



# And Also With You

MID-AUGUST 2016

Grace Anglican Church 817 Estella Street Fairhope, Alabama 36532  
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## The Pharisee Within



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

I grew up an evangelical for which I am grateful. I was taught Scripture, moral behavior, how to welcome Christ into my life, and then how to mature as a believer. The Christian boy's school, my church, and family became a

three strand cord that was not easily broken. As I matured in Christ I also developed an appreciation for the Sacramental and charismatic influences on the Church's story as well. I have often thought of myself as a *Crock Pot Christian* (not *Crack Pot* as some of you are thinking) where God threw a variety of components into the slow cooker of life & out I popped.

The above reasons are why the Anglican Mission appeals to me. Its logo consists of three streams: The Sacred (sacramental), Scripture (evangelical), & the Spirit (charismatic).

Here I want to focus on the evangelical stream. Because I am one I can both embrace and critique it without malice. I write this to other evangelicals who might, at times, be caught with the vortex of what I call the *Pharisee within*.

What the evangelical influence brings to the table is a reverence for God's Word, the importance of obeying it, moral behavior, and specific disciplines that are designed to mature a person in Christ. Evangelicals are, as a whole, pretty disciplined believers. They know from Scripture the importance of tithing, the absolute necessity of having a daily quiet time with God, and the importance of maintaining one's behavior.

The problem is that disciplines that train us as children can sometimes oppress us as adults. I have ben having a quiet time most mornings now for literally fifty years. Evangelicals, like Pharisees, can become proud of such accomplishments. However, the rub is that if I have been doing this for fifty years then I probably should be much farther along than I am! You would be amazed at what the Pharisee within accuses me of. "You only read Scripture this morning. You did not pray, therefore the spiritual equation is not going to work & you are going to have a bad day!" Or, "You did not have your quiet time a single day you were in Israel this year (I confess, the time change just blew that to pieces!) therefore God is not going to love you as much until you start having a decent quiet time again."

What about giving? Most dedicated evangelicals give ten percent of their income to the Lord's work. A devout evangelical surrenders ten percent of each pay check, birthday money, inheritances, windfalls, etc. that occur in life without looking back. That is my practice yet the Pharisee within accuses me with, "Yes, you tithed but you did not give *offerings* over and above your tithe." (I am thinking, "Oh crud. haven't I given enough already!")

There can be all these rules if you are an evangelical. In reality, this is true of other Christian groups as well—take Roman Catholics, Charismatics, and those from the Reformed tradition for instance. We all have rules that dictate the spiritual life and our thoughts. You have to really behave and if you blow it in your thought life, never tell anyone because we must always look *victorious in Jesus*. If you blow it, cover it up so that others do not stumble over our faults. It is hard having a Pharisee within.



## AUGUST

### 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

August 7  
Jane and Bob  
Grafe

August 14  
Becky Johnson  
Jan Bogue

August 21  
Maggie Rockett  
Susan Jones

August 28  
Kitty Barksdale  
Janic Terry

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The good news is that the older I get the better and worse I become. I get worse according to the Pharisee within but better because all I can do is throw myself at the foot of the cross and experience grace. Maybe this is why when the woman is caught in adultery and Jesus challenges the crowd who will cast the first stone the oldest leave first—I get that now!

Who did Jesus have the most problems with—the Pharisees. They were the most Biblically literate and moral group of Jesus' day yet they had no clue about grace. Grace is a fearful thing. Grace be-

lieves that God loves me in spite of my behavior, choices, thoughts or words on any given day. Law is comforting because I am in control because there are rules. I can break them or keep them, but I am in control. With grace I have no such control. I am at the mercy of the most loving being in the universe. It seems too good to be true.

The problem with grace is that we think that if the person who gives grace knows the *real* me then he would certainly never give it. The problem with grace is that you cannot earn it and that we live in a fallen world where there are no *free lunches*. Then Jesus comes along. He tells us that He loves us even when we do not have our quiet times, and even if we do not give special offerings or tithe, and even when we step out of line morally by thought or deed. That is pretty hard to accept. This is authentic goodness at its purest & how much goodness is really out there?

The bottom line is that the Pharisee within has nothing to do with evangelicals, but it is once again the disguised, lying voice of our accuser. When you hear the accusations, whether your Pharisee is evangelical, Roman Catholic, or charismatic, tell it to be quiet because you have been set free by grace! It is a new and scary world, but so much better.



Congratulations to Sue Anne and Scott Davis on the birth of their grandson, Finnegan (Finn) Scott Davis in Meridian, Mississippi on 8/8/16.

**LIVE STREAMING**

Each Sunday at 10am  
[www.visitgrace.net](http://www.visitgrace.net) and check out Facebook/  
 GraceAnglican.

July 2016 Finances

Income	\$19,480
Expenses	\$16,903
Net	\$ 2,577

Father Scott will be painting the sanctuary Thursday, August 25. He hates to tape and cut, however, so if either of these or if you love to roll then please are then join him! You may discover that painting is one of your spiritual gifts!



Our thanks to Connie Murfin and Becky Johnson for their part in making the front-side garden so lovely. Becky gave us the monkey grass and Easter lilies and Connie has provided the caladiums. If you have a green thumb and want to be a part of beautifying the church grounds contact Becky Johnson at 223-6287.

Live Streaming Stats for the last 2 months (Totals):  
 Facebook page views: 1,249  
 Live Sermon Views: 39  
 Archive Sermon Views: 214  
 YouTube Viewers:  
 US-98.4%  
 India-1.2%  
 United Kingdom-.2%  
 Jamaica-.1%  
 Ireland-.1%  
 YouTube Viewers:  
 Male-71% Female-29%

Our thanks to Ovie Moore and The Union who purchased a new computer and screen for the projector/power point ministry in the sound booth.