



GREAT SWAMP BAPTIST CHURCH

MARCH 7, 2021

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Prelude

The Welcome

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Hymn # 10

"How Great Thou Art"

Invocation

Freddie Malphrus

Selections of Praise and Worship

"Your Words"

"You Are My King"

We Pray for Special Needs

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Pastoral Prayer

Offertory Special

Joyce Gamo

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction

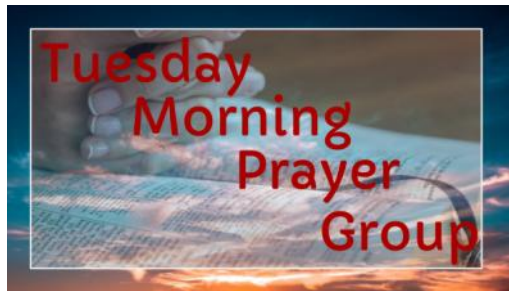
Nursery Workers

Today: Vanessa Smoak
Helpers Needed; See Vanessa



Children's Church

Today: Olivia Stanley / Mason Losgar / Gideon Mobley



Tuesday Mornings @ 9:00am



DEACON OF THE WEEK :

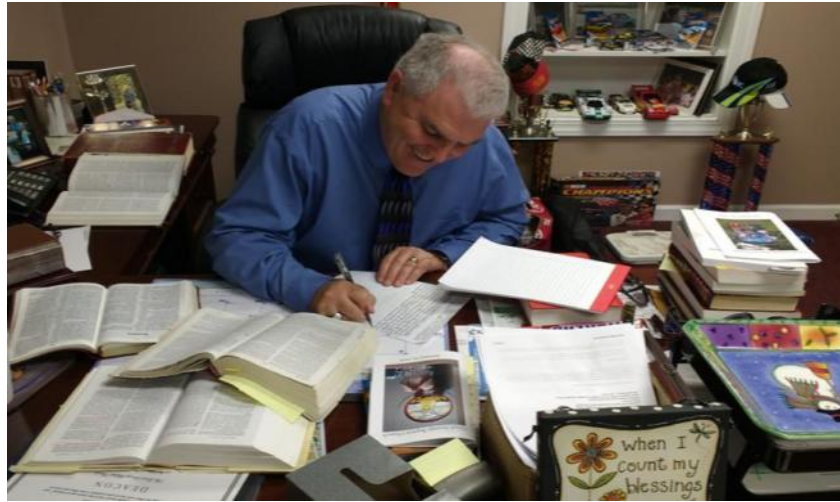
Today:

Freddie Malphrus: 843-816-3206

Next Week:

Wilbur Daley: 843-305-0110





Above All Love

(I Peter 4:7-11)

Intro: Two weeks ago we took a look at Jesus' new commandment of love. Last week we looked at love in action as we examined the story of the good Samaritan. He showed what it means to be a good neighbor. Today, I want us to continue dealing with the theme of love by examining what the Apostle Peter said about it. Mainly he says that love for one another should be above all. So I've entitled my message Above All Love.

I. First, he says above all love each other. (vs. 8).

Because we have been looking at the theme of loving one another for a couple of weeks, you might say that I was being redundant or repetitious. My answer to that would be that you are absolutely right. However, I can afford to be because the Word of God is extremely repetitious and redundant on the subject. With today's message and the last two week's sermons, we've looked at three sets of Scriptures that deal with loving one another. However, those three sets of Scriptures don't even touch the tip of the iceberg when it comes to how many times the Word of God commands us to love one another.

Now, He wants us to love all persons. However, He especially wants us to love all of the people of God.

The best way the world will see the love of God in action is as God's people show love to one another. So, don't think that you can pick and choose whom you will love in the family of God for above all we must love each other.

II. Second, he says above all love each other deeply. (vs. 8)

So, here Peter qualifies what kind of love we are to have for each other. He says that we don't just love each other in a general sense but rather we love each other deeply. So, we must ask ourselves, what did Peter mean by loving each other deeply.

Well, in the Greek, the word means to strain. It was the word that was used to describe athletes at the peak of their exertion. As when a runner trying to win the race sees the finish line not far away, strain every muscle in his body to get their first. This would go with any athlete trying to be the best of whatever sport they are involved in. They strain their muscles running, hitting, batting, lifting and so on. You can not be a good athlete if you're not willing to strain your muscles.

So, the point is that the Apostle Peter is telling us is that when it comes to loving each other, we must be willing to strain our muscles to make it happen. We need to ask ourselves, are we going to the point of loving one another that we are straining our muscles to make it happen?

III. Third, he says above all love covers a multitude of sins. (vs. 8).

Now, this is the point that clearly someone might say that you are going to far or they are saying you are asking for the impossible.

Well, in the first place I didn't say it. The Apostle Peter, under the direction of the Holy Spirit of God, said and he is not the only one who said it. The Apostle Paul in a different set of words also said it under the spirit's leadership. As he wrote that great chapter on love, he said about love that, "It is not rude. It is not self seeking. It is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrong." (I Cor. 13:5).

Now, both Paul and Peter are not telling us that we are to take light of sin, not at all. However, they are saying that we all, as the people of God, still struggle against sin and therefore we all are going to at times hurt one another by our actions, words, or behavior.

So, since we are all in the same boat as the family of God, we must learn to love, forgive, and move on together as the people of God not holding those offenses against one another. If we didn't practice this aspect of love toward one another, then, we would never be able to function as the church and as the family of God because we would always be at one another's throats, so to speak.

We must remember that it was the love of God that sent Jesus Christ our Lord to the cross to shed His blood so that He might cleanse us from our sins and cover them over to be remembered no more. So, may we follow in the steps of our God and Savior and let His love through us lead us to forgive and move on together for God's glory and service.

The whole matter one scholar said is "that we should not hold one another's offenses against them but should treat them with continuing love and care."

IV. Fourth, he says above all love through hospitality. (vs. 9).

Peter was speaking to an audience, at that time, that was under great persecution for their faith in Christ. Some were being driven out of their homes. He was encouraging them to show love toward their fellow Believers by opening up their homes to those who were under this great persecution.

He takes this point a little step further by adding to the process of hospitality that you not only are to do it but you are to do it without grumbling, and we all say, oh no, and Peter says, oh yes.

I was fortunate enough to grow up in a house like this. Both of my parents never turned away any who came to our home. Se usually appeared to be more like a hotel than a home. Only the atmosphere, however, was very much always a home type of feeling. In other words, when you came to our home, you were always made to feel like you were a part of the family, whether you were or not. The result of this was than many, many folks saw my parents and our house as a place of where God's love was at work. Are our homes a welcoming place or are they places that turn people off?

V. Fifth, he says above all love with our gifts. (vs. 10-11).

Peter, as Paul did, is informing us that God has bestowed certain gifts on each one. He did this out of His amazing grace. However, He didn't give them to us for the mere purpose of benefiting ourselves. Rather He gave them to us for the purpose of benefiting others particularly the body of Christ, the church of the living God.

So, as we use our gifts for the benefit of the church, we are showing to them the love of God, for it is God that gave the gifts out of His grace and it is by His power that they are enacted. Thus to Him be the glory for the love He bestows on us and through us.

Tragically, however, many Christians have failed in showing love to one another because they fail to use their God-given gifts. So, let our prayer be that we will show love to the body of Christ by using the gifts God has given us.

VI. Sixth, he says above all love because Christ is coming soon. (vs. 7).

Our time to love one another and do the work of the Lord here on earth is very limited, short and temporary. The reason why is because as Peter said, “The end of all things is near...”

Now, the Apostle Peter believed that the end was near. How much more should we? For we are now 2,000 years later and we’ve seen much more of the prophecies being fulfilled or where they now can be fulfilled. So, with the prospect of His soon return, we need to quickly and urgently be loving one another while we can and be doing so when He comes. You know even if Christ didn’t return in our lifetime we would still need to be urgent about loving one another because our life on earth is short anyway. Let us get busy for the time is of the essence.

Now, there is another aspect to this point and it is that because Christ is coming soon then things may get rough for God’s people. For Jesus Himself pointed out that before His coming, we would face difficulties, dangers and persecutions at an alarming rate.

Therefore, if we are going to love one another during these times, then we need to really be observant of each other and as we see each other under heavy pressure, we need to go to God in prayer and lift one another up to Him.

We need to do this because God and God alone will be able to strengthen us through these times. Let us love one another through our prayers.

Concl. Just one final question in my conclusion. If someone was carefully watching us would they say, one thing I could say about this person or that church is that above all they love?

*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

SECA DRAMA PRESENTS

CHATEAU LA ROACH



My mission in
life is not merely
to survive, but to
thrive; and to do
so with some
passion, some
compassion,
some humor, and
some style.

March 12, 13
at 7 PM

9009 TARBORO ROAD
RIDGELAND, SC

MAYA ANGELOU

Directed by-Mrs. Rhonda Stones



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



Deacon's Meeting
Monday, March 8th



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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
Please bring soups, salads
& desserts.*

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*

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*

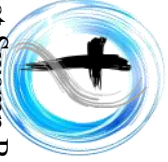
Landscaper: Wallace Malphrus.....*Josie6@embarqmail.com*



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>Latrelle Steedly</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>Pat Malphrus</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>Debra Daley</i>
		<i>Wallace Malphrus</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>Libby Pendrak</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Irwin Malphrus</i>
		<i>Alice Way</i>



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>7th</i>	<i>Ben & Cheryl Mills</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Jason & Vanessa Smoak</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>11th</i>	<i>Davey & Barbara McGill</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