

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

February - March 2025

CHARITY vs. LOVE

Did you know that 1 Corinthians 13 is often referred to as the Bible's 'Love Chapter' and is a favorite passage of Scripture read at weddings? It is indeed a most beloved passage of Scripture.

But was the apostle Paul speaking of romantic love when he wrote I Corinthians 13?

Most biblical scholars agree that this passage does not refer to romantic love at all, but rather a regard, respect, and caring concern for others not dependent on the worthiness of a person; an act of one's will which places the welfare of others above the interests of self.

But . . . what say ye the Scriptures? Let's dig a little deeper.

First, I Corinthians 13 is clearly the 'Charity' chapter—not the 'Love' chapter in the KJV. While modern versions of the Bible change the word 'charity' to 'love' the KJV version does not.

The word 'charity' has a more nuanced – or inexpressible meaning than does

love. Paul is describing this unique attribute called 'charity' to be a fruit of the Holy Spirit; charity may need to suffer or face things it does not want to, but charity does so willingly always rejoicing in the truth for the benefit of others.

The word 'Love' is commonly used to describe that inner affection for people or something pleasing, of worth and value to us. It is a word that can have many meanings. For instance, what 'love' means to a teenager's puppy love is not the same as it would mean to a godly Christian woman caring for her family. The use of the word 'love' in "I love apple pie" or "I loved that movie" does not have the same meaning as loving a person unconditionally.

In John 3:19, Jesus describes how "men loved darkness rather than light." Surely 'darkness' is not a virtue in I Corinthians 13:13:
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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

**"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

CHARITY vs. LOVE (Continued from Page 1)

"And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." There is no room for darkness in charity whatsoever. Further, I Corinthians 13:6 tell us that charity cannot love darkness. Charity rejoices not in iniquity. Yet Jesus told us that people can and do love that which is evil.

In I Corinthians 13:5-6 we read that charity "doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own." Charity as well "thinketh no evil; rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth." However, modern bible versions tell us that "love (agape) thinks no evil, does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth" (NKJV), but it creates contradictions with the rest of Scripture.

For example, if "love seeks not her own and thinks no evil" then what do we do with the following Scriptures where 'love' clearly seeks her own and does rejoice in evil?

John 3:19: "And this is the condemnation that light is come into the world and men LOVED darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil."

John 12: 42-43: "they did not confess him, lest they should be put out of the synagogue: For they LOVED the praise of men more than the praise of God."

Luke 6:32: "for sinners LOVE those that LOVE them."

2 Timothy 4:10: "For Demas hath forsaken me, having LOVED this present world..."

I John 2:15: "If any man LOVE the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

The use of the word 'charity' by our apostle Paul to describe the Christian's love for his fellow believers in the Body of Christ is not an error. In fact, it is a glorious reflection of God's love:

"Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I have become as a sounding brass or a tinkling cymbal."

This is why Paul says that charity is greater than faith and hope. Faith believes the truth; hope is the truth working in us; charity is seeing the truth benefit others. Charity is necessary for

evangelism of the gospel and growth of the church.

"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23

The word 'charity' was given to Paul directly from Jesus. It is the inspired Word of God found in the King James Bible. Charity always expresses Christian love and care for other believers. The word charity is never used in 1 Corinthians 13 to express the love between husband and wife, parents and their children, or between the believer and the nonbeliever. It is written for the Body of Christ's edification and instruction in the truth.

While modern versions of the Bible change the word 'charity' to 'love', we know that the Scripture teaches: "And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness." – Colossians 3:14

By His Grace, Pastor Phil

Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned: ~ 1 Timothy 1:5 KJV

And above all things have fervent charity among yourselves: for charity shall cover the multitude of sins. ~ 1 Peter 4:8 KJV

I know thy works, and charity, and service, and faith, and thy patience, and thy works; and the last to be more than the first. ~ Revelation 2:19 KJV

A NEW HOUSE

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For we know that if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved, we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens. — 2 CORINTHIANS 5:1 KJV

February and March Reflections



Valentine's Day Is for Christian Love By Joanna Fuchs

Valentine's Day is for honoring love;
To show those we love we care.
Red hearts with tender sentiments
We send, our love to share.

So on Valentine's Day we're reminded
Of our very first Christian goal:
To love the Lord with all our heart
And all our mind and soul.

To love our neighbor as ourselves
We are also told to do,
So let's live our love by the Bible;
It's God's word, flawless and true.

If we give this Christian Valentine first,
We'll never run out of love,
For infinite love will come to us
From God in heaven above.



Reflections

by Frances Gregory Pasch

My back may be a little bent,
But I'm thankful I can walk.
My words a little slow at times,
But I'm glad that I can talk.

My legs are full of spider veins,
But they get me everywhere
My hair has turned from black to gray,
But I'm glad that it's still there.

I need to wear my glasses
But I'm grateful I can see,
My bones, at times, are creaky;
But I have mobility.

But as long as I can get around,
I'm as thankful as can be.
And I still hope that I'll be here
When I'm a hundred and three



For the Wise and Young at Heart

God loves you just the way you are, but
He refuses to leave you that way. He
wants you to be just like Jesus.
- Max Lucado

Grow old along with me; the best is yet to
be." - Robert Browning

A bell is no bell 'til you ring it,
A song is no song 'til you sing it,
And love in your heart
Wasn't put there to stay -
Love isn't love
'Til you give it away.
~Oscar Hammerstein, *Sound of Music*,
"You Are Sixteen (Reprise)"

A friend loveth at all times. - Proverbs
17:17

"If freedom of speech is taken away, then
dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep
to the slaughter." - George Washington
(1732-1799)



President's Day
is a federal
holiday
celebrated on
the third
Monday of
February.



President's Day 2025 will occur Monday,
February 17th. Originally established in
1885 in honor of President George
Washington, the holiday became known as
"President's Day" after it was moved by the
Uniform Monday Holiday Act on June 28,
1968.

It was an act of Congress that permanently
moved two federal holidays in the United
States to a Monday; namely
George birthday and Memorial
Day in an attempt to create more
three-day holiday weekends.



While several states maintain
individual holidays celebrating George
Washington's birthday (February 22nd) and
Abraham Lincoln's birthday (February 12th)
President's Day is now viewed as a day to
celebrate and honor all Presidents of the
United States, past and present!

Too Ra Loo Ra Loo Ral (An Irish Lullaby)



Over in Killarney,
Many years ago,
My Mother sang a song to me
In tones so sweet and low;
Just a simple little ditty,
In her good old Irish way,
And I'd give the world to hear her sing
That song of hers today.

Chorus

Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li,
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, hush now,
don't you cry!
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, Too-ra-loo-ra-li,
Too-ra-loo-ra-loo-ral, that's an Irish lulla-
by.

Oft, in dreams I wander
to that cot again.
I feel her arms a-hugging me

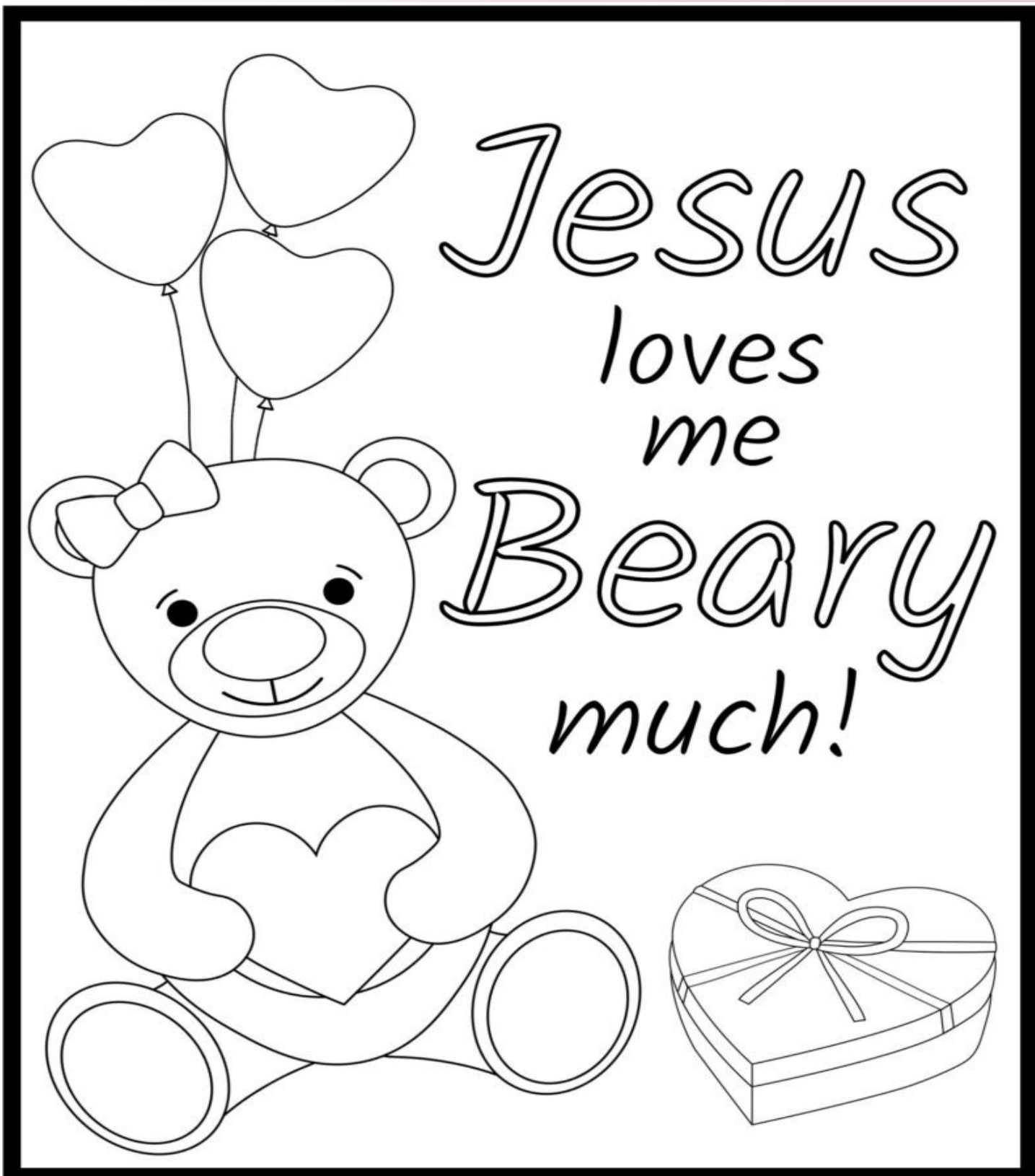
as when she held me then.
And I hear her voice a humming
to me as in days of yore,
when she used to rock me fast asleep
outside the bedroom door.

Chorus

Oh I can hear that music
I can hear that song
Filling me with memories
Of a mother's love so strong
Its melody still haunts me
These many years gone by
Too ra loo ra loo ral
Until the day I die.

Chorus





Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not. - 1 John 3:1



**Avalon Grace
Church
of Naples, Florida**

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**





FEBRUARY

6th Phillip McClellan

26th Olivia McClellan

February 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 Breakfast 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	10	11	12 	13	14  Valentine's Day	15
16 10:30 Worship & The Lord's Supper 10:45 Child. SS	17  President's Day	18	19	20	21	22
23 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	24	25	26	27	28	

**HAPPY
BIRTHDAY**



MARCH

6th Toby Stevens

25th Mike Stevens

March 2025

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
						1
2 9:45 Breakfast 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	3	4	5 Ash Wednesday	6	7	8
9 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS Daylight Savings Begins	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 10:30 Worship & The Lord's Supper	17  St. Patrick's Day	18	19	20  First Day of Spring	21	22
23 10:30 Worship 10:45 Child. SS	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					