



Great Swamp Baptist Church

February 5, 2017

Great Swamp Baptist Church

February 5, 2017
Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Prelude

Call To Worship

“Chain Breaker”

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invocation

Duane Armstrong

Selections of Praise & Worship

“Ten Thousand Reasons”

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory Special

Sadie O’Connor

“Thy Will”

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction

*A brief Vacation Bible School Meeting
will follow this Morning Services.*



Today:
Cassandra Bradley
Krey Lowther

Next Week:
Dorthie Armstrong
Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers



Today:
Cassandra Bradley
Evelyn

Next Week:
Pam Stanley
Olivia



Toll Committee
For February
Bernice Malphrus & Bonnie Pope

DEACON OF THE WEEK :

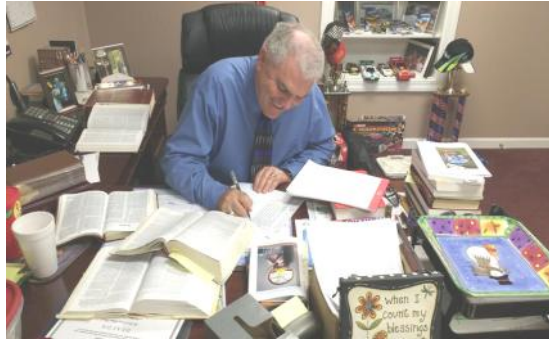


Today:
Duane Armstrong
843-726-6795

Next Week:
Wilbur Daley
843-305-0110



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



From Pastor Ralph's Desk: **The Biblical View of Death**

Intro: January 27, 2017 was a great day of hope for America. On that day upwards of nearly 500,000 people gathered in our nations capitol to march for life as they have done so for 43 years before. However, this year something happened that hasn't happened in the years before. What happened was that two representatives from the newly elected presidential administration spoke in person at the event. They came out to assure all that were present and to assure our country that the newly elected administration from the President to all of his staff will stand up and fight for life from the womb to the tomb. This was a breath of fresh air for our nation. For we have become a culture of death. Since Roe vs Wade, almost 58 million babies have been destroyed in and sadly just outside of their mother's womb.

Now again, I am going to use the word sadly and tragically because of this culture of death from legalized abortions, we have also began to focus on it in so many other ways. This is seen in our obsession of movies and video games focus on death in gory ways, and even more sadly is it seen in our rate of murders and suicides.

So, the question is how can we become a nation once again that focuses on life and not death? Well, one of the answers which we will examine is to understand the Biblical view of death. To understand what the Bible truly teaches about death will indeed encourage us to focus on life. By no means will we cover everything on the topic but we will hit many of the high notes.

I. First, to understand the Biblical view of death, we must understand the reason why we even have death?

Well the answer to this question is really not news to any of us who are Christians. However, even though it is not new to us who are Believers, it is often overlooked when we are dealing with the subject of death. The answer is found in several places but let us begin where it actually begins in the Bible. In Genesis 2:15-17, we find the first mention of death in the Bible. God warned the first couple He created, Adam and Eve, to not eat from the tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil for if they did they would surely die. Of course, we know that they did

exactly what He warned them not to do in Genesis 3. at the encouragement of Satan, they ate from the tree God warned them not to and immediately two things happened. First, they died spiritually. Their sin immediately broke off their relationship with God. Second, the process of physical death began. Had they not sinned, they would have not lost their relationship with God and they would have not died physically as well. So, what the Scriptures clearly show is that the reason why we die is not because God wanted us to or because it is natural, rather, it happened and continues to happen because we are all sinners and the consequences of sin is death.

Romans 6:23 says, "for the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Jesus Christ our Lord." So what we get paid for being born a sinner is death but in contrast, God gives life through Jesus Christ. Also, who are the sinners" well, Romans 3:23 answers that question, "For all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God." Since all have sinned at some point, all will die.

However, it is important to remember that spiritually apart from Christ, all though they live, they are already dead spiritually to God. In Ephesians 2:1-2, Paul reminds the Believers at Ephesus that, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the rulers of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient." So, he reminded them, that until they got saved through Christ, their sins had made them dead to God. Let us not forget why death happens and that will help us focus on life for death happens because of something bad, our sins.

II. Second, to understand the Biblical view of death, we must understand the realm from which we have death.

In other words, where did death come from to begin with? Who is it that encouraged us to step out of the realm of life and into the realm of death, which he inhabits and will for the rest of eternity? Well, the Scriptures are clear about this as well. From the first sin committed in the Bible and throughout the rest of the Bible to its very last pages and in the present, the

one who is tempting all to sin and enter the realm of death with him is none other than Satan himself. Genesis 3:1-7 says that Satan involved Adam and Eve in his realm of death by making them believe that if they ate from the tree God had told them not to, that they wouldn't die. You see, Satan works hard to make you believe that his realm is not the realm of death and darkness but once you are sucked in it you discover that that is what his realm is completely about, death. For he died to God in his rebellion and God kicked him and a third of the angels out of glory and ever since all he has been doing is spreading his realm of death all over. It is Satan's ambition to continue to encourage mankind to stay in sin and away from Christ so that he can keep them with him in the realm of death for eternity. In Hebrews 2:14-15 that, "since the children have flesh and blood, He, too, shared in their humanity so that by His death, He might destroy him who holds the power of death-that is the devil- and free those who all their lives were held in slavery by their fear of death. For surely it is not angels he helps, but Abraham's descendants.

Also we read again, from Ephesians 2:1-2, "As for you, you were dead in your transgressions and sins, in which you used to live when you followed the ways of this world and of the ruler of the kingdom of the air, the spirit who is now at work in those who are disobedient."

So, as we can see the Scriptures are quite clear that Satan's realm is the realm of sin and death. We must keep that thought present at all times so that we don't fall into his traps which only always lead to death in some form or fashion. For the Scriptures tell us in John 8:44 that Satan was a murderer from the beginning....

The great news is that when you surrender your life to Jesus, you are walking in the realm of life and light. For Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth and the life..." He also said that, "I am the light of the world. I choose life over death and light over darkness, because I choose Christ." How about you?

III. Third, to understand the Biblical view of death, we must understand the real way we define death.

Now, I believe that this is one that we as Christians have not quite come to grips with for a couple of reasons. First, we think of the passage of Scripture in Ecclesiastes 3:1-8. these set of verses basically describes the human experience through time segments that happen in our lives. The very first time segment mentioned goes like this, "there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under heaven: a time to be born and a time to die..." vs 1-2. now, when you read those verses, it almost sounds like that it means that death is just a natural experience of our lives. Well that is the way the world basically looks at

death. It is just a natural process.

However, Ecclesiastes 3:1-8 is not necessarily telling us that that is the way it is suppose to be. Rather, it is just telling us that that is what we experience, and that is true. It is what we experience. However, we experience death not because it is natural but rather because of the consequences of our sins. God's intention for us was not death and it therefore is not natural but unnatural.

I. Corinthians 15:20-26 says we are shown the real way we should define death. We are told clearly that death is not natural, nor is our friend. Rather, we are told that death is our enemy, and it is the last enemy that Jesus Christ our Lord will completely destroy. So, it is not something to be grateful for, excited about and rejoice over.

The second reason why we as Christians often don't view death as our enemy is because we think that death ushers us into Heaven. Nothing can be further from the truth. Death hasn't, doesn't, and can't ever open the entrance for you and me into glory. You say but preacher, you always preach that when we die we go to Heaven if we are saved. That is 100% true. However, it is not the death that takes you to Heaven. Rather it is the life you have been given in Jesus Christ. So, when you die, death doesn't take you anywhere but the grave. However, at the moment of death, Jesus takes hold of your soul and takes it to glory. Psalm 23:4 is a great picture of what I am referring to. "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for you are with me, your rod and your staff they comfort me." it is not death that comforted him but it was the Lord his Shepherd that comforted him while he was in the midst of the valley of death. So, the Lord, our Shepherd, will see us all the way through the experience of death and make sure, hand in hand, to get us to those golden shores. Let us see death for what it is, our enemy and Jesus Christ for who He is, our life, our victory, our way to glory.

IV. Fourth, to understand the Biblical view of death, we must understand the remedy that has defeated death.

The remedy that has destroyed and conquered death is the clearest message of the New Testament. We don't have the time to read every passage of Scripture. There are so many on the conquest over sin and death.

As we saw in the last point, death in the Scriptures, is defined as our enemy, and because Satan is the power behind it, he is our enemy. Well the way you conquer your enemy is to be stronger than him. The good news is that Jesus Christ our Lord and Savior, is greater than and supremely more powerful than our enemy. Therefore, He walked all over our enemy and came out 100% victorious.

In His death on the cross, He paid the price required for our sins. In other words, by His death, he took the punishment required for our sins. Then as He walked into the death, the realm of Satan, He walked right on through it and came out victorious on the other side, and there was nothing that Satan and death could do to hold Him down.

As I Corinthians 15:54-57 says, "...death has been swallowed up in victory. Where, O death is your victory? Where O death is your sting? The sting of death is sin and the power of sin is the law. But thanks be to God, He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." Amen. Amen.

II Timothy 1:8-10, "So do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord or of me his prisoner. Rather, join with me in suffering for the gospel, by the power of God. He has saved us and called us to a holy life—not because of anything we have done but because of his own purpose and grace. This grace was given us in Christ Jesus before the beginning of time, but is has now been revealed through the appearing of our Savior, Christ Jesus, who has destroyed death and has brought life and immortality to light through the gospel."

So, let us rejoice that because Jesus conquers death, we, too, have and will because He lives, we, too, will live. Our realm through Christ is the realm of life. There are so many more Bible text we could examine but let me encourage you to go and examine for yourself the following. Read all of I Corinthians 15, it is the longest chapter of the resurrection of Christ and ours. Also, look at I Thessalonians, 4:13-18, Hebrews 2:10-18, I John 3:7-8.

Conclusion: I think in concluding that it is important to let you know what happens to death in its completion and hopefully that will clearly help us to just want to focus on Jesus Christ, so we can focus on life. Revelation 20:14-15, "then death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. The lake of fire is the second death. If anyone's name was not found written in the Book of Life, he was thrown into the lake of fire." or we can choose the way of life through Jesus Christ our Lord and end up in glory forever.

*Jesus Love You
Ralph Lee, Jr.*

WMU Ladies Choir

*Practice on Wednesday, February 8th after services
Will Perform on Sunday, February 12th*



WMU SUNDAY, FEB. 12th

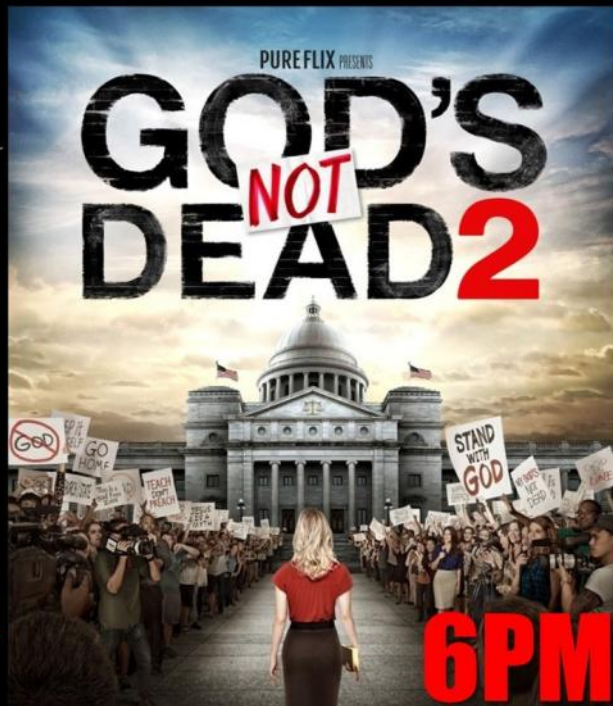
Great Swamp Baptist Church

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.**

Wednesday Night SUPPER



Menu

Pot Roast

Baked Potatoes

Mixed Vegetable Casserole

Dessert

Tea & Coffee

Ann Malphrus Cooking Team

\$5.00 each or \$15.00 for a family of 4 or more





Right to Life

***Baby Bottle Ministry
Ends: 02/12/2017***

February 7th Davey McGill

*February 8th Wilbur Daley
Mark Woods*

*February 9th Bonnie Pope
Katelyn Morgan*



*February 8th
Leonard & Latrelle Steedly*

*February 10th
Tom & Connie Benton*

GSBC Prayer Pages February 5, 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

Hospitals
*Barbara Jones-Greenville Hosp.
Virginia Bell Annas-JC Lewis Center
Harold Stanley-Hampton
Mike Hodge-St. Josephs*

Expecting / Births

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

Surgery / Recovery
*Brian Freeman (1/19)
Brandy Freeman (1/5)
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 (1/26)*

Cancer / Treatments

*Barry Jones (1/12)
Dale Robiston (1/5)
Mack Pope, Sr. (1/5)
Mitzi Cramer (1/5)
Erma Steedly (1/26)
Bess Parnell (2/2)*

Called to Ministry

Chris Carter & Family

Other Health Needs

*Jimmie Cleland (1/5)
Gail Malphrus (1/6)
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)*

*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 drowsiness. If you are kneeling why not try sitting or standing. Walk back and forth across the room or pace up and down other areas of the house. You must devise ways to overcome the drawback of drowsiness while praying.

E.L. Ambrose

Today's Prayer Team

Group I

*Patricia Malphrus-Leader
Truett Vaigneur
Shirley Malphrus
Vera Miles*

**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



Grandmother's Group
Tuesday, February 7th
11:30am / MPB



Business Conference
Wednesday, February 8th



***The Quilting Club is meeting in the
Old Parsonage***
Thursday, February 9th @ 10:00am



Watchman Prayer Group
Saturday, February 11th @ 8:00 am

Great Swamp Baptist Church
 9009 Tarboro Road, Ridgeland, SC
 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

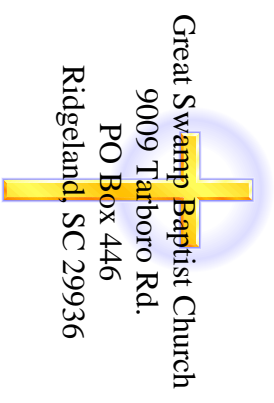
Calendar of Events

For
 February 5th through February 11th

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 + / -
Tithes & Offerings	\$2,990.00	\$ 4,943.56	-\$1,953.56
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
SMB	\$96.00	*****	\$479.95
WNS (Youth)	\$293.00	*****	\$1,325.03
Concert (Jacob Brothers)	\$311.00	*****	\$0.00
SFCA Electric	\$1,290.00	*****	\$0.00
SFCA Janitorial	\$500.00	*****	\$1,046.27
SFCA Security	\$51.90	*****	\$51.90
SFCA Trash Pick Up	\$125.00	*****	\$0.00
SFCA Office Supply	\$27.60	*****	\$71.17
SFCA Repairs (Grayco)	\$190.41	*****	\$554.42



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9009 Tarboro Rd.
PO Box 446
Ridgeland, SC 29936