



And Also With You

JULY 2016

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

When God Builds The House

JULY

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

July 3

Bob and Jane
Grafe

July 10

Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

July 17

Susan Jones
Maggie Rockett

July 24

Janic Terry
Kitty Barksdale

July 31

Maggie and
Julian Carnes



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

HG TV is a very popular television channel, featuring such shows as *Flip or Flop*, *Fixer Upper*, and *Property Brothers*. These shows have captured the nation's attention because in less than an hour

they transform nightmares into dream homes. Each episode begins with an inadequate property. Some are even disasters, yet gifted contractors and spacial designers work with each family, discovering their needs/wants, transforming their problem into the perfect home.

During the reveal the audience is shown *before* and *after* pictures. The comparison between the two is unbelievable! The *before* is terrible while the *after* is incredible.

Of course each episode includes drama. Inevitably, as the contractor demolishes parts of the original building he encounters a major, unforeseen disaster that threatens the overall plan. Each week, however, the repair outweighs the problem and its cost to the owner. It is amazing! Every time, the home owner comes out on top with an even better improvement than originally anticipated.

The deception behind HG TV is that the nightmare can be transformed into the dream home in less than an hour. Having survived just one home improvement, I can testify that it never happens in under

an hour. In fact, whatever time frame the contractor projects should be doubled and even then it can come down to the wire.

Sanctification is God's great *fixer upper*. Sanctification is when God takes you, a 1970's ranch, and transforms you into the HG TV Dream Home. Sanctification, however, does not happen in under an hour. It does not happen in a month or a year. You are a life time construction site and a hard hat is required.

If sanctification is a life time construction project, then why would anyone agree to it? The answer is because the end result is too incredible to pass up. The other reason is that justification and sanctification are not a *pick and choose*.

With one, you get the other.

Justification is when a person encounters the Lord and it changes them forever. Paul's Damascus road experience is an example.

Another justification moment is when Jesus tells Nicodemus that he must be *born again*. Justification occurs when a person surrenders to the lordship of Jesus Christ. It is the person's rebirth.

Just as with physical birth, a person does not remain an infant. Babies grow quickly, changing, cutting teeth, talking, and so on. This is *sanctification*. Sanctification is the construction zone where we are crafted into the image of Christ. The work is extensive and does not end until we breath our last. Sanctification is the great construction site where God takes



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the mess that a person makes of his life and does a full scale reno. In



doing so, Jesus builds into the finished product the special touches that are specific to each person, that en-

hance his personality and destiny. Jesus makes the impossible possible. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the ways of the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

Often a believer will blame hardships and trials on the flesh, the world and the devil when in reality it is God's improvement project. The Lord tears out a wall or uproots a floor, and it is a bigger mess than before He started. The Lord discovers that the old pipes have rusted and that new pipes are required to enable the flow of life. At other times the divine contractor insists that a new roof be added or that all the appliances be upgraded.

There are moments when we are at odds with others. There are times when we are easily offended & refuse to forgive. Welcome to the construction zone. When a person responds to a statement or problem with more energy than is necessary then probably it is a sanctifying moment. You are a work in progress. So is your neighbor! So is your spouse & children.

I am convinced that one of the main problems today with people who call themselves Christians is that

they have signed up for justification without sanctification. Sanctification is not a choice. It is gritty, painful, unbelievably costly, yet at the end of the show, *you* will be that dream home for Jesus to dwell within. So give yourself some room to handle the mess and give that to those around you as well.

Psalm 139:5a (Passion)
 "You have gone into my future to prepare the way, and in kindness You follow behind me to spare me from the harm of my past."

 July Birthdays
 4 Jerry Schussler
 24 Anita Sharpless
 25 Robin Smith
 31 Maggie Carnes 
 31 Sandy Penton


 Grace Church is live streaming the sermon each Sunday. Video and audio recordings of the sermons, can be found anytime at visitgrace.net.
 To the right is Bob Grafe watching Sunday's sermon on his ipad.



 July 10
 Missionary Guest Preacher:
 The Rev. Matt Riley
 Katie and Matt Riley are Grace Church's missionaries to France. They will be in the U.S. for several weeks, spending July 10 at Grace. They have finished their assignment in Luneville (near Germany) and are moving to Pontivey (directly under Britain/Wales). Although natives of Iowa, the Rileys consider Grace to be their spiritual home because of the prayer and financial support you have shown them. Also it was at Grace that Matt was interviewed and approved for the priesthood some years ago. Before moving to France, Matt was the rector of St. Paul's, Panama City, FL. Katie and Matt are marvelous evangelists as well as amateur wine connoisseurs! Matt was once asked his secret to his success as an evangelist and he replied, "Katie's Casse-roles and a bottle of wine." Through food and celebration the Rileys have presented the gospel of Christ to Muslims, the French, and even Gypsies.

