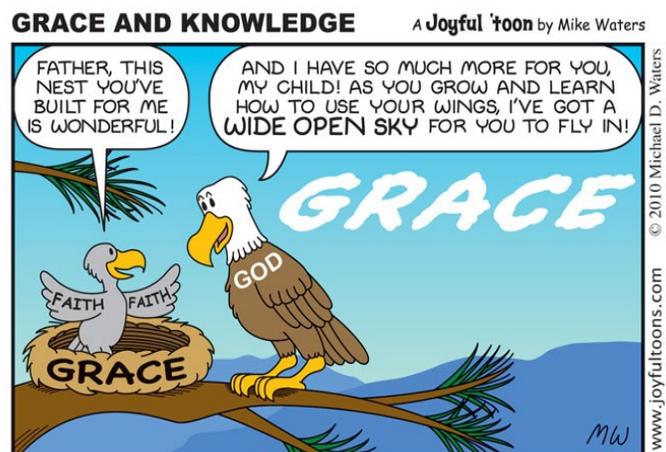
Out of all 42 books written during the Old Testament the word “grace” appears on average about once per book. This includes Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John which were written about an old testament time.

Yet, the word ‘grace’ is used over 100 times in Paul’s recorded ministry via his epistles.

Looking at this interesting concordance information should tell us that Paul was writing about something different than Jesus’ earthly ministry and the Lord fulfilling the old testament promises and covenants.

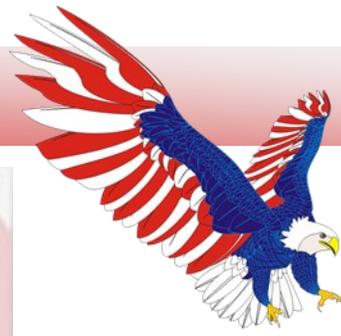
God gave Paul a dispensation of grace. He wrote about the gospel of the grace of God. It was all a mystery, hidden with God, until Jesus revealed it to the apostle Paul: “*Even* the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints:” Colossians 1:26

The writings of Paul point us in the right direction. If you are looking for grace you should turn to the mystery of Christ given first to Paul by our Savior to communicate to us! **Reference:** [Graceambassadors.com](http://Graceambassadors.com)



But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen.

— 2 PETER 3:18 KJV



## Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory (The Battle Hymn of the Republic)

By Julia Ward Howe, 1819-1910

Mine eyes have seen the glory  
of the coming of the LORD;  
He is trampling out the vintage  
where the grapes of wrath are stored;  
He hath loosed the fateful lightning  
of His terrible swift sword; His truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory, hallelujah! Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
Glory, glory, hallelujah!  
His truth is marching on.

He has sounded forth the trumpet  
that shall never call retreat;  
He is sifting out the hearts of men  
before His judgment seat;  
O be swift, my soul, to answer Him;  
be jubilant, my feet! Our God is marching on.

(Refrain)

In the beauty of the lilies  
Christ was born across the sea,  
with a glory in His bosom  
that transfigures you and me;  
as He died to make men holy,  
let us die to make men free,  
while God is marching on.

(Refrain)

He is coming like the glory  
of the morning on the wave,  
He is wisdom to the mighty,  
He is honor to the brave;  
so the world shall be His footstool,  
and the soul of wrong His slave.

Our God is marching on.

(Refrain)

## From an Eagle's View

By Stacey Smith

Have you ever wondered  
what it's like to fly free,  
To see the world as far as the eye can see,  
To view the surroundings  
from high and from low,  
To hear only the sound of a distant echo,  
To float in the air with  
the wind being your guide,  
To admire many rainbows  
that the trees tend to hide,  
To see the misty mornings  
over a beautiful mountaintop,  
To glide over a flowing river  
that never seems to stop,  
To watch the animals from over a mile away,  
Or to rise above the treetops  
that glisten in the day?  
If you were an eagle  
you would wonder no more,  
For it can see things  
you have never seen before.  
Next time you look into the sky of blue,  
Think of what it's like from an eagle's view.



**Do you know  
why no one in  
America ever  
knocks?**

**Because  
freedom rings.**

# Something to ponder . . .

**W**hy did God create woman from man's rib, when He could have simply created her from dust, as He did man? The following story, written by Florence Toh, 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 the 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, next to his heart."

"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 – my emotions. Together, you represent the totality of God.

So man: treat woman as 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. 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."

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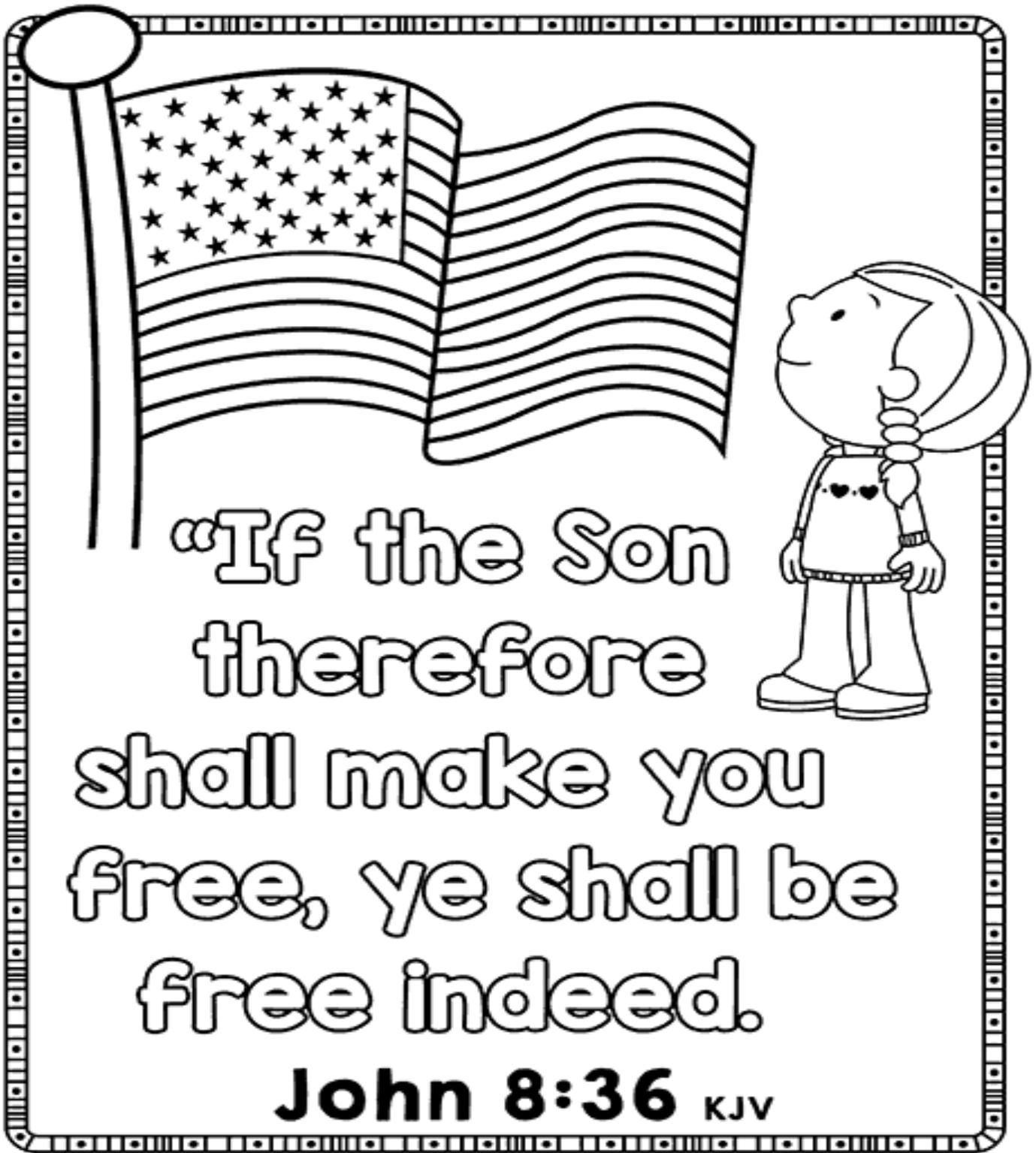
## QUOTES FOR THE WISE & YOUNG AT HEART:

"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." ~ The Declaration of Independence

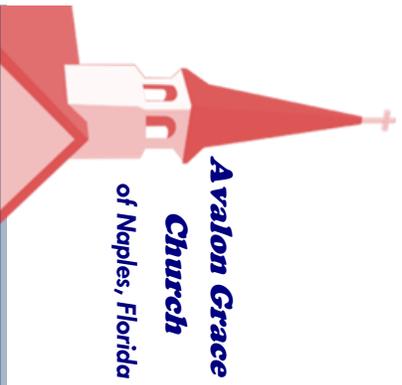
July 4, 1776

"The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he hath anointed me to preach the gospel to the poor; he hath sent me to heal the brokenhearted, to preach deliverance to the captives, and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty them that are bruised, To preach the acceptable year of the Lord.

~ Luke 4:18-19 KJV



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



# July 2022



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO YOU!**



- 9th Judy Asher
- 14th Richard Smith
- 19th Jaelyn Sims
- 27th Janice Smith
- 28th Jocelyn Barrett

**COMING IN AUGUST**

- 7th 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast

- 3 9:45 Sunday Breakfast
- 4 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
- 5 10:45 AM Children's



Independence Day

- 7 7:00 PM Bible Study

- 10 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
- 11 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

- 14 7:00 PM Bible Study

- 17 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
- 18 The LORD's Supper Observed
- 19 10:45 AM Children's

- 21 7:00 PM Bible Study

- 24 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
- 25 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

- 28 7:00 PM Bible Study

- 31 10:30 AM Sunday Worship
- 10:45 AM Children's Sunday School