



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

July - August, 2025

## The Source of Liberty

By Justin Johnson, Grace Ambassadors, July, 2020

The 4th of July is our national celebration of the Declaration of Independence. It wasn't until eleven years later that the Constitution of the United States was formed. First came a declaration of liberty, then a nation was formed. Similarly, God has first declared grace and liberty in this dispensation, and will later reestablish the nation of Israel when he returns for his kingdom.

The quotes below are from the Declaration of Independence as examples for your consideration as how the Framers referred to the holy Scriptures in writing it. Please look up the Scriptures listed with each truth to see how the Bible is woven into the Declaration of Independence:

1. God created us and defines rights ([Romans 3:4](#); [Romans 3:26](#); [Romans 5:12](#)).

"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."

2. Government is needed. God ordained governments ([Romans 13:1](#)).

"That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men..."

3. Be sober. Resistance to powers God ordained has consequences ([Romans 13:2](#)).

"Prudence, indeed, will dictate that

Governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes..."

4. Do no evil. Rulers are not a terror to good works, but to the evil. ([Romans 13:3](#)).

"But when a long train of abuses and usurpations... a history of repeated injuries ... To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world."

5. Don't be first to draw the sword. They bear the sword to revenge and execute wrath upon the evil doer ([Romans 13:4](#)).

"He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people."

6. Check your motives. You answer to God. Be subject for conscience sake ([Romans 13:5](#)).

"We ... appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do ... declare, that these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States."

7. The end does not justify the means. Act honorably. Render therefore to all their dues ([Romans 13:7](#)).

"In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms..."

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**Pastor Emeritus Arthur Sims**

**Kathleen Smith, Editor**

**All Are Welcome!**

**Sunday Worship 10:30 AM**

**(Sunday Messages available on website:**

**[www.avalongracechurch.com](http://www.avalongracechurch.com) and YouTube)**

**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**

# The Source of Liberty (Continued from Page 1)

*"...And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the protection of divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our sacred Honor."*

8. Do not put off a government and replace it with nothing. Put on Christ ([Romans 13:14](#)).

*"... it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love, and charity toward each other."*

This last quote came from the Virginia Declaration of Rights Section 16, which was adopted a month before the Declaration of Independence and greatly influenced the Bill of Rights.

The Declaration of Independence does not mention the Lord Jesus Christ, and that is where it fell short.

*"...where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty."*  
– [2 Corinthians 3:17](#)

Until there is a nation of men all filled with the Spirit, liberty will be quickly corrupted and hard to keep. One day that nation will exist on this planet. It will be named Israel. Christ will be its king. At that time the whole world will be full of the knowledge of the Lord and his liberty.

Remember the true source of liberty as you celebrate one of the greatest declarations on liberty<sup>1</sup> outside of the holy Scripture this 4th of July.

*"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](#)

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<sup>1</sup> Many of these greatest documents on liberty are very short reads and worth your time. The Constitution, Bill of Rights, and Declaration can be found online at the National Archives website. Another great short booklet on liberty is Frederic Bastiat's The Law. It is free online. Bastiat described liberty as "an act of faith in God and in His work."

The greatest thing we can do to serve God and our country is, of course, to pray for its leaders and to share the gospel of God's grace to our neighbors and friends.

True freedom is only found by trusting our Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of our sins (1 Corinthians 15:3) and the true liberty that only He can provide. Let us celebrate and share our freedom in Christ this 4th of July holiday!

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

Pastor Phil

## What is Walking After the Spirit?

By Justin Johnson

That people think walking after the Spirit is hard means their flesh is alive and strong.

If you are confused about what it means to walk after the Spirit, it means you are not familiar with it. This need not be so.

Think of "flesh" as yourself without God. The Spirit is God.

When you hear the gospel of your salvation and trust it, you are sealed with the Holy Spirit (Eph 1:13). Then, as you grow in right understanding of the Bible, you are learning from the Spirit's words and strengthening your own spirit to stand in the truth (Col 1:9-10). You must learn to stand before you can walk.

Walking after the Spirit is walking by faith in what God has done for you, made you, and given you. It is not walking by what "life gives you", what you make of yourself, or what you have done or not done.

Walking in the Spirit means you have crucified the flesh with its lusts and affections and are following Christ in you and not yourself (Gal 5:24-25).

Walking after the flesh is you living without God; walking after the Spirit is you living with the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom 8:1, 9).

If you are doing something that does not require the Lord Jesus Christ, then you are probably walking after your flesh. Do you think you can live without him? If not, you are walking after the Spirit.

Do you understand you can't do anything without him? You might be on your way to being filled with the Spirit! (Eph 5:18)

People live and walk naturally. Living and walking spiritually should be natural, but it requires having faith, the Spirit, and knowledge of the truth. You can do it, one step and one day at a time!!

Keep walking!!!!

# Summer Reflections . . .



"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

"There is therefore now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life has set you free in Christ Jesus from the law of sin and death." - Romans 8:1-2

## Not Really Old - Just Mature !!

Today at the drugstore, the clerk was a gent.  
From my purchase this chap took off ten percent.  
I asked for the cause of a lesser amount;  
And he answered,  
"Because of the Seniors Discount."

I went to McDonald's for a burger and fries;  
And there, once again, got quite a surprise.  
The clerk poured some coffee  
which he handed to me.  
He said, "For you, Seniors, the coffee is free."

Understand---I'm not old---I'm merely mature;  
But some things are changing, temporarily, I'm sure.  
The newspaper print gets smaller each day,  
And people speak softer---can't hear what they say.  
My teeth are my own (I have the receipt),  
and my glasses identify the people I meet.

Oh, I've slowed down a bit—not a lot, I am sure.  
You see, I'm not old—I'm only mature.  
The gold in my hair has been bleached by the sun.  
You should see all the damage  
that chlorine has done.

Washing my hair has turned it all white,  
But don't call it gray—saying "blond" is just right.

My friends get older—much faster than me.  
They seem much more wrinkled,  
from what I can see.  
I've got "character lines," not wrinkles—for sure,  
But don't call me old...just call me mature.

I'm keeping up on what's hip and what's new,  
And I think I can still dance a mean boo-ga-loo.  
I'm still in the running—in this I'm secure,  
I'm not really old — I'm merely mature.

## Change Your Vocabulary !! ?

*"I don't see how it is relevant to my everyday life!"*



A common reason people think the word of God is irrelevant to their everyday life is because they use a different vocabulary.

The Bible uses words like sin, peace, joy, and righteousness, which are not part of everyone's vocabulary.

One might say in 2025, "I need a vacation." In reality, they desire peace. They might say "I want to have fun." In reality, they desire to enjoy something.

"In reality" and "facts" in Bible vocabulary are called truth, and "really" is called verily.

Sometimes the lack of vocabulary is apparent. For example, when someone receives an overwhelming gift (grace) they might say, "I don't know what to say. I want to give something back!" They need a word from the Bible: thanksgiving (which is not just a day in November).

Don't know how to define your problems?

There is a list of Bible words defining problems in Galatians 5:19-21:

*"But if ye bite and devour one another, take heed that ye be not consumed one of another. This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfil the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. But if ye be led of the Spirit, ye are not under the law. Now the works of the flesh are manifest, which are these; Adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, . . ."*

The Bible has a better vocabulary than what most people use. It is not a bigger or harder vocabulary; it's just better.

Learn Bible words. Study to define them. Try to use them when you speak, and you will see how the Bible speaks to the issues that face you every day.





## Quotes for the Wise and Young at Heart:

"Remember, remember always, that all of us, and you and I especially, are descended from immigrants and revolutionists." — Franklin D. Roosevelt

"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

"Ah, summer – that long anticipated stretch of lazy, lingering days, free of responsibility and rife with possibility. It's a time to hunt for insects, master handstands, practice swimming strokes, conquer trees, explore nooks and crannies, and make new friends." – Darrell Hammond

"Nothing but harmony, honesty, industry, and frugality are necessary to make us a great and happy people." — George Washington

"And be not conformed to this world: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. " - Romans 12:2

"August rain: the best of the summer gone, and the new fall not yet born. The odd uneven time."  
— Sylvia Plath

### A PRAYER OF THANKS FOR THE GIFT OF GRACE

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

Dear God, thank you for the unmerited favor of your love. It is because of the faith you created in me that I have been saved, set apart to do your work, and received your grace. Through Christ, I have received grace upon grace. Father, I sometimes miss the mark and fall short of your will. Thank you for the grace you lavish when I falter in my faith. Praise You for grace upon grace, in Jesus' name, amen.

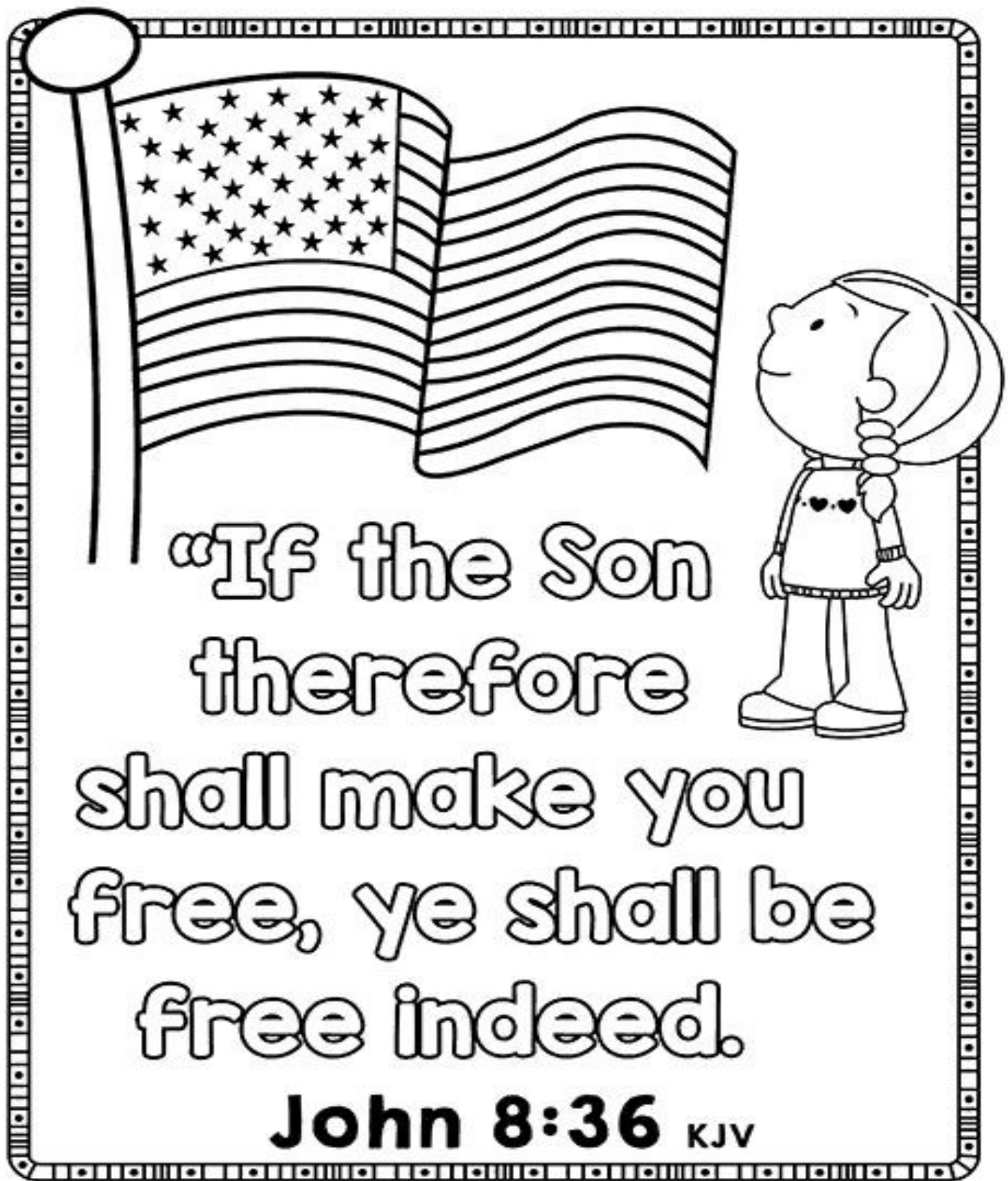


### A DIFFERENT MAP

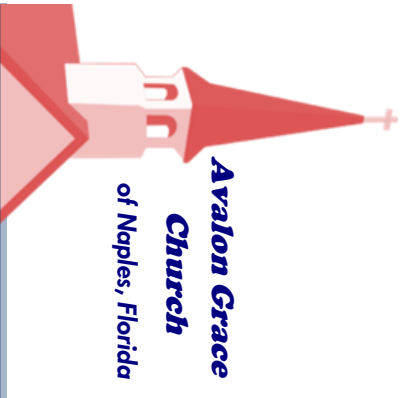
A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



Wherewithal shall a young man cleanse his way? by taking heed thereto according to thy word. —PSALM 119:9 KJV



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



# July 2025



SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

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3

4 Independence Day

5



- 14th Richard Smith
- 19th Jaclyn Sims
- 27th Janice Smith
- 28th Jocelyn Barrett

**COMING IN AUGUST**  
3rd 9:45 AM Sunday Breakfast

6

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

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

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10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
The LORD's Supper Observed  
10:45 AM Children's

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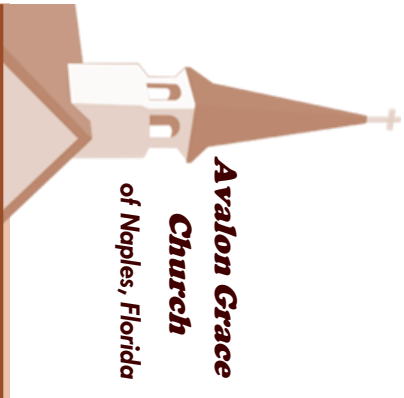
10:30 AM Sunday Worship  
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School

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# August 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
9:45 Sunday Breakfast						
10:30 AM Sunday Worship						
10:45 AM Children's Sunday School						

10	11	12	13	14	15	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						
The LORD's Supper Observed						
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

10:30 AM Sunday  
Worship

10:45 AM Children's  
Sunday School



- 3rd Avery Stevens
- 7th Maggie Forbes
- 24th Yvonne McClellan
- 28th Judy Anderson Sims
- 29th Bruce Sims

COMING IN SEPTEMBER

7th 9:45 AM Sunday  
Breakfast