

*Then He called the crowd to Him along
with His disciples and said:*



“Whoever wants to be my
disciple must **deny**
themselves and **take up** their
cross and **follow me.**”

Mark 8:34 (NIV)

Great Swamp Baptist Church

February 12, 2017

Great Swamp Baptist Church

February 12, 2017
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Prelude

Call To Worship

Hymn # 206 *“Blessed Be the Name”*

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invocation

Wilbur Daley

WMU Focus Emphasis

Selections of Praise & Worship

“Shout To The Lord”

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory

Special Music

WMU Ladies Choir

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction



Today:
Dorthie Armstrong
Krey Lowther

Next Week:
Latrelle Steedly
Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers



Today:
Pam Stanley
Olivia

Next Week:
Pat Bryan
Alice Way



Toll Committee
For February
Bernice Malphrus & Bonnie Pope

DEACON OF THE WEEK :

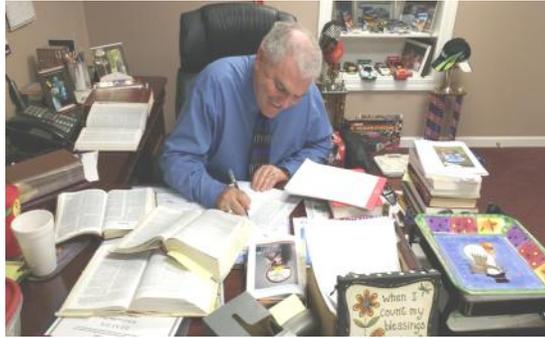


Today:
Wilbur Daley
843-305-0110

Next Week:
Bjo Mills
843-271-2840



**IF YOUR DEACONS
 CAN MINISTER TO YOU IN ANY WAY,
 CALL THE CHURCH @ 726-3631**



From Pastor Ralph's Desk: **Deciding What Is Right**

(Mark 7:1-23)

Intro: Of course pointing out how Jesus dealt with issues is always the right way to determine how we are to deal with the issues of life. For Jesus always did everything right. He made all the right decisions, right choices and said all the right things. He also, always, had all the right thoughts. So, the question is how did Jesus always get it right? How did He always know what was right to do, say, or think? It is so important that we understand the answer to this question. For we live in a time in which we are so divided and so at odds with one another, that we aren't always sure what is right anymore. We can't decide which professor, politician or even pastor we should agree with any more.

Well, I believe that Jesus always got it right because He always followed the Word of God. Psalm 119:9-16 tells us how a young person can keep their life pure, overcome temptations and always do the right thing. Verse nine alone sums up the verses when it says, "How can a young man keep his way pure? By living according to your Word..." Well, that is exactly what Jesus did, he lived according to God's Word. For Matthew 5:17 reveals to us that in every way Jesus fulfilled the Word of God. In verse 17, Jesus said, "Do not think that I have come to abolish the law or the prophets; I have come not to abolish them but to fulfill them" and fulfill them, He did. That is how He always was right about everything.

We, too, must understand that if we are going to decide what is right and do what is right, then we must start listening to and following the Word of God. It alone is to be our true source of authority for all things we deal with in life.

Jesus gives us an example in our Scripture text for understanding that what God's Word says is what will lead us to always do the right thing. For in our text, Jesus condemns the religious leaders for not doing that right thing because of the very thing we've been talking about. So, let us examine this text to see how we decide what is right.

I. First, deciding what is right does not always come from the traditions of men.

In our text, the religious leaders are questioning Jesus about His disciple's failure to follow the traditions of the elders when it comes to washing their

hands before eating. The religious leaders washed their hands and dishes before they ate as a ceremonial act before God that would make them clean in God's sight. It had nothing to do with hygiene purposes but rather as a means of making one clean in God's sight.

Well, Jesus condemned their actions. For He says that they were choosing the traditions of men over the teachings of the Word of God. No where does the Scripture teach that by washing your hands externally will by any means cleanse you internally.

So, just because something has been with us for a long time and we have always done it that way, does not mean that it is always Godly, good or right. It can be, if as long as it doesn't contradict the Word of God. Don't, however, make the mistake of choosing something just because Grandma or Grandpa did. Rather, make sure the Word of God takes precedent over the traditions of men. Sadly, many Churches have split or even died because they chose to stick with men's traditions over God's Word.

II. Second, deciding what is right does not always come from the scholars of men.

This tradition that the Pharisees were following was passed down to them by the Elders. Now, the Elders represent the religious leaders from the past. These men were Rabbi's in the past. They would have been the Scholars of their past as well. So, just because a person has a degree or holds a high, important post, does not mean that their teachings are going to be automatically right.

Americans for the most part have thrown out their skills of what we call critical thinking. By this I mean we say that if a person holding a degree in a certain category, says something about their specialty, we've got to accept it because they are the experts. A lot of times that can be true, however, sadly we've just come to the place to accept most all of their findings just because they say so. Well, Jesus did not buy into that logic of thinking. He plain outright told the religious leaders that He

was speaking with, that this tradition that had been handed down to them from the religious scholars of the past, was wrong and was wrong because it was unbiblical.

Therefore, before we decide that something is right, let us make sure that we don't do it simply because it came from a scholarly person. Let us always make sure first, that whatever the so called wise leaders from the past and present say about anything, that it doesn't contradict the Word of God. For no human being ever has or ever will be wiser or smarter than God.

Let's be reminded of the words of Paul speaking in I Corinthians 1:24-25, "but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God. For the foolishness of God is wiser than man's wisdom and the weakness of God is stronger than man's strength." God's wisdom is revealed to us in His Word and His Word will point us to Christ who is total and complete wisdom. I don't know about you but I choose the wisdom of God over men's.

III. Third, deciding what is right does not always fulfill the desires of men.

So, Jesus reveals another way in our text that their religious leaders were ignoring the Word of God and therefore were not doing what is right. Rather, they were doing exactly the opposite. He reminded them that the Word of God commanded them to honor their parents and to not curse their parents. However, again following some traditions of men, they used a teaching called corban. Basically, this teaching of men said that if your parents were in need of help and you had the means to help them but you did not want to because you desired to keep for yourself what they needed, then you could declare this teaching in which you dedicate whatever the thing is that your parents needed to God for His service, then you could keep it and be seen as not dishonoring your parents because you were keeping it just in case God may need it. When all along they really just selfishly wanted to help keep it for themselves or they just didn't want to help their parents, regardless.

So, to fulfill their own desired they follow the traditions of men instead of the Word of God and therefore they end up completely on the wrong side not the right. It is the same for us when we are deciding what is right, we must again understand that just because it feels good; or it looks right; or it is what I desire; or it is what I want; doesn't make it right. We must always measure our feelings, our desires, our wants up to the Word of God and if they don't measure up, then we must choose God's Word if we want to be right.

IV. Fourth, deciding what is right does always give honor to God.

Jesus told these religious leaders that they only honored Him with their lips. However, their hearts and their lives didn't honor Him at all. Now the reason for this was because they chose the traditions of men over the Word of God. For the Word of God was designed to always give glory to God.

These religious leaders were teaching religion that honored the abilities of men over the abilities of God. The Scriptures from the beginning taught that man has severely failed and sinned and come short of God's glory. However, they were teaching that through the traditions of the Elders, you could make yourself right with God. You yourself could accomplish righteousness. They forgot one thing that a sinner could never make himself right with God because he is a sinner. Only God could actually make us right. Only what He did by sending His Son to save us can make us right. Therefore only He deserves the glory. So, if you want to be right and decide right, choose the Word of God and ultimately you will honor God for it honors God.

V. Finally, deciding what is right requires help from the Spirit of God.

These men were choosing the traditions of men over the Word of God because they did not have the Spirit of God to guide them along in their study of God's Word, and tragically they did not have the Holy Spirit because they had never been saved. That is why they were unclean even then they washed before they ate. For it takes the blood of Jesus to wash away our sins and give us forgiveness and without forgiveness you can not have God's Holy Spirit living within us.

So, if you want to decide what is right, then you need to follow God's Word. If you want to follow God's Word, you need the Holy Spirit of God. To receive His Holy Spirit you must be saved by the blood of Jesus Christ who alone can cleanse you completely. So, today deciding what is right always begins with God's Word which will lead you to Jesus, who will give you His Spirit to understand and follow God's Word. That is how you decide what is right.

*Jesus Love You
Ralph Lee, Jr.*

BAPTIST MEN'S WEEKEND

SAT & SUN - MARCH 4th & 5th

SAT MAR 4th @ 6pm

**MEN'S SUPPER
and FELLOWSHIP**
at Great Swamp



SUN MAR 5th @ 11am
BAPTIST MEN'S DAY

with guest speaker

Reiny Koschel

Associational Missionary

from the

Laurens Baptist Association



WMU SUNDAY, FEB. 12th

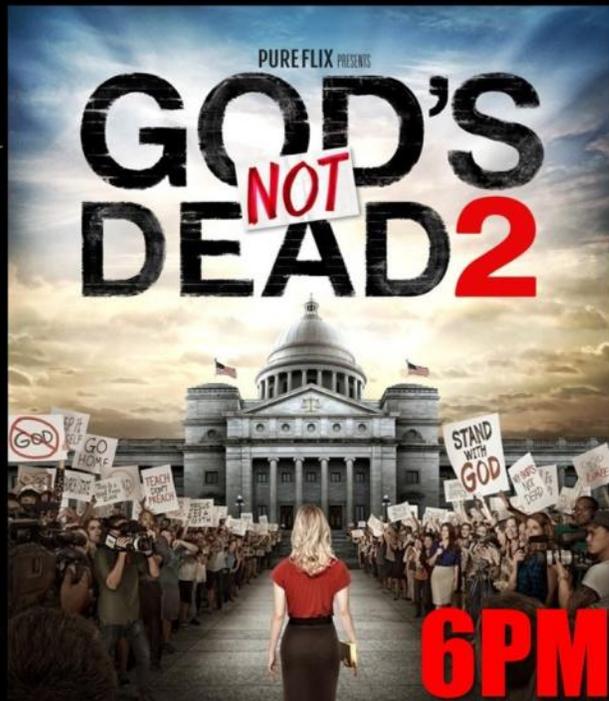
Great Swamp Baptist Church

FAMILY, FOOD, FUN, FELLOWSHIP, FLICK, and FUNDRAISER

COMING TO



**FEB
19th**



6PM

If you can, bring finger foods.
We will also be accepting monetary donations
to build up our Benevolence Fund to help those in need.



Right to Life

Baby Bottle Ministry
Ends: 02/12/2017

February 12th Callie Malphrus

*February 14h Allen Malphrus
Jordan Moser*

February 16th Alex Sineath

February 17th Kris Goethe

*February 18th Steven Lang
Luke May
Leah May*



*February 11th
Rodney & April Malphrus*

*February 10th
Tom & Connie Benton*

GSBC Prayer Pages February 12, 2017

*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons
Child Dev. Ministries*

Church Needs
*Sunday School
Small Groups
SFCA-Donna Carter*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
Nominating Committee*

Leadership
*President Donald Trump
United States of America*

Unspoken
Chet Egerdahl & Family

Bereavement
*Family Of
Virginia Wells*

Hospitals
*Barbara Jones-Greenville Hosp.
Virginia Bell Annas-JC Lewis Center
Harold Stanley-St. Joseph's*

Expecting / Births

Nursing Centers
*Elaine Degler-RNC
Wofford Malphrus-Effingham
County Rehab. Center
Harriot Lawson-RNC*

Surgery / Recovery
*Brian Freeman (1/19)
Brandy Freeman (2/8)
Bobby Etheridge (1/12)
Annette Malphrus (1/19)
Rose Boyles (1/19)
Linda Stanley (1/19)
Gary Breland (1/19)
Ronnie Lafler (1/25)
Mike Hodge (2/8)
Alice Way (2/8)*

Cancer / Treatments

*Barry Jones (1/12)
Dale Robiston (2/8)
Mack Pope, Sr. (2/8)
Mitzi Cramer (2/8)
Erma Steedly (1/26)
Bess Parnell (2/2)*

Called to Ministry
Chris Carter & Family

Other Health Needs

*Jimmie Cleland (2/8)
Duane Armstrong (1/12)
Harold Stanley (1/12)
Gail Hubbard (1/12)
McKenzie Cooler (1/19)
Leonard Steedly (1/26)
Baby Kadence Abney (2/1)
E.L.Ambrose (2/2)
Truett Vaigneur (2/8)
Becky Floyd (2/8)*

*Linda Stanley (1/12)
Annette Adler (1/17)
Zoe Sluery (1/17)
Ron Davis (1/19)
Truett Vaigneur (1/19)
Betty Robinson (1/19)
Madison Cooler (1/19)
Teekie Garbade (1/19)
Pat Azzarelli (1/19)*

Pray For Our Military



Bobby Emerson- Fort Hood-Army

Jared Blanton-Home

Matthew Mills-Parris Island

If you have someone who needs listing, call either the church office a@726-3631 or E.L. Ambrose @ 726-5479.

Thank You

Please Continue To Remember

*Ricky Cleland
Mike Hodge
Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Susan L. Vaigneur
Lula Floyd
Mary Cope
Judy Smith
Jeffrey Stanley
Joyce Sutler*

*Dot Nettles
Betty Nettles
Tom Hinely
Olivia Stanley
Lois Bootle
Lane Malphrus
Grace Boyles
Patricia Malphrus
Scott Boyles
Brian Freeman*

*Myrtle Rowell Smith
Billie Langford
Gary Way
Christy Gagel
Vera Miles
Mary Daley
Leonard Steedly
Barbara Mills
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.
Lanell Smith*



To develop an effective prayer life, you must overcome wandering thoughts. If you have difficulty concentrating as you pray, defeat the enemy by praying aloud instead of silently. Putting your thoughts into words and praying then aloud, even a whisper, helps you free your mind of what you're doing. .

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team

Group II

*Barbara Mills-Leader
Betty Robertson*

**Watchman Prayer Service
Saturdays @ 8:00am**

Prayer Note

*For emergencies
a prayer chain
is available for needs.*

*You may access
by calling the
church @ 726-3631
Or*

E.L. Ambrose @ 726-5479

Announcements



S.O.F.F.E.

*Today, February 12th
Following Morning Worship Service*



Deacon's Meeting
Monday, February 13th



**The Quilting Club is meeting in the
Old Parsonage**
Thursday, February 16th @ 10:00am



Watchman Prayer Group
Saturday, February 18th @ 8:00 am



Gifts

*A gift of \$50.00 was given to the SFCA Gymnasium Fund in
Memory of Ellree Keiffer.*

*A gift of \$50.00 was given to the Seniors Fund in Memory of
Ellree Keiffer.*

Great Swamp Baptist Church
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 Office - 726-3631 Fax - 726-3294
 Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
 Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com

Church Staff

Pastor: **Rev. Ralph Lee, Jr.**.....jehu27@gmail.com
 Music Director: **Richard Waitt**.....waittfamily@embarqmail.com
 Sunday School Director: **Wallace Malphrus**.....Josie6@embarqmail.com
 Pianist: **Michelle Waitt**.....waittfamily@embarqmail.com
 Administrative Assistant: **Sybil Reynolds**.....greatswampbc@gmail.com
 School Administrator: **Donna Carter**.....dcarter@hargray.com
 Custodian: **Ann Malphrus**.....ramalphrus@hargray.com
 Landscaper: **Wallace Malphrus**.....Josie6@embarqmail.com

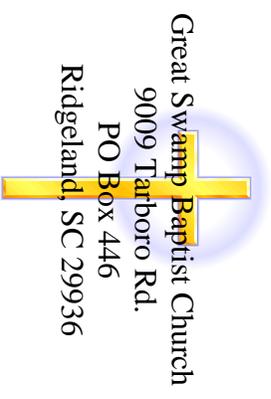
Calendar of Events

For
 February 12th through February 18th

Sunday Morning Breakfast (September thru May Only)..... 8:30AM
 Sunday School..... 9:45AM
 Morning Worship..... 11:00AM
 Evening Worship..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Supper (September thru May Only)..... 6:00PM
 Wednesday Night Service..... 7:00PM
 Saturday Watchman Prayer..... 8:00AM

Stewardship

Budget Offerings	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>	\$6,040.00	\$ 4,943.56	+\$1,096.44
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>SMB</i>	\$69.00	*****	\$548.95
<i>WNS</i>	\$148.00	*****	\$772.70
<i>Seniors Fund</i>	\$50.00	*****	\$389.20
<i>Gleaners SS Class</i>	\$94.00	*****	\$217.10
<i>Annie Armstrong Offering</i>	\$25.00	*****	\$27.02
<i>SFCA Gymnasium</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$100.00
<i>George Pepper Scholarship</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$1,288.03
<i>Dot Lee Scholarship</i>	\$25.00	*****	\$335.00



Great Swamp Baptist Church
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