



And Also With You

APRIL 2016

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Drive Fairhope, Alabama 36532
251-929-1606 www.visitgrace.net Facebook/GraceAnglican

APRIL

SUNDAYS

10:00 am
Worship
(nursery provided)
6:30 pm
The Union's
Worship Service

MONDAYS

10:45AM
INTERCESSORS
706-897-6381
6:30pm-Graham
Cooke Group-
Information: 455-
5940

WEDNESDAYS

10:30 am
Women's Bible
Study-Information:
990.2973

FRIDAYS

8:15 am
Men's Group-
Information:
751-5266

CHALICE BEARERS

April 3
Jane and Bob
Grafe

April 10
Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

April 17
Maggie Rockett
Susan Jones

April 24
Kitty Barksdale
Janic Terry

Forgetting What Lies Behind



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

Philippians 3:13-14 says, "Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: *Forgetting what lies behind and straining toward*

what is ahead, ¹⁴ *I press on toward the goal to win the prize* for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus."

This Lent was the most difficult of any Lent I can remember and not just for me but for many others as well. God used Lent to stretch quite a few people. For instance, during my quiet time on the Monday of Holy Week, God told me that I had several soul ties. Without going into detail, the long and the short of it was that I had been holding onto others from the past for emotional and psychological security. I was amazed by this revelation. The Lord continued by telling me that if I did not sever the soul ties, they would slow me down and could possibly hinder the ones tied to the other end as well, keeping us all from our full potential in Christ.

God was not telling me to sever relationships. He was, however, directing me to sever the dependence and codependence that had grown from these uncut soul ties.

The Lord continued by revealing that the soul ties kept me bound to past chapters of my larger story. I thought that I had closed these earlier chapters until the

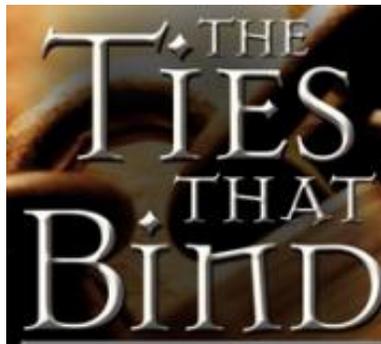
Monday of Holy Week. The Lord revealed that I had dealt with 98% of that particular chapter yet 2% remained undealt with. Cutting the remaining ties would complete the remaining 2% and finally close that portion of the story.

You would think that a person would want to close each former chapter in order to move on with life, and on one level I did. To sever these soul ties, however, meant that the business of that particular period of my life would be finally over, once and for all. The finality of the action also meant that I would now have to fully grieve various losses experienced during that time, and to feel the pain that I had postponed.

Holding on to the past prevents us from having to experience the full pain of grief. There is a finality about saying goodbye, and goodbyes can hurt. It hurts to release those who are dear to us, ones who enrich our lives. Cutting these soul ties would finalize one of the best and worst chapters of my life. Choosing not to cut them would hinder God's ongoing work in my life and create drag for future chapters yet to be written. Abraham experienced this the hard way.

Abraham grows up in Ur of the Chaldees (Babylon). God calls him to leave *both* country and family and set out for a land that He would show him. Abraham leaves his country but not his family. He takes his father and nephew with him. Both father and nephew create drag in Abraham's life...huge drag.

Later in the Abraham/Lot story, Lot



Forgetting What Lies cont'd from page 1

and family flee Sodom because of the impending doom. The angel tells Lot and family not to look back yet Lot's wife ignores the command and turns to salt. Philipians 3 exhorts us to



forget what lies behind and press on to what is ahead.

In the Gospels, a man runs up to Jesus, stating that he wants to follow Him. The man then makes a second request to *first* go and tell his parents goodbye. Jesus's response seems unduly harsh until you understand soul ties. Jesus wisely understands that the man's request is more than simply telling his family goodbye. Jesus discerns a soul tie that needs to break between the man and his family before the man can move on to the level where abundant life occurs.

You really do not want anything creating drag in your spiritual life. Life in the Spirit is like flying. You do not want anything to drag you down until you are ready to land.

When I was first taught about soul ties it was in the context of sex-



uality and inner healing. A soul tie is automatically formed with each sexual partner whether casual or significant. However, soul ties can also be formed between others outside the sexual arena. Soul ties can be emotional connections between other people and/or other circum-

stances that we do not wish to release. We want to stay connected to them because they offer a false security outside of the Lord. The problem is that soul ties are ties, and ties bind one person to another. Ties bind us to the past, creating drag in the present and the future. Paul writes, "*Forgetting what lies behind and straining toward what is ahead, ¹⁴ I press on toward the goal to win the prize*"

Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal any soul ties that might be clinging to your heart. I was surprised when He showed me mine during Holy Week, and it was a great relief to release them and have them dealt with before Easter. Blessings, Scott +



Russell Grigsby from Austin, Texas, will be the guest preacher on April 17. He will also be available for healing prayer following the service.

Saturday, April 2,
Church Clean Up Day.
8am-12noon

Bring tools and also there is some organizing on the inside needed as well. Call Bob Grafe for details. 751-5266



Garage Sale

April 9
8am-12noon

We need your "stuff" to sell at the church garage sale on Saturday, April 9 (no clothes, please). Please price the items you bring. We also need helpers. If you can volunteer please see Maggie Carnes or call 706-897-6381.

March Financials

| | |
|---------|-----------|
| Income | \$ 20,313 |
| Expense | \$ 16,826 |
| Net | \$ 3,487 |

April Birthdays

2 Kitty Barksdale

8 Cheri Kriner

16 Eddie Bals

25 Beverly Terry

27 Patricia Goldsby