

# Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

September 2022

## SAVED BY GRACE, NOT BY WORKS

This year, Labor Day falls on September 5<sup>th</sup>. It is a national holiday observed the first Monday every September, a celebration of the social and economic achievements of American workers. The holiday is rooted in the late nineteenth century, when labor activists pushed for a federal holiday to recognize the many contributions workers – especially blue collar workers – who have made to America’s strength, prosperity, and well-being. Many Americans celebrate Labor Day with parades, displaying the American flag, family picnics and barbeques, leisurely enjoying one day out of the year to rest from their physical labor and it is all good!

Isn’t it great that as Christians, as members of the Body of Christ, work has nothing to do with our salvation and the peace we have? We do not have to strive to be “good enough” or “do good works” to be acceptable in God’s eyes. After all, it’s not about us . . . it’s all about Jesus Christ, His glory, His love, His sacrifice, and the work He came to do for us and to save us.

Our great example of faith (no works here!) by grace alone is given to us in Paul’s letter to the Roman believers: Romans 4:4-5 “Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt. But to him that worketh not, but believeth on him that justifieth the ungodly, his faith is counted for righteousness.”

When it comes to personal salvation, Paul again makes it crystal clear there can be no combination of faith plus works - Romans 11:6 “And if by grace, then *is it* no more of works: otherwise grace is no more grace. But if *it be* of works, then is it no more grace: otherwise work is no more work.”

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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)**  
**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**

## SAVED BY GRACE, NOT BY WORKS

(Continued from Page 1)

If you are a Christian saved by grace, it is because you heard the gospel Paul teaches in 1 Corinthians 15:1-4 that Jesus died for your sins, was buried and resurrected according to the scriptures:

“Moreover, brethren, I declare unto you the gospel which I preached unto you, which also ye have received, and wherein ye stand; By which also ye are saved, if ye keep in memory what I preached unto you, unless ye have believed in vain. For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:”

There is no other way to be saved in this current dispensation of God’s glorious grace except through trusting in the shed blood of Christ as payment for our sins. However, this was not the gospel taught by the twelve during Jesus’ earthly ministry. There is so much confusion in the church today because so many do not “*rightly divide the word of truth.*” (2 Timothy 2:15).

Notice in Matthew 10:5-6 Jesus sends out his disciples to avoid the Gentiles (back then that would have been me and you) and preach only to Israel: “*These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, Go not into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans enter ye not: but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.*” In verse seven this is the message they were preaching to Israel only: “*And as ye go, preach, saying, ‘The kingdom of heaven is at hand.’*” – Matthew 10:7.

We must also understand that the glory found in the preaching of the cross; was not the glory that was preached by the twelve during the earthly ministry of Jesus. Instead they preached the glory of the coming kingdom. Nowhere in this good news of the kingdom is the preaching of the cross.

The secret of the cross was kept secret since

the foundation of the world. This mystery was first revealed to Paul by the risen, glorified LORD, in what Paul calls the revelation of the mystery (Colossians 1:25-26):

*“Whereof I am made a minister, according to the dispensation of God which is given to me for you, to fulfil the word of God; Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints.”*

The bottom line is this – we are saved by grace and not our works: “*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) - and we are so thankful for what Our Savior has done for us.

Happy September and enjoy your Labor Day holiday, knowing that we are eternally secure not because of our labor – but because of the glorious grace of Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ!

- Pastor Phil



### Praise the Lord! It’s nice to Laugh!

There’s a little old Christian lady living next door to an atheist. Every morning she comes out onto her front porch and shouts, “Praise the Lord!”

Now the atheist yells back, “There is no God.” Yet the lady does this every morning with the same result. As time goes by, the lady runs into financial difficulties and has trouble buying food. So she goes out onto her porch and asks God for help with groceries, then says “Praise the Lord.”

The next morning she goes out onto her porch and finds the groceries she ask for, and of course she shouts, “Praise the Lord!” The atheist jumps out from behind a bush and says, “Ha! I bought those groceries - there is no God.”

The lady looks at him, smiles and shouts, “Praise the Lord, not only did You provide groceries for me Lord, You made Satan pay for them!!!”



“**T**hus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. 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 2:1-3

“**S**tudy to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.”  
~ 2 Timothy 2:15

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

A hundred times every day I remind myself that my inner and outer life depend on the labors of other men, living and dead, and that I must exert myself in order to give in the same measure as I have received and am still receiving. ~ Albert Einstein

“**A**nd that ye study to be quiet, and to do your own business, and to work with your own hands, as we commanded you; That ye may walk honestly toward them that are without, and that ye may have lack of nothing.”  
~ 1 Thessalonians 4:11-12

“Never put off till tomorrow what you can do the day after tomorrow.” ~ Mark Twain

“**S**ix days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: But the seventh day is the sabbath of the LORD thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates:”  
~ Exodus 20: 9-10

As I was walking with Jesus,  
our hands were firmly gripped.  
We walked, talked, laughed, and cried together,  
And still there was the firm grip.

Then, as years passed by,  
I let the world slip in a little at a time.  
Soon, I wasn't walking and talking  
as often with our Lord.

I realized that I missed His firm grip.  
I knelt down in prayer and asked why He had let go.  
Jesus answered and said, “I still have a firm grip.”  
“It is you who was losing your grip.”



*“And they heard the voice of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day: and Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God amongst the trees of the garden. And the LORD God called unto Adam, and said unto him, ‘Where art thou?’” - Genesis 3:8-9*

*Just like Adam and Eve in the Garden of Eden, when our relationship with God seems distant, it is not God who has left us, but we who have left Him. He is there—always—waiting for us to turn back to Him. We sometimes leave Him, but He promises that He will never leave us.*

*“. . . as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.” - Joshua 1:5*

*“And I will give them an heart to know me, that I am the LORD: and they shall be my people, and I will be their God: for they shall return unto me with their whole heart.” Jeremiah 24:7*



# Some Things Change



This "tip" was originally delivered last year on Saturday, September 11th, 2021, the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of 9/11 - By Justin Johnson, Grace Ambassadors.

Our country changed forever twenty years ago today. You may remember where you were at on 9/11/2001.

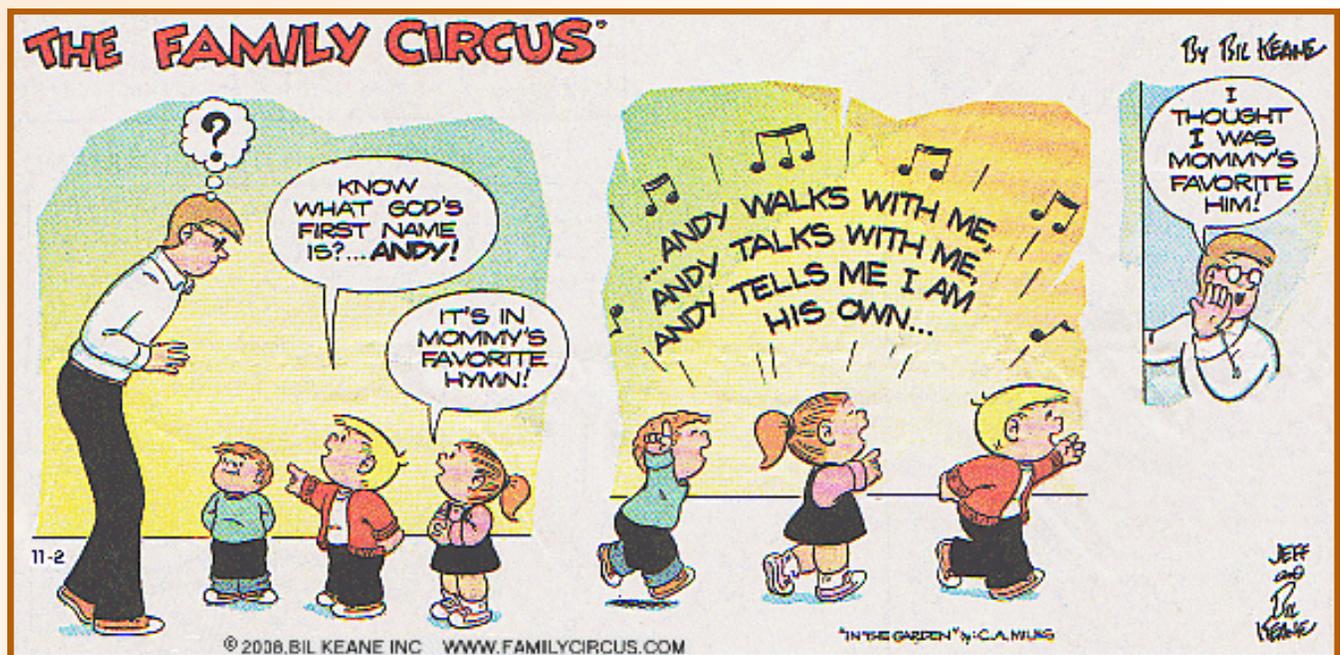
Some of you may remember how the country changed forever on November 22, 1963. If you were too young for all that, then you will always remember the year our country changed forever because of something called COVID. Life was different before.

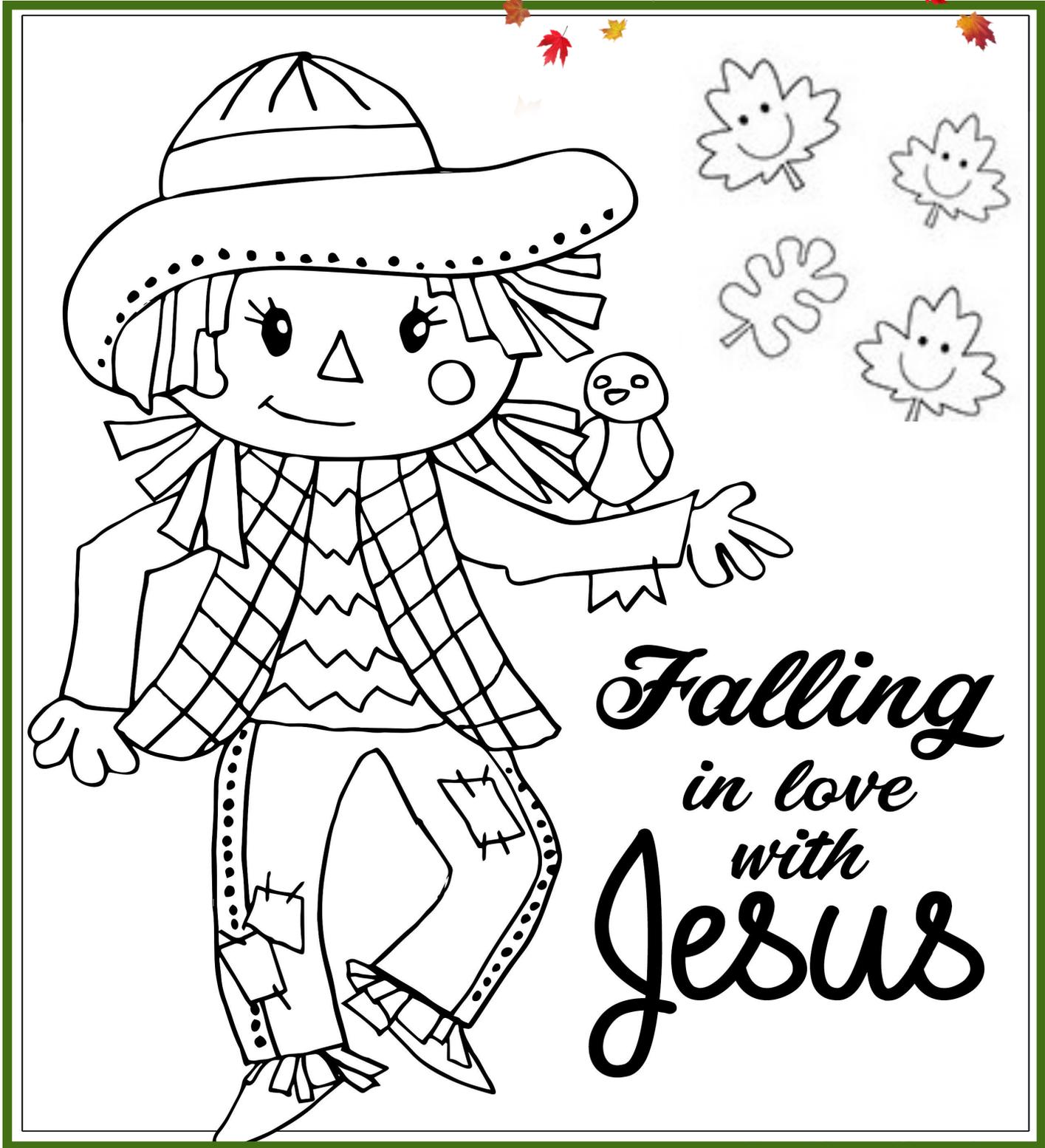
There will always be changes to the course of history, but the biggest change in your own history, if you are saved, was when you were removed from the course of this world to be quickened with Christ. That is what happened when you received God's grace by trusting the blood of Jesus Christ to pay your sin penalty and the power of his resurrection to give you eternal life.

You were on one course of the world, but now you are a new creature with a different destiny. You were dead in sins, but now you sit with Christ in heavenly places. That's a good change, and one that no course change of this world can ever take away.

We are far removed from the world we lived in 20 years ago, but we have not moved an inch away from the love of God in Christ. He is our hope: "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

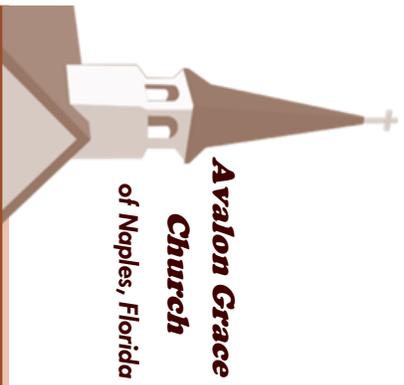
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*Falling  
in love  
with  
Jesus*

**"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me." - Galatians 2:20 KJV**



# September 2022

SUN

MON

TUE

WED

THU

FRI

SAT

1

2

3

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY  
TO YOU!**



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

**COMING IN OCTOBER**

- 2nd **9:45 AM Sunday  
Breakfast**

4

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



5

6

7

8

9

10

11

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

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

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

19

20

21

22

FALL BEGINS

23

24

25

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

26

27

28

29

30

