

Great Swamp
BAPTIST CHURCH

AUGUST 19, 2018

Great Swamp Baptist Church

August 19, 2018

Sunday Morning Worship
11:00 AM

Prelude

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Invocation

Robert O'Dell.

Selections of Praise & Worship

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastoral & Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Offertory

Special Music

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr

Invitation

Benediction



Greeters

Today: Dorthie Armstrong / Krey Lowther
Next Week: Latrelle Steedly / Krey Lowther

Nursery Workers

Today: Pat Bryan / Vanessa Smoak

Next Week: Debra Daley / Amanda Hodges



Children's Church Helpers

Today: Angel Cole / Emma Mingledorff

Next Week: Kaylee Standard / Evelyn Bradley

DEACON OF THE WEEK :



Today: Robert O'Dell

843-422-9521

Next Week: Bjo Mills

843-726-4344

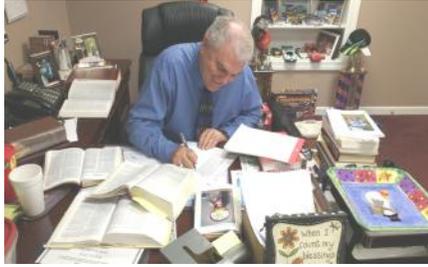


Toll Committee

For the month of August

Helen Malphrus

Anita Blanton



From Pastor Ralph's Desk:

The Compromising Church

(Rev. 2:12-17)

Intro: The church at Pergamum is symbolic of many churches through the history of the church. However, she is extremely symbolic of many churches today especially here in America. So, the question is in what way is she symbolic of churches today? The answer to that question is in compromising with the world. Therefore, she is called by many the Compromising Church.

In 313 AD, the Roman emperor, Constantine, issued the edict of Milan granting religious freedom to Christians and ending 250 years of savage persecution. However, the emperor who claims to have been converted to Christianity began Roman empire tactics together with Christianity. Thus, he managed to Romanize the church. He made heathen priests become Christian priests. He turned heathen temples into Christians churches and heathen festivals became Christian festivals. Therefore, it became impossible sometimes to tell the difference between the church and the world.

Over the last fifty years or so, many of our traditional denomination have split sometimes two, three even more times than that. Many times the reason for the splits is because many of the churches of those denomination began to water down or compromise their Christian distinctiveness. It is to the point that many of them look nothing like the church should. They have become more like country clubs than Bible believing and Christ exalting churches. In order to not offend anyone, we have totally failed to preach the whole counsel of God. If, however, we refuse to preach the whole counsel of God then people want fall under conviction for their sins and see their need for our blessed Savior Jesus Christ. May our blessed Lord use this letter to help teach us how not to become a compromising church.

I. First, let us notice the person addressing the compromising church. (vs. 12).

“These are the words of Him who has the sharp, double-edged sword.” now most Believers who have been a part of the church for anytime understand that this phrase is referring to the Word of God. We read in the Book of Ephesians these words, “The Sword of the Spirit which is the Word of God.” (Eph. 6:1).

Also, the Sword was not only a reference to the Holy Word of God but it was also a sign of authority. Jesus is therefore saying that He has all authority in Heaven and earth and His weapon is the Word of God. Therefore the only authority we should bow down to and the only word that should matter to us is His authority and His Word.

Now let us remind ourselves that this sword was double-sided. Both sides were very sharp. One side is sharp enough to penetrate the darkness of our souls and cut out the sin that separates us from God. However, the other side is sharp enough to bring about punishment, condemnation and judgment on those who refuse to submit to His authority and His Word. So, may our authority and word be His.

II. Second, let us notice the place of the compromising church. (vs. 13).

It is easy to point our fingers at others and talk about their shortcomings as we are about the compromising church of Pergamum. But before we get to deep into our criticism of this church, let us take a look at where the Lord said this church was situated. These are His very words, "I know that you live in the city where that great throne of Satan is located..." (vs. 13). Also He says the basic same thing at the end of the verse where He says, "...where Satan lives."

Now, there is no way of knowing a hundred percent for sure what Jesus meant by this statement. However, there is plenty about this city that makes the statement clearly understood. For in this city were many large temples dedicated to the worship of the Greek and Roman gods. But that was not enough false gods and religions for them. For they also had temples and shrines to the worship of the Roman emperor himself. As a matter of fact, this was the strongest form of worship and allegiance found in the town.

As the result of all of these fake gods, religions and allegiances, there was an expectation that you would give your devotion to one or more of these especially to the emperor. So it is not hard to understand why it is the place of Satan's throne. For it is clearly Satan's desire to destroy the effective witness of the church in Pergamum and any where else as far as that goes. So, one of the ways he seeks to destroy their and our testimony, is to get us to compromise our faith by sharing some of it with some of these or many other false religions.

Satan is still well and alive. He seems to have spread his throne out much further now and it appears to be far reaching. He has done much damage to our witness by tempting us to be more compromising with our faith and including other false religions to be attached along as well. So, let us be aware of his evil, sly deceptive tactics and instead stick only to the true faith passed down to us from God's Holy Word.

III. Third, let us notice the people of the compromising church.

Now for the good news. It appears that the larger segment of the church was faithfully living out their faith, holding out the name of Jesus regardless of the place they lived in. there are a number of things that He said this group of Believers did right in the heart of Satan's throne. First, He said that they refused to give up their loyalty to Him (Jesus). Second, He said that they refused to deny His name (The name of Jesus). Third, He said that they had been a faithful witness for Him and then He said that some of them had even died for His name.

Now, it is true that in the next verses that the Lord is going to call them down for some of the things that the church at Pergamum had allowed to take place in their fellowship. But before we ourselves point our finger at them, we need to make sure that we ourselves are willing to do the same thing that most of the Believers there were doing that was right. Are we remaining loyal to Jesus under the fiery darts of Satan? Are we unashamed of the powerful name of Jesus? Or is it just a curse word for us? Are we a faithful witness for Him as Antipas was? In other words, are we willing to tell others about Jesus even when w4e're not suppose to? Also, like Antipas, are we willing to give up our lives for the cause of Christ? Yes, there are problems to address in this church but the Lord Himself acknowledges that most of the Believers here where faithful to His name. now would He be able to say that about us?

IV. Fourth, let us notice the problems with the compromising church. (vs. 14-16).

So, the problem with the church was that they were allowing a group of people to fellowship in their midst who promoted a teaching and a certain type of behavior that went against the grain of God's Holy Word. It seems as though the two groups mentioned were somewhat promoting similar false doctrine and immoral behavior.

The first group creating a problem in the church were following a teaching that goes all the way back to the times in which the nation of Israel was marching through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. Balaam told a Moabite king, Balak, how to basically defeat Israel without having to fight them. He told Balak that if he could get the Israelite men to have sexual relations with their women then he could lure them away so that their loyalty to the Lord would be compromised. So, Balak, through several wild type feasts it appears and invited the Israelite men to them. They went and got involved with the Moabite women at these parties where they also were enticed not only to have sex with the women but also to sacrifice with them to their false gods. So, basically the sin is to mix our Christian faith up with the

Sinful activities of the world and think it is okay. Well, it is not okay to say you live for Jesus but the next moment you're openly living it up with the ungodly, worldly activities. God has called us to not compromise our faith with the world. We are to be in the world and trying to reach the world but not of the world.

The second group followed a teaching which God declared to the church at Ephesus that He hated. They were called the Nicolaitans. Now, we really don't know a lot about them. However, what little bit we know it seems as though they were teaching that the only part of our lives that mattered to God was our souls, or the spiritual side of our lives. Therefore, since God was not concerned about the physical part of our being, it was therefore okay to do with our bodies whatever we wanted to do with them.

This is completely false. God created our entire being, body, soul and spirit. It is all sacred and important to Him. Also, if the world is going to see that Jesus has saved our souls and spirit, then the only way they will be able to observe it is by the way they see us living our lives outwardly. Therefore, that means using our bodies for His purpose. (Rom. 12:1-2).

So it is important that we not compromise any part of our lives, body, soul or spirit with anything that will take our loyalty away from Jesus.

V. Fifth, let us notice the plan for the compromising church. (vs. 16).

The plan as usual is the same for the other churches, Repent. Well who is to repent? The church should repent from allowing these compromising teachings and activities from taking place. Also, through the persons in the fellowship involved in either of these false teachings and immoral behaviors needed to immediately repent of their ways and turn whole heartedly back to the Lord. This call is still ringing out to us. May the Lord help us to repent and get it right.

Concl. In conclusion, we need to remember that the One who holds the sharp double-edged sword with one side can forgive us if we repent or with the other side as He says in verse 16, He can come and fight against us. Which side of His sword do you want to wind up on?

Jesus Loves You

Ralph Lee, Jr.

Announcements



*The Quilting Club is meeting in the
Old Parsonage
Thursday, August 23rd @
10:00am*

*Watchman Prayer Group
Saturday, August 25th @ 8:00 am*



SUNDAY SCHOOL
Where Love Wins Big!

Small Group Meeting on Sunday Mornings - anyone welcome

Where: Mobile unit by playground

When:

Come at 9:30am and enjoy coffee, snacks and social time

9:45am prayer concerns

10:00am start study entitled "I am a Church Member"

Nursery will be provided.



August 25th

Richard & Michelle Waite

This Weeks Birthdays



August 19th *Brittnie Goethe*
August 20th *Reed Smith*
August 22nd *Ralph Lee*
 Charles Malphrus
 Mike Mingledorff
August 23rd *Wofford Malphrus*

[Marriage Conference] 
Look Up Lodge
lookuplodge.com



Two houses sit beside each other in a neighborhood. They look very differently from one another. But when the foundations were laid, they looked almost identical. This is the basic idea behind our marriage conference. Sometimes your marriage is your marriage - the way you communicate, the way you show affection, the way you handle conflict all may be very different from your neighbor. However the foundation of every great marriage is very much the same. It must be built on at least a few foundational principles if it's going to survive, let alone rise above the storms of life. These principles are: *understanding real love, understanding the differing values of sex between men and women, and understanding the basic principles of lasting change.* These are some of the principles we will be focusing on during our marriage weekend.

Details:

Dates:	October 12 th - 14 th	Total Cost:	\$139.00 per couple
Days:	Friday - Sunday	Deposit:	\$69.50 [50% of total cost] NON-REFUNDABLE
Arrival Time:	Friday around 6pm [Dinner at 6:30pm]	Balance Due:	Upon Arrival
Departure Time:	Sunday around 1pm	Includes:	Food, Lodging & Conference
Reservations:	(864) 836-6392	Address:	100 Look Up Lodge Rd. Travelers Rest, SC 29690
Reservation Name:	Great Swamp	Taylor Daley:	(843) 505-7066 or tdaley2017@gmail.com
Forms Due:	Upon Arrival		

"Please see Taylor Daley for any questions
(843) 505-7066 or tdaley2017@gmail.com".

GSBC Prayer Pages August 19, 2018

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

Church Needs
*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
Nominating Committee*

Leadership
*President Donald Trump
United States of America*

Unspoken
Tim Cramer Family

Bereavement

N/A

Hospitals

N/A

Special Requests
*Trip Fogle-Homeless-Guidance
Enriqueta Torres-Spiritual Guidance*

Surgery / Recovery

*Judy Smith (8/16)
David Raines (7/19)
Joyce Pope (7/19)
Steve Higgins (8/9)
Fred Stanley (8/9)
Michelle Tuten (8/17)*

Cancer / Treatments

*Mitzi Cramer (7/26)
Allen Perry (7/26)
Jane Chapman (7/26)
Becky Broxton (7/19)
Jeanie Raven (7/19)
Jimmy Mixson (7/19)*

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC
Wofford Malphrus-Effingham
County Rehab. Center
Doris Blackmon-Morningside
Thelma Ashing-RNC
Maureen Malphrus-RNC
Becky Jones-Anderson
Kirk Malphrus-RNC*

Called to Ministry

Chris Carter & Family

Other Health Needs

Expecting / Births

Amanda Fletcher

*Dot Tindal (7/19)
Bobby Mohn (7/19)
Rodney Malphrus, Sr. (7/26)
Savanna Spikes (7/19)
Patrick Malphrus (8/9)
Jonathan Malphrus (8/9)
Brenda Bekick (8/16)
Talmadge Malphrus (8/16)*

*Vera Miles (8/16)
Jessica DuBose (7/19)
Ann Blocker (8/1)
Dorothy Dean (8/1)
Pam Stanley (8/16)
Royce Malphrus (8/16)
Peggy Michael (8/16)*



*Come join us for the
Proclaimers Choir Practice
every
Wednesday Evening
following
Bible Study.*

Pray For Our Military



Bobby Emerson– South Korea-Army

Jared Blanton-Fort Benning

Isaac Martin Malphrus Cape May, NJ / Coast Guard

Matthew Mills-Va-US Marines

Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force / Oklahoma City. OK

Michael Sottile-Depolyed

Owen White-Fort Benning

Please Continue To Remember

*Ricky Cleland
Mike Hodge
Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Mary Cope
Judy Smith
Jeffrey Stanley
Joyce Sutler
Redden Tuten
Vera Floyd*

*Dot Nettles
Tom Hinely
Olivia Stanley
Lois Bootle
Grace Boyles
Patricia Malphrus
Scott Boyles
Dot Dean
Ellen Langford*

*Gary Way
Christy Gagel
Vera Miles
Mary Daley
Leonard Steedly
Barbara Mills
Rodney Malphrus, Sr.
Lanell Smith
Brian Freeman*



The filling of the Holy Spirit is a part of God's plan of salvation. To be saved and not be filled is impossible. In the filling is empowerment for living out his filling by his control. The abundant life is the result. Prayer is the medium God gives us to bring us to such maturity. .

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
752 Great Swamp Rd.
Ridgeland, SC 29936*

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD



August Collection Box for OCC



Empty prescription bottles
Soap & Wash Cloths

Harvest Fest

Saturday

October 27, 2018

4 to 7 pm
Sign up sheets in Foyer



Senior Celebrator's Trip

It's that time of year again for getting prepared for our Annual Trip. A sign-up sheet and brochure is in the foyer. We are putting together our room list. Your Balance are due. We still have 5 rooms available. See Timmy Sauls for more info.



Reminder

*Sunday Morning Breakfast
and
Wednesday Night Suppers
will resume
the 1st week of September.*



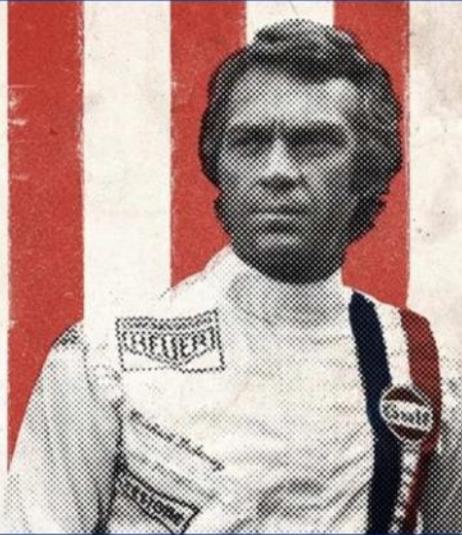
MOVIE NIGHT

GREG LAURIE
PRESENTS

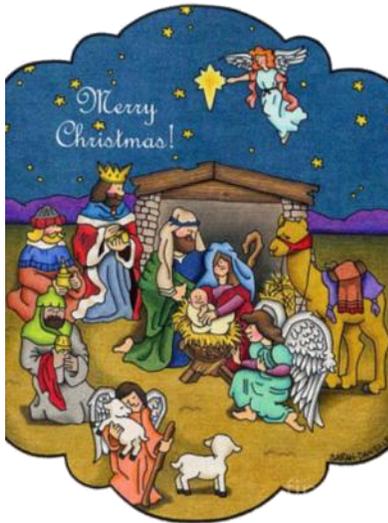
STEVE MCQUEEN

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

AMERICAN ICON



SUNDAY ~ AUGUST 26 ~ 6PM



Needed

Items

The GA's have been asked to collect old Christmas Cards for a project for Operation Christmas Child this year. They need approximately 100 cards. If you have any that

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*

Finance Director: Timmy Sauls.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*

Stewardship

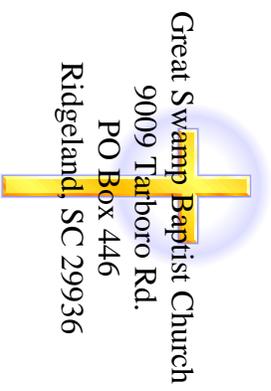
Budget Offerings	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
<i>Tithes & General Budget</i>	\$3996.00	\$4,973.36	-\$ 593.39
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$383.97		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Seniors Fund</i>	\$2044.00	*****	\$
<i>George Pepper Fund</i>	\$1.00	*****	\$
<i>Church Repairs</i>	\$4000.00	*****	\$
<i>Special Events</i>	\$400.00	*****	\$
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	\$50.00	*****	\$

Gifts

A gift of \$50.00 was given to the General Fund in Memory of Wallace E. Roberts by LaVern & Carolyn Polk.

A gift of \$100.00 was given to the General Fund in Memory of Wallace E. Roberts by Turkey Hill Plantation.

A gift of \$25.00 was given to the Cemetery Fund by Pat & Irwin Malphrus.



Great Swamp Baptist Church
9009 Tarboro Rd.
PO Box 446
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Sunday Morning Breakfast 8:30AM
Sunday School 9:45AM
Morning Worship 11:00AM
Evening Worship 6:00PM
Wednesday Night Supper 6:00PM
Wednesday Night Service 7:00PM
Saturday Watchman Prayer 8:00AM

Email: greatswampbc@gmail.com
Website: greatswampbaptistchurch.com
Church Office: (843) 726-3631