



And Also With You

SEPTEMBER 2016

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

Righteousness-A New Twist

SEPTEMBER

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

September 4
Bob and Jane
Grafe

September 11
Becky Johnson
Jan Bogue

September 18
Susan Jones
Maggie Rockett

September 25
Janic Terry
Kitty Barksdale



The Rev. M. Scott Davis

Several months ago I asked the Lord to teach me about righteousness. The backstory to righteousness is that I wanted Him to teach me something about which I had little *heart* knowledge. I am a concrete processor, and therefore one of the reasons I often teach from the Old Testament. It is said that abstract thinkers are drawn to the New Testament while concrete processors gravitate to the Old.

Because I am a concrete thinker, I have had difficulty relating certain abstract truths to a concrete world. I understand what the abstract concepts such as *grace, faith, and righteousness* mean, or I would not have graduated from seminary. What they actually are, however, is another matter. If the Lord would teach me about *righteousness* then it would be both interesting and insightful in ways that my academic understanding of *righteousness* have not been.

The Lord began by reminding me that He was the Word and that because He was the Word He enjoyed *play on words*. He enjoyed the etymology of words. He loved to reveal words within words. The word within *righteousness* that I did understand was the word *right*. I was reminded that when a person was *righteous* then he was *right* with God, himself, and others. When a person was *righteous*, he fit wherever he happened to be.

Eden is God's Plan A. It is a perfect world where everything not only fits but is also in sync with everything else, including the flow of energy that moves from life to life regardless if it is plant, animal, or human life. Everything in Eden connects harmoniously, dancing to the perfect rhythm of LIFE. It is no wonder that when Jesus arrives on the scene He says, "I am LIFE!" When we are in Christ we again move

with that other worldly, graceful rhythm rather than the spasmodic, jerks and lurching of the present age.

I had relegated *righteousness* to the repair for the sin problem and the correcting of bad behavior. *Righteousness* does repair the sin problem and fixes bad behavior. However, *righteous* is more. It is being *right* with God (once again) as He restores to us what broke in Eden. *Righteousness* makes a person right with himself which is what the world continues to struggle with. *Righteousness* is about fitting correctly within the world around us, and yet *righteousness* is still more. *Righteousness* is finding our specific place within the universe and fitting into the perfect slot made flawless for us by Christ and His cross.

Because of the fall we were expelled from all that was *right*. We broke. Everything went awry and became very wrong. Life was no longer the beautiful dance that ebbed and flowed on this terrestrial dance floor, but instead morphed into the raucous cacophony of chaos we now experience. Utopia became dystopia.

The Lord revealed that *righteousness* is actually closer to the New Age movement than believers might be comfortable with. He made it clear that the New Age is not *righteousness* but that New Agers understand that there is an energy force larger than themselves, flowing in harmony throughout creation. New Agers understand that all life is connected. The one important missing piece for the New Age, however, is actually THE key piece—Jesus, in whom we live and move and have our very being! The New Age, therefore, understands certain aspects of the real while not being the real because the real can only be found in Jesus and His work on the cross. It is only in Christ that a person harmonizes with their place in the world. As a believer, I am now the *righteousness* of God in Christ Jesus (2 Cor 5:21). God's Word says that, in Him, I am the correct piece even if the puzzle is wrong,



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and it is at this point that God can cause all things to work together for our good when we love Him and are called according to His purpose. Because of Jesus' once and for all sacrifice, we are made *right*. Mission becomes God sending us, His *right* pieces, into *wrong* places of the world so that the *wrong* might become *right*. Anytime something ceases to be *right* then it needs *righteousness*. Sickness is when something is not *right* with the body. The Lord told me to pray *righteousness* when praying healing prayers for the sick—that the not *right* part of the body might become *right*



through the cross. *Righteousness* is more than dealing with the sin problem. It is about the *un-right* problem. In the *Chronicles of Narnia*, Mr. Beaver describes Aslan as the one who sets *wrongs to right*. That is *righteousness*.

The Lord further directed me to Isaiah 64:6 which says that our *right-ness* is as filthy rags. In other words, *our right* (without God) is still badly wrong. My puzzle piece cannot fit into the world's puzzle as I am. I need Christ's *rightness* to fit. When I come under His blood, I obtain that *rightness*, which allows me to interact with all of creation in a way that I could not before.

When walking into a building that has peeling paint, moldy carpet, and in obvious need of care, it means that something is not *right*. It is not the way it was intended to be. When you drive a car with mechanical problems, use an out dated computer, or have to deal with broken tools, they lack their original *rightness*, making them difficult or even impossible to harmonize with life. When you have a bad day it is because everything goes *wrong*. This is where our understanding of *righteousness* can take on new meaning with fresh possibilities. In Christ I become *right*. Because of Jesus, wherever I place my foot becomes *right*. The *right* is not my own, but the irrevocable gift God gives to me—*righteousness*.

Telling The Story

July 10, Missionary Matt Riley preached from Acts 13 which inspired a 7 part preaching series by Scott entitled, "Telling The Story". These 7 elements are meant to help you deal with "your congregation". At any one time the people in your congregation will be in one of these 7 areas. Here are the 7 parts of the story in a nutshell. Acts 13: 17-25

- Egypt—our BC years when we were slaves to an evil king from whom God liberates us
- Wilderness—the reprogramming from slave think to freedom think which prepares us to trust God in difficult situations
- The Promised Land—entering our destiny which requires fighting giants and securing what is ours in Christ
- Judges—when grace is taken for granted and when a person lives contrary to God's word and will then it opens to door to oppression
- King Saul—attempting to live the Christian life via the soul rather than the spirit
- King David—Being more than a conqueror in Christ, ruling life through God's Spirit within us
- John the Baptist—Jesus increases in my life while my old self decreases; our purpose is to prepare the way of the Lord!

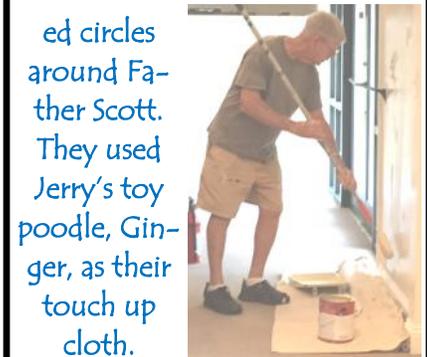
Our thanks again to Connie Murfin and Becky Johnson for



prepping the other front garden.



Thanks to Jerry Schussler who painted the sanctuary with Scott on 8/25 & 8/26. At 82, Jerry paint-



ed circles around Father Scott. They used Jerry's toy poodle, Ginger, as their touch up cloth.

September Birthdays

- 5 Pat Jackson
- 5 Chris Jones
- 5 The Rev. Dr. Millard Box (100!)
- 8 Forrest Huhn
- 16 Julian Carnes
- 29 Ruth England

