

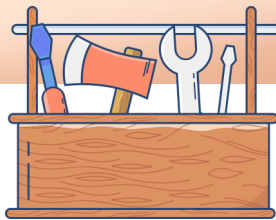
Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

September - 2023

Our Labor Honors God



For the believer in Jesus Christ, our work and how we perform it, must always seek to honor and glorify God, because God is the ultimate Worker, Creator, and Sustainer. Working is part of God's nature:

"And on the seventh day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it: because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made." (Genesis 2:2-3 KJV)

"For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist." (Colossians 1:16-17)

"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)

Because mankind is made in the image of God, we are creators and sustainers ourselves in performing our work:

"And let the beauty of the LORD our God be upon us: and establish thou the work of our hands upon us; yea, the work of our hands establish thou it." (Psalm 90:17)

"Seest thou a man diligent in his business? He shall stand before kings; he shall not stand before mean men." (Proverbs 22:29)

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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
Thursday 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

Our Labor Honors God (continued)

Celebrating Labor Day invites us to remember that it is God who makes possible the creative and productive work we do in all fields of human endeavor – from the menial position to the highly skilled; from the grade school janitor to the college professor; from the soccer coach to the professional athlete – from the administrative help to the Board Room; from the one who balances the books or balances the tires. In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, ***“All labor that uplifts humanity has dignity and importance and should be undertaken with painstaking excellence.”*** Indeed, all such work is worthy.

If you really think about it, there is always someone, often two or more people behind the scenes – hidden from our view - working together for you and me on our behalf. For instance, the workers whose job it is to keep our lights on, the gas flowing, our telephone and cable wires connected, or our water supply so we get to enjoy a hot shower; the local farmer, the producer, the inspector, the distributor, or food processor all working separately yet simultaneously to ensure an ample food supply for us, and so on.

As human beings, we often look at jobs that are more glamorous or high profile compared to those less appealing or desired; however, God sees the work He has given us to do as an extension of His work of maintaining and providing for His creation and an extension of His love for us by the redemptive work completed for us by His Son, Jesus Christ: “In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace;” ([Ephesians 1:7](#)). Therefore, all work, regardless of the type of work we do, is a blessing from the LORD. Being content or happy in our work does not necessarily depend on the type of work we do but rather it depends on our attitude. To make the most of our job, and be happy in our work is a gift God wants to give us – therein is God’s blessing!

Please see also [Ephesians 6:58](#).

We can reverence the holiness of God’s own work of creation, as well as the value and dignity God has imparted within labor to be done for His glory and the building of His Kingdom. Reflecting God's image is vital to a biblical and healthy view of our work. Paul applies this principle to tasks as commonplace as eating and drinking ([1 Corinthians 10:31](#): “Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”) while in [Colossians 3:23](#) he exhorts us to do all work as to the Lord: “And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men.” Please see also [2 Thessalonians 3:8-12](#)

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 that 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 with family and friends on Labor Day, let us thank God for the useful work He has given us to do.

Have a blessed Labor Day holiday in Him,

Pastor Phil



“What are the last four digits of your Social Security Number?”

Patriot Day - Remembering 9/11

Patriot Day is observed as the National Day of Service and Remembrance on September 11th every year in memory of the 2,996 people killed in the September 11, 2001 attacks in New York city, Arlington, Virginia and Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

May all of us remember with love and compassion this day.
May we grieve with those who still mourn,
And share memories with those who cannot forget.
May we draw strength from those who bravely responded,
And gave their lives to save others.
May we stand with strangers who became neighbors that day,
And remember their generosity and hospitality.
Above all God may we remember your faithfulness
And learn to trust in your unfailing love.
~ Anonymous



Time Doesn't Have Wings!

By Kathleen Smith



I was shocked that suddenly my twenties were gone. Puff! Just like that! I was beginning to understand what it meant when people say, “time flies!” In reality, it doesn’t fly; time moves forward one blessed day at a time, with no red lights or stop signs. It simply keeps moving.

Time doesn’t have wings; you can’t see it or catch it or make it stand still. But time has a way of seeming to drag on, especially when we were young waiting for something special to happen. When we were young, an entire week seemed like a year and a year seemed like an eternity. When we were children, we would say, “Are we there yet?” And now, as adults, we say, “Remember when?”

Eternity is something that we cannot imagine or wrap our heads around simply because God created time for mankind on this side of heaven. But the truth is we are all headed towards eternity! It’s just a matter of time! But in God’s great love for each of us, the Lord Jesus Christ stepped out from the eternity He pre-

pared for us forever for one purpose: to give us eternal life with Him in heaven by trusting solely in His death on the cross, burial, and resurrection for the forgiveness of our sin. It’s a very personal thing – between you and Jesus; He has graciously given each of us time to see who we are and that we are sinners. We need our Savior – Jesus!

The Bible tells us that “... that one day is with the Lord as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day.” 2 Peter 3:8 KJV. So it is not likely that there will be green, amber, and red lights in heaven!

Don’t you get excited anticipating seeing loved ones you haven’t seen in a long time? For me, the thought of seeing friends and family up north that I haven’t seen in a few years gets me all excited like I’m jumping out of my skin! That, I think, is a snap shot of what heaven will be like! Eternity will be like perpetual youth, no presence of evil, no stress, no hurrying up to get things done or trying to race the clock and no worries about being late!

A day will seem like a year. A year will seem like a day. And there will be no more need of time and then time will fly away, never to be experienced again!

Happy Grandparents Day!

I like walking with Grandma and Grandpa

Their steps are short like mine.

They never say "Now hurry up"

They always takes their time.

I like to walk with Grandma and Grandpa,

Their eyes see things like mine do,

Wee pebbles bright,

A funny cloud,

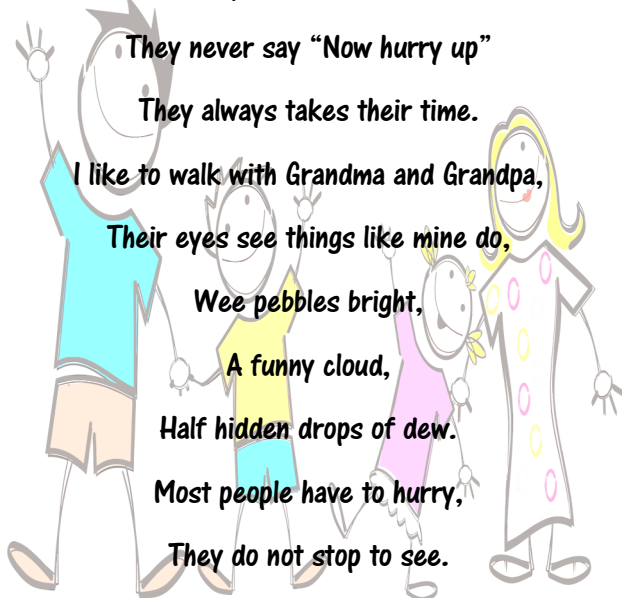
Half hidden drops of dew.

Most people have to hurry,

They do not stop to see.

I'm glad that God made Grandma and Grandpa

Unrushed and young like me.



For the Wise and Young at Heart . . .

"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)



"Work consists of whatever a body is obliged to do. Play consists of whatever a body is not obliged to do."
- *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*

"He changes times and seasons; He removes kings and sets up kings; He gives wisdom to the wise and knowledge to those who have understanding;
22 While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Daniel 2: 21-22)

Each morning sees some task begin,
Each evening sees it close;
Something attempted, some done,
Has earned a night's repose.
~ Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

"And even to your old age I am he; and even to hoar hairs will I carry you: I have made, and I will bear; even I will carry, and will deliver you." (Isaiah 46:4 KJV)

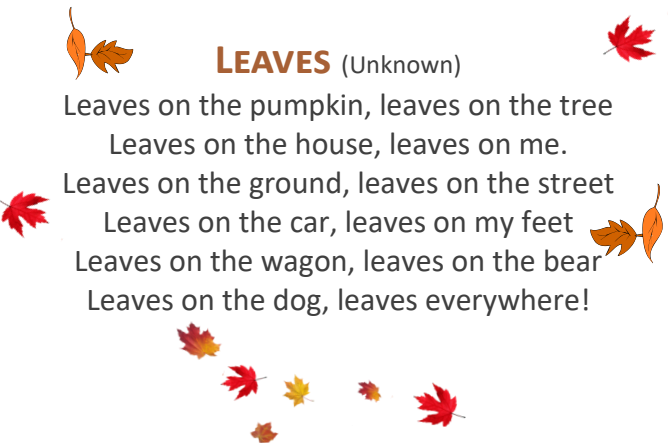
"When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also."
(2 Timothy 1:5)

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

"But speak thou the things which become sound doctrine:
2 That the aged men be sober, grave, temperate, sound in faith, in charity, in patience. 3 The aged women likewise, that they be in behaviour as becometh holiness, not false accusers, not given to much wine, teachers of good things;
4 That they may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, 5 To be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed."
(Titus 2: 1-5)

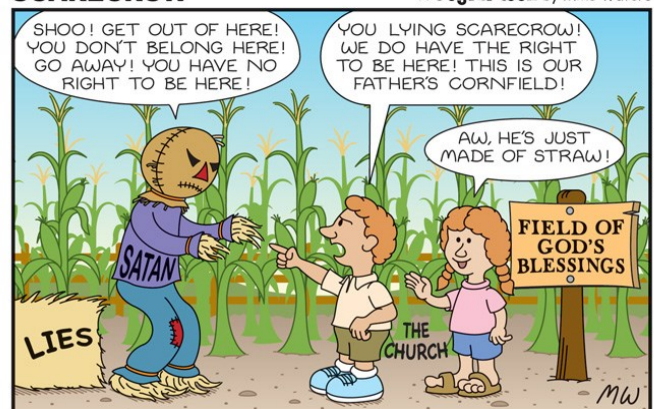
LEAVES (Unknown)

Leaves on the pumpkin, leaves on the tree
Leaves on the house, leaves on me.
Leaves on the ground, leaves on the street
Leaves on the car, leaves on my feet
Leaves on the wagon, leaves on the bear
Leaves on the dog, leaves everywhere!



SCARECROW

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters

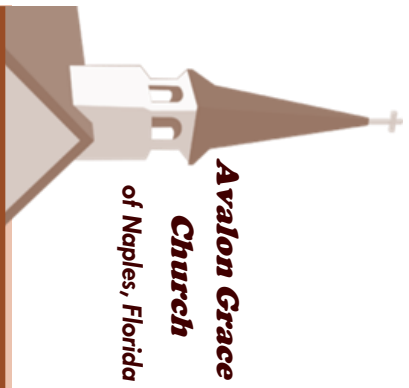


Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom.
— LUKE 12:32 KJV

Coloring for Jesus



But Jesus called them *unto him*, and said, Suffer little children to come unto me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God. (Luke 18:16)



**Avalon Grace
Church**
of Naples, Florida

September 2023

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY
TO YOU!**



- 8th **Patty Hisler**
- 15th **John Lombard**
- 20th **Rylan Stevens**
- 23rd **Joshua McClellan**
- 27th **Victor Ramirez**

COMING IN OCTOBER

1st **9:45 AM Sunday
Breakfast**

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



- 10 10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
- 10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School
- Grandparents
Day**

Patriot Day

Rosh Hashanah
begins at Sundown.

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

AUTUMN BEGINS



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

**YOM KIPPUR BEGINS
AT SUNDOWN**