

Grace Tidings



A Newsletter of Avalon Grace Church

March 2021

Our Heavenly Pot of Gold

The month of March is typically reflected with green shamrocks or four leaf clovers! The legend of a pot of gold at the end of a rainbow is claimed traditionally by the Irish. They'll tell you that fairies put the gold in the pot and then the leprechauns guard it. This folklore is part of the symbolism of St. Patrick's Day, a holiday that celebrates everything green and Irish on March 17th including the hope and luck it takes to find that elusive pot of gold at the end of a rainbow.

But who wants to waste time searching for a pot of gold when we already have a glorious inheritance waiting for us in heaven?

The things of earth often bring heartache and pain - pick up any newspaper, log onto social media, or turn on TV and you'll see trouble, chaos, destruction, sadness, sickness, death, fear, and despair in every corner of the globe.

But in heaven, there's "Joy" full to the brim! So, let's take a sneak peek of our

eternal pot of gold (so to speak) that awaits us one day:

There will be perfect "Rest" and "Peace" and "Health" in heaven - no more death! *"And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes; and there shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away."* Revelation 21:4 KJV.

There is "Beauty" in heaven - sapphires, emeralds, streets (not pots) of gold . . . but gates of pearl, jasper walls, just to name a few. *"And the foundations of the wall of the city were garnished with all manner of precious stones. The first foundation was jasper; the second, sapphire; the third, a chalcedony; the fourth, an emerald; The fifth, sardonyx; the sixth, sardius; the seventh, chrysolite; the eighth, beryl; the ninth, a topaz; the tenth, a chryso-prasus; the eleventh, a jacinth; the twelfth, an amethyst."* Revelation 21:19-20 KJV



AVALON GRACE CHURCH

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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

Wednesday Evening Bible Study is

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 Heavenly Pot of Gold (Continued from Page 1)

There is an "Inheritance" in heaven too. What a comfort it is to know that we are heirs with Christ. Not because of anything we have done, but because of what our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ through His shed blood, death, burial, and resurrection, has done for us! We have an incorruptible inheritance! "...And if children, then heirs; heirs of God, and joint-heirs with Christ; if so be that we suffer with him, that we may be also glorified together...." *Romans 8:17 KJV*

We will have a "New Body" in heaven – a perfect, glorious body – how great is that? No more aches and pains, diabetes, heart disease, multiple sclerosis, stiff joints, root canals, or thinning hair! "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able even to subdue all things unto himself." *Phil. 3:20-21*

Through the eyes of John in the book of Revelation, God allows us small snippets of what treasures await us in our eternal home. There are probably no words this side of heaven to describe how we will feel, what we

will see, or if we will ever be able to grasp the love that our heavenly Father has for us. There is so much to look forward to: "...To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you, Who are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation ready to be revealed in the last time." *1 Peter 1:4-5*

Don't you just love the thought that you have a rainbow that leads - not to a pot of gold guarded by fairies - but to an overflowing blessing and reward in heaven sealed by the Holy Spirit? Our trust and faith alone in Christ alone leads to a wonderful treasure and a heavenly inheritance ... and all creation is waiting to see us: "For the earnest expectation of the creation eagerly waits for the revealing of the sons of God." *Romans 8:19*. Think about it . . . All creation is waiting to see us . . . the new Creation, kept secret from the foundation of the world!

Eternal life with Jesus is our future reality - a beautiful place that will never end: "... But as it is written, eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared

for them that love him." *1 Corinthians 2:9*

Who needs a pot of gold when we have everything in Christ Jesus! "Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ:" *Ephesians 1:3*.

Makes me think of the "unsearchable riches of Christ"; calling to mind, that unlike some fanciful tale of treasure guarded by leprechauns, Jesus Christ raised up an apostle for us gentiles. Paul says: *Whereof I was made a minister, according to the gift of the grace of God given unto me by the effectual working of his power. Unto me, who am less than the least of all saints, is this grace given, that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ; Ephesians 3:7-8.*

The mysteries Jesus gave us, by Paul, make clear the great plan of God to save those that believe in Him. No longer are they hidden from us such as mythical tales of earthly treasure.

- Pastor Phil



But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved).

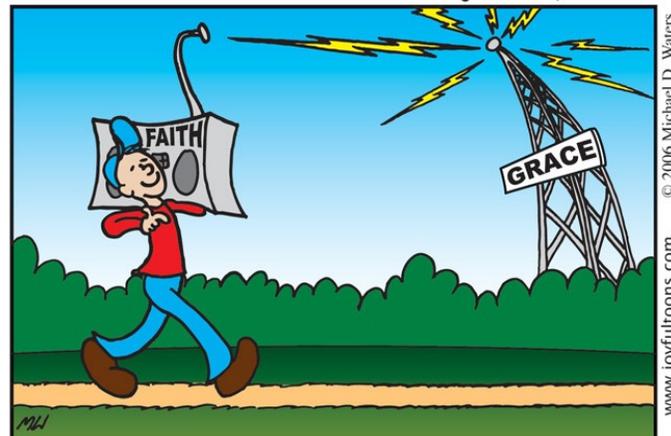
~ Ephesians 2:4-5 KJV

And he said unto me, My grace is sufficient for thee: for my strength is made perfect in weakness. Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me.

~ 2 Corinthians 12:9 KJV

GRACE RADIO

A Joyful 'toon by Mike Waters



For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God:

- EPHESIANS 2:8 KJV

Things to Come Mission



Pastor Timothy & Lori Board with their six beautiful children: Timothy, Luke, Elijah, Bethany, Grace, and Noah.

Pastor Timothy Board, Director of Development with "Things to Come Mission" was our guest speaker on Sunday, January 31, 2021. Pastor Board and his beautiful wife and family blessed the congregation with music and song at the beginning of our worship together. What a loving and warm family to visit Avalon Grace Church and share with us. We are so grateful!

Pastor Board preached a powerful and edifying message from Isaiah 6:1-8 emphasizing the joy and necessity of sharing the gospel of grace with the lost. (You can hear Pastor Board's message on our church's website for January 31st). He presented an overview of Things to Come Mission (TCM), a cooperative alliance among worldwide Grace believers in promoting the rapid spread of the gospel in the least evangelized nations —such as Brazil, Southeast Asia, Kenya, Cambodia, and others with practical ways in which believers can support TCM.

Our worship together was followed by a great time of fun, conversation, refreshment and lunch in our Fellowship Hall.

Please visit the TCM website: TCMUSA.org to learn more about the work they and many other missionaries are doing for the LORD to spread the gospel of God's grace. We hope Pastor Board and his family will return to Avalon Grace Church very soon!

March

May there always be work for your hands to do. May your purse always hold a coin or two.

***May the sun always shine on your windowpane;
May a rainbow be certain to follow each rain;***

May the hand of a friend always be near you;

May God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you.

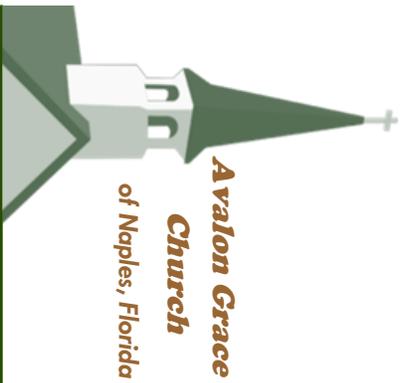
The month of March is one of those unpredictable months nation wide. Up north, the month of March may bring a welcome relief from frigid temperatures for a few days, then suddenly March will dump a foot of snow - school is cancelled - transit is shut down - followed by a day or two of mild temperatures that turn a mountain of snow into a puddle of slush. That is March. One day it is cold; the next day it is mild.

In an uncertain month like March, there is but one thing for sure about it: It is unpredictable. Down in Southwest Florida, March brings with it a few welcome cold fronts where we can open our windows and enjoy the fresh air. What a blessing! But the next day it brings humidity. Go figure!

Yet, the month of March also brings with it Daylight Savings Time (March 14th) where the sunlight lasts longer, the days seem stretched out, and Palm Sunday (March 28th) is right around the corner.

Welcome March!





March 2021



SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT

1 2 3 4 5 6

7 8 9 10 11 12 13

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

 **SPRING
AHEAD**
**TURN CLOCKS
AHEAD ONE HOUR**

14 15 16 17 18 19 20

10:30 AM Sunday
Worship
10:45 AM Children's
Sunday School
 **DAYLIGHT SAVING
TIME BEGINS**

 **ST. PATRICK'S
DAY**

21 22 23 24 25 26 27

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

**PASSOVER
BEGINS AT
SUNDOWN**

28 29 30 31 28 29 30

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

COMING IN
April 4th is Easter Sunday
and 9:30 AM
Sunday Morning Breakfast



- 2nd Mike Johnson
- 5th Deborah Stahl
- 6th Toby Stevens
- 18th Sharon Sims
- 24th Jake Sims
- 25th Mike Stevens

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