


LOOKING UP

July-August 2023



"...look up, and lift
up your heads."
Lk. 21:24

Happy Dependence Day

BY PASTOR JASON SALMI

Every year in July we celebrate THE American holiday: Independence Day. Flags fly, parades roll down our streets, and the overwhelming mood of the day is freedom and pride. For those of us who are blessed to live in the good ol' U.S.A., we can't help but also feel gratitude that we live where we live and enjoy the freedoms that we do. And we take our national independence

seriously. It is a good thing for us to be able to stand on our own, and be beholden to no other nation.

Interestingly enough, as Christians we also celebrate and are grateful for freedom, but not for independence. This may at first seem like it doesn't add up. To us, the two things simply go hand-in-hand. And it is doubtlessly true that we have freedom. Paul, in his letter to the Galatians writes, "For freedom Christ has set us free; stand firm therefore, and do not submit again to a yoke of slavery." (5:1) Though all of us were born into bondage through sin, Christ's

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Regular Schedule

Sunday

9:45 AM Sunday School
11:00 AM Worship service

Holy Communion

2nd & 4th Sunday of the month

Meal

2nd Sunday of the month

Board Meeting

7:00 PM 1st Tuesday
of the month

Ladies Bible Study

10:00 AM Wednesdays

Youth Group

TBA

Friday Night Bible Study

7:00 PM Location TBA

death on the cross has freed us. And it is true freedom. Jesus Himself declared, "So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed." (John. 8:36)

But that freedom does not come with independence, but rather dependence. As Christians living in true freedom, we live as those who are continually dependent on God for everything. In fact, the life of a Christian is marked by the growing realization of just how dependent we truly are. As we go through struggles and trials, and as we face temptations, it becomes ever more clear that we rely on God completely. And what a blessing this realization is. Instead of feeling as if we need to be able to stand on our own, we instead grow in the knowledge that it is God who works both in us and through us.

So this summer, as Americans, let's wave our flags, eat red, white, and blue popsicles and light off fireworks to celebrate our independence. And as Christians, let's offer prayers of gratitude to God for our dependence on Him. May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus, our Lord.

Looking Ahead

July 16th
Confirmation Sunday

July 18th
Red Cross Blood Drive

July 26-28
Vacation Bible School

"Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Mt. 28:19-20

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