

GREAT SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 14, 2021

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Prelude

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Hymn # 483

“Footsteps of Jesus”

Invocation

Wilbur Daley

Selections of Praise and Worship

“Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone)”

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Special

Mended

“Good, Good Father”

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction

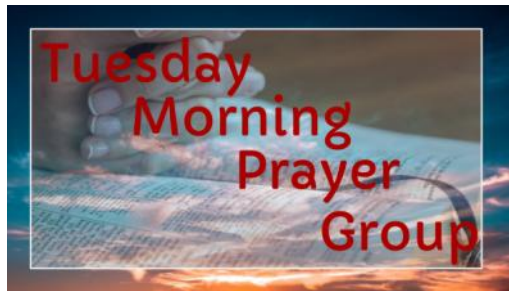
Nursery Workers

Today: Vanessa Smoak
Helpers Needed; See Vanessa



Children's Church

Today: Olivia Stanley / Amelia Johnson / Emily Johnson



Tuesday Mornings @ 9:00am



DEACON OF THE WEEK :

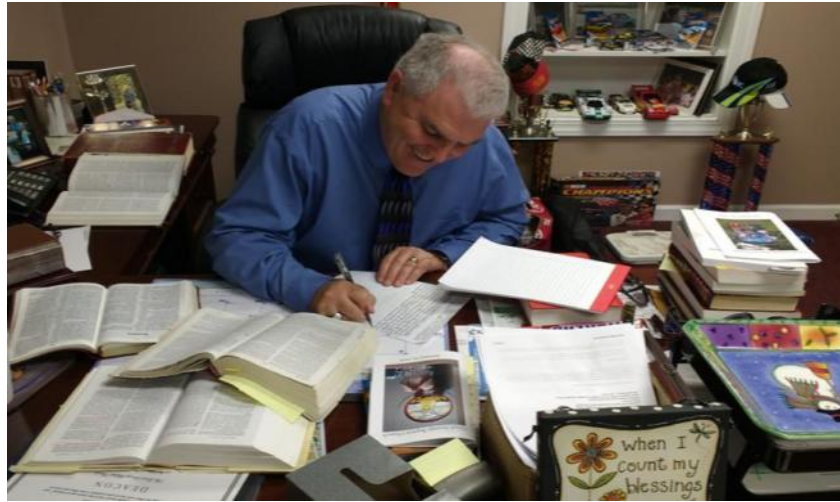
Today:

Wilbur Daley: 843-305-0110

Next Week:

Mack Pope: 843-540-6636





Loving Jesus

(John 21:15-25)

Intro: It was by a warm fire on a cool night that the Apostle Peter denied our Lord three times. Now, just a short time later, once again by a warm fire on a cool morning, Jesus offers the Apostle Peter the opportunity to be restored and acknowledge his love for Him three times.

Now, of course, the Apostle Peter is not the only follower of Jesus Christ. All who come to Him by faith are also the followers of Jesus Christ. Therefore, as with Peter, it should also be the case with all of God's people that they love Jesus. In other words, He is asking us the same question that He asked Peter, "Do you love me?..."

Now, I know that if I were to ask you that very question, do you love Jesus? Most of you would definitely say yes. But how does a person know if someone is loving Jesus? Or, how do I know if I'm really loving Jesus?

Well, in our set of verses that we are examining today, we discover what it meant for the Apostle Peter to love Jesus and from that example we learn for ourselves what it means to love Jesus.

The reason why we are examining this event in the life of the Apostle Peter and His love for Christ is because for three weeks we have looked at loving one another which is part of what we call the great commandment. However, the great commandment doesn't start with loving one another. Rather, it starts with loving God with all your heart, soul, mind and strength. So, if we are going to love one another we've got to start first and foremost loving God. This story helps us to see how we do that very thing. So, let us find out how we are to love Jesus. If we do this we will wind up loving one another.

I. First, let us notice that loving Jesus will lead to facing dilemmas.

In other words, your love for Jesus will be challenged and tested. This is what happened to Peter the night Jesus was arrested and he followed along to see what was going to happen. As Jesus was being questioned by the High Priest and the Chief Priest, a servant of the High Priest and a couple of other people accused him of being one of Jesus' disciples. However, each time he flatly refuted that he ever knew Jesus. The Apostle Peter faced this dilemma and completely failed the test. As far as these people were concerned that questioned and accused Peter, they either believed that he didn't really know Jesus, or that he knew him but was afraid for his own life and therefore didn't really love Jesus.

Now we need to make this more personal. When we face a similar dilemma as Peter did and we are asked to make a decision of whether or not we belong to Jesus, how would you respond? Would they be able to say now here is a person that truly loves Jesus or would they walk away wondering if Jesus is important to us at all? Make no doubt about it, we are going to face this dilemma on a regular basis and our prayer must be that the Holy Spirit will empower us to stand strong and reveal that we really do love Jesus.

II. Second, let us notice that loving Jesus can be done and redone.

Now, praise God this is clearly one of those events that took place in the life of Jesus and His disciples that I am so grateful that our blessed Lord allowed us to see. For it allows us to see the struggle these disciples had to face especially as Jesus was facing the cross and the whole bunch of them not just Peter turned their backs upon Jesus.

However, Peter's failure appeared to be the greatest because he actually followed along with Jesus as He was being arrested and he actually did verbally deny his Lord and Savior just after he told the Lord that he wouldn't deny Him and that he would be willing to die with Him if it came to that.

However, the Lord had told him before he did it that he would do it. He also told him, however, that he had already prayed for his faith would not fail and that he would turn back.

So, in our present set of verses, our Lord allows Peter to have that opportunity to show that his faith had not failed and that he indeed loved Him with his whole heart, soul, mind and strength. Praise be to our Lord for His grace, mercy and love that allowed Peter this opportunity to renew his faith and love toward Him.

Now, God is saying to His people today that our faith and love toward Him can, should, and must be done. He is saying that if our faith and love have wavered toward Him then He is calling upon us to turn back and in His strength renew and re-do our love and faith for Him.

If a person claims to be a Christian and they begin to deny their faith and love in Christ and never seeks to renew that faith and love then they probably never ever truly had faith and love in Jesus.

So today the Lord is saying to His people, it is time to fall in love with Him all over again and do it again. He also is saying to those who never ever truly had faith and love toward Him that today is the day to begin that journey of faith and love now.

The good thing is that it can be done because our Lord loves us and wants it to be done and can empower us through His Holy Spirit to do it. So let's start doing.

III. Third, let us notice that loving Jesus involves a desire.

When Jesus first asked Peter if he loved Him, He added with that question a further qualifier. That qualifier was, "more than these." not do you just simply love me but do you love me more than these?

Now the question we must ask at this time is what did Jesus mean by more than these? Well, there are a couple of possible answers. First, Jesus may have been referring to all of the fishing equipment that was laying all around them. So, maybe Jesus was saying Peter, do you love me more than all of these things that you have made money with for most of your life? Is your business something that you love more than you love me?

So Jesus is saying to us today, do we love our businesses more than we love Him? He is asking, do we love making money more than we love Him?

Second, when Jesus said more than these, some believe that He was referring to the other disciples that were present. So, Jesus would have been saying , do you love me more than anyone else? He is also asking the same question of us today, do we love Him more than we love anyone else? Now, I believe that the more than these includes all of the above. We are to love Him more than anything or anyone and that should be our full time desire.

IV. Fourth, let us notice that loving Jesus should be declared.

When Jesus asked Peter the question three times, do you love me, He was expecting an answer from Peter. He wanted Peter to verbally declare his love for Him, and three times back Peter verbally declared his love for Jesus.

Now, we know that just because you say something doesn't necessarily mean it is true. However, when something is true then we will gladly declare it, and if you truly love Jesus we will truly verbalize it. We will verbalize to Him and to others. So, if you love Jesus then go tell the world.

V. Fifth, let us notice that loving Jesus comes with a duty.

All three times after Peter declared his love for Jesus he was given an assignment or a duty. That duty was to care for and feed the sheep that belong to Christ.

So what we see here is that loving Jesus will also motivate and move us to love our fellow Believers by using the gifts and callings that God has given to us to benefit the Body of Christ. Thus the great commandment made full circle because loving Him will result in loving one another.

So you can't say that you love Jesus if you are not loving others. So, ask yourself the question, am I loving Jesus? Then ask yourself, am I loving the Body of Christ? These two questions go hand in hand and can't be separated.

VI. Sixth, let us notice that loving Jesus is for the duration.

After declaring his love for Jesus the third time, Jesus went on to tell Peter what would happen to him in the future. He even went on to tell Peter what kind of death he would experience that would glorify God which was not a very pleasant kind of experience. History tells us that he was crucified on a cross but upside down.

So Peter, after hearing these words asked Jesus about the Apostle John and what was going to happen to him. Jesus responded by saying to Peter basically what is that to you. If I want him to live till I come back that shouldn't be of any concern of yours, you just follow me no matter what until the very end. In other words, your love should endure for me for all time no matter what the cost. So Child of God, don't let your love grow cold. Rather let it be a love that lasts.

Concl. Now let me conclude by saying that loving Jesus always begins with the fact that He loved us and gave His life for us, and that His love for us is unconditional and eternal. So, let us pray that God's Holy Spirit will keep our love for Jesus hot and strong.

*Jesus Loves You
Ralph Lee, Jr.*

Sunday School Classes

@

9:15am

CAMO CLASS

Room 406

Leader- Bobby Smith

.....

GLEANERS CLASS

Room 401

Leader-Audrey Roberts

.....

VISIONARIES CLASS

Building 3, Old Social Hall

Leader-Wilbur Daley

.....

SOJOURNERS CLASS

Room 417

Leader-Mack Pope

.....

SENIOR ADULT MEN CLASS

Room 413

Leader-Truett Vaigneur

.....

YOUTH

Youth Annex

Leader-Faye Lowther

.....

Wednesday Night Services
@
7pm

PASTOR'S PRAYER SERVICE
Building 3, Old Social Hall
Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

ABIDE CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
Multi-Purpose Building
Leader-Wilbur Daley

YOUTH GROUP
Youth Annex
Leader-Michelle Waitt

R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors)
Room 417
Leader-Pat Mason

G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION)
Room 415
Leader-Carol Davis/Diane Thames



TONIGHT

Sunday, March 28th

Concessions 6:00 pm

Movie 6:30 pm

Popcorn & Drinks provided

Please bring finger foods to share



March Collections

Toothbrushes

*(When you go to the dentist,
ask them if they will donate toothbrushes for
Operation Christmas Child.
Get as many as you can.)*

Thank You

Baby Bottles Are

Due NOW



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WEDNESDAY NIGHT Suppers



**TO BE
ANNOUNCED**

*\$5.00 each or \$15.00 for a
family of 4 or more.
NO Meal Deliveries at this
time.*

INFORMATION NEEDED

Due to a computer crash at the end of the 2020 year, many of our membership records were lost. The church office is asking that, even if you have not had any changes, to please fill out the Member Info Sheets on the back wall and turn in to the church office, a deacon or put in offering plate.

We have replaced the old computer and are working on a new system. It is imperative that we get the member info back into our system.

If you know any members who are not currently attending due to the virus situation, please feel free to take an info sheet to them.

Thank You

Share A Need Ministry

The Grandmother's Group has begun a new ministry. If you know anyone who has a particular need that the Grandmother's Group could help minister to, please contact Carol Davis @ 843-226-0258 or let any member of the Grandmother's Group.



Grandmother's Group

*Monday , March 8th
11:00 am, MPB
Bring food for Easter
brunch.
All invited.*

GSBC Prayer Page

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

Leadership
*President of the
United States of America*

*Vice President of the
United States of America*

Hospitals

Surgery / Recovery

*Skylar Saygen
Michelle Rooks
Stephen Roberts
Connie Benton
David Sauls*

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler-RNC
Wilma Jean McGill-RNC
Bobby Mohn-Indigo Pines HHI
Byron Vaigneur-Assist.*

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

Unspoken

*Jessica Cleland
Steve Crosby
Heather Betz
Randy Bethune
Jason Holt
Jennifer Cooler Mazzochi*

Cancer / Treatments

*Sidney
Douglas Denegel
Becky Goretzka
Gail Sims
Gloria Davis
Gary Malphrus
Skip Brooks
Cynthia Box
Regina Bouye
Kataya Alston
Wesley Ethridge
Angela Proctor
Jay Dalton*

Expecting / Births

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry
Abide Wednesday Services*

Bereavement

Family of

Other Health Needs

*Cookie Daley
Jane Gorman
Bobby Tootle
Randy Smoak
Brenda Farve
Andrew Miller
Lloyd Way
Loony Jones
(Jeffrey Stanley's Grandfather)
Tracey Lake
Annette Mole
Jerry E. Cooler
Bobby Smith
Keith Gamo
Telie Ethridge
Kenny Smith
Pinky Rushing
Chip Sutler
Arlette Jones
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Iola Daring
Shelby Green*

Please Continue To Remember

*Shirley Malphrus
Rose Boyles
Judy Smith
Redden Tuten
Vera Floyd*

*Dot Nettles
Tom Hinely
Grace Boyles
Patricia Malphrus
Scott Boyles
Ann Blocker*

*Gary Way
Frankie Malphrus
Betty Robertson
Kenneth & Doby Cleland
Gloria Tuten*

Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed
Isaac Martin Malphrus
Cape May, NJ / Coast Guard
Matthew Mills-CA-US Marines
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force
Oklahoma City. OK
Michael Sottile - Deployed
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/ SWCC*

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.....*jehu27@gmail.com*

Music Director: Richard Waitt.....*waittfamily83@gmail.com*

Sunday School Director: Mike Davis.....

ABIDE Contemporary Service: Wilbur Daley.....

Pianist: Michelle Waitt..... *waittfamily83@gmail.com*

Administrative Assistant: Sybil Reynolds.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*

School Administrator: Donna Carter.....*dcarter@hargray.com*

Landscaper: Wallace Malphrus.....*Josie6@embarqmail.com*



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>Jeremiah Dennen</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Kaylee Standard</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Chyleen Mock</i>
		<i>KayCee Goethe</i>



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

Sunday Morning Breakfast 8:15AM
Sunday School..... 9:15AM
Morning Worship..... 10:30AM
Wednesday Night Supper 6:00PM
Wednesday Night Service 7:00PM

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