



Great Swamp Baptist Church

November 13, 2022

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Presentation of the Colors

Pledge of Allegiance to the American Flag

Hymn #634 “My Country Tis of Thee”

Hymn #630 “America the Beautiful”

Invocation

Fred Stanley

Veteran Recognitions

Hymn #493 “Onward Christian Soldiers”

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special by Bjo Mills

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery
Help Needed



Helpers:
Mason Losgar
Emily Johnson



DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Today:

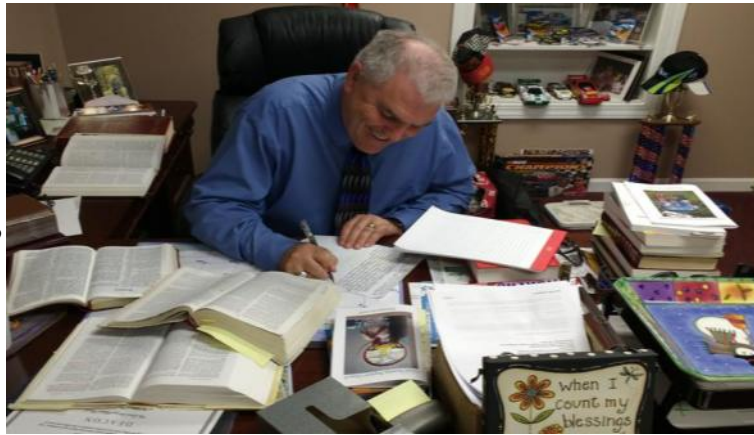
Fred Stanley: 843-726-1963

Next Week:

Mack Pope: 843-540-6636



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Great Love Verse

(John 3:16)

Intro: As we evangelicals become more and more convinced that we are living in the last days, we tend to become more cynical and that then leads us to become more judgmental toward those who have become deceived and are living their lives in a manner that the Bible describes will begin to take place in the last days.

However, what we need to remember is that they are acting out what sinners do who were born with a sinful nature, as we all were, and are living deceived by the evil one to believe that their actions and deeds are not sinful. Were it not for the love of God and His grace, we too would be falling into the clutches of the evil one and his scheme for the last days as well.

So while we need to be skeptical of what's taking place in the world as the day of Christ approaches, we also need to remember what God's purpose for the world is as given to us in the most famous Bible verse in the Bible, John 3:16. It is a verse that shows us that while the world was and is steeped in sin God's action toward us was and is to love us. Then as we look critically on at a world living out the desires of the flesh let us not forget that the best way we can change them is to love them with the love of Christ. So to inspire us in that direction I want us to examine the great love verse, John 3:16.

I. First, as we examine the great love verse, let's notice the person who is doing the love. "For **God** so loved the world"

So as we see this verse does not begin with humanity, nor does it begin with the action of love, but rather it begins with God. The point being that humanity did not originate love. Nature did not originate love nor did love originate itself. Rather there is love because there is God.

Love begins with God, continues by God, and will never end because of God. God is the absolute source of love. “Dear friends, let us love one another, for love comes from God. Everyone who loves has been born of God and knows God. Whoever does not love does not know God, because God is love.” (I John 4:7-8). So if we are going to love people to Christ in these last days then we must be plugged into the source of love, God Himself, for without Him there is no love.

Now the amazing thing is not only the fact that He’s the source of love but also the strength of His love. The strength of His love is wrapped up in a very small two letter word, “so.” It is such a little word but yet so big. Thus, you can’t describe the strength of His love by merely saying that God loves us that is not adequate. Rather to get the enormity of His love you have to include that little yet big word “so.” Then and only then can we begin to understand that God’s love is unbelievable.

II. Second, as we consider the great love verse, let’s notice the object of Divine love. “For God so loved the world.”

Listen to the words I discovered many years ago as I studied this verse. When you look up into the sky on a clear evening with your bare eyes you can count approximately 1,030 stars. However, that changes immensely when you gaze the heavens with a telescope. The stars become more than you can count. Our own sun is a star in the Milky Way Galaxy, which most astronomers believe contains over 100 billion stars. They also believe that there are 100 billion galaxies in our universe and that each of them also contain at least 100 billion stars.

Now what all this tells us is that the enormity of our universe is far beyond our human comprehension. If a person could run one mile every four minutes and never grow weary by the time they reached 700 years of age they could reach our sun. However to get to the next nearest star you would have to run for 18 million years.

Also, we need to take into consideration the size of the stars. Most stars and planets in space are several times larger than our own planet earth. As a matter of fact you could place 1,300,00 planet earths inside of our own sun and yet the sun is small in comparison to other stars out there.

Now what is the point of considering the enormity of our universe? Well, it’s the fact that of this vast universe that God created with all of its stars, planets, galaxies, novas, et cetera, God choose one little planet to pour His love out on and we call it earth or our world.

Our earth takes precedent with God over all other objects He created in space regardless of their size or makeup or distance, because God created it first according to the first chapter in the Bible, and He made it alone unique to be able to sustain human life. As a matter of fact there is no other planet like earth, because God wanted to place on it the object of His love and that's the human beings that He created in His image.

I read a story of a young woman who grew up in dire poverty. This young woman grew up in the heartland of the country and had never seen the coast before. Another individual found out about the young lady and graciously paid for her to be able to go to the east coast to see the ocean for the first time in her life. When she saw it for the first time, she was enraptured by its vastness and in awe and she was heard to say, "thank God for something of which there is more than enough!" So it is with God's love we stand in awe of its vastness. There is more than enough for He so loved the world.

III. Third, as we examine the great love verse, let's notice the action of His love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son."

Now as I've said many times before words are cheap if that's all you've got. We could say of God that if this verse stopped at the word 'world' and if we had no other place in the Bible to say any more than that, then we could possibly accuse God of merely having just words and no more.

However, praise God that the verse says so much more as well as many other places in God's Word do. In other words, it doesn't just say He loves the world and it ends there, no, God backed His words up with actions and that action shows unequivocally beyond any shadow of a doubt that God's love for us is absolutely real no matter what else may take place in our lives.

Of course, we already know that the Bible is filled with so many other verses and chapters that verify that fact that God's love is so much more than mere words but rather is backed up with the greatest action ever carried out in all of human history, present, and future. Let me share a couple of those:

"You see at just the right time when we were still powerless Christ died for the ungodly. Very rarely will anyone die for a righteous man, though for a good man someone might possibly dare to die. But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us." (Romans 5:6-8).

"This is how God showed His love among us: He sent His one and only Son into the world that we might live through Him. This is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son as an atoning sacrifice for our sins." (I John 4:9-10).

One author I read told a story about Martin Luther's German testament when it was being printed. He said, "the printer's daughter was playing in her father's shop. She picked up a scrap of paper and tried to read them. One such shred contained the line: 'For God so love the world that He gave. . . .'" Rushing to her mother the small child asked: Mother, what did God give us? Never having read a testament, the mother was baffled and exclaimed: 'I do not know what God gave, but if He loves us enough to give us anything, surely He will give us the very best. Through reading the Scriptures that mother and many since have learned that God gave His unique begotten Son.'" Thus, we can never accuse God of not loving us no matter what because He gave His best.

IV. Fourth, as we examine the great love verse, let's notice the invitation of His love. "For God so loved the world that He gave His one and only Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life."

From the actions that God took on our behalf in giving us His one and only Son as a sacrifice for our sins, He offers to us an invitation to not simply know about the actions He took on our behalf, but also to be able to experience personally in our own lives individually the benefits of the actions He took.

And what is it that this invitation is offering us? To personally experience His love for you and eternal life which is to have a personal relationship with God forever.

And what must a person do to experience this invitation of love? Jesus said that you must "believe." Jesus means that you must believe to the point that you unswervingly commit your life to Him. When you do, you will not just know about His love but you will experience it.

Concl: One author said, "On the subject of love, the great missionary pioneer and poet Amy Carmichael comforted us with these words, 'There is no need to plead that the love of God shall fill our hearts as though He were unwilling to fill us. . . His love is pressing around us on all sides like air. Cease to resist it and instantly love takes possession.'"

So today believe and let His love flood our life with the precious gift of His love, His one and only Son Jesus Christ.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph

**JESUS
LOVES
YOU†
John 3:16**



Donations for November Needed:

\$10 monetary donation to help cover the cost of shipping. The boxes will be send with the donations received.

Dates To Remember:

*Saturday, November 12th — Packing party
9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.*

Collection Week:

*November 14th through 21st
Monday - Friday 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.
Saturday 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.
Monday (21st) 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.*

Thank you everyone for your support. Any questions or concerns, please come see me.

--Dorthie



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Alicia Holland</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>14th</i>	<i>Michelle Waïtt</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>15th</i>	<i>Tammy Morton</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>David Raines</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Vicky Roberts Mingle dorff</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Tony Standard</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Josie Duncan</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Eddie Amason</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Nathan Olivas</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Terra Scoggins</i>



Sunday School Classes

@

9:15am

CAMO CLASS *Room 406* **Leader- Bobby Smith**
.....

GLEANERS CLASS *Room 401* **Leader-Darlene Bollack**
.....

VISIONARIES CLASS *Building 3, Old Social Hall*
Leader- Diane Thames/Greg Mariocourt
.....

SOJOURNERS CLASS *Room 417* **Leader-Mack Pope**
.....

YOUTH *Youth Annex* **Leader-Amanda Hodges**

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7pm

WORSHIP SERVICE *Multi-Purpose Building*
Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

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

Grandmother's Group



Thanksgiving Luncheon
November 14th at 11:00 a.m.

Turkey, dressing, gravy,
and drinks provided

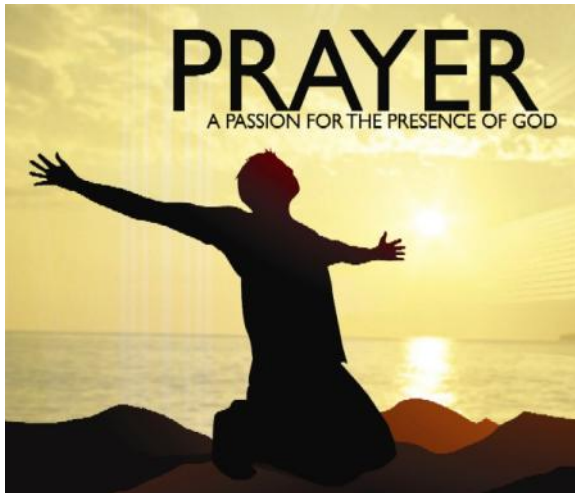
Please bring a covered dish
to go with turkey or dessert

Hope to see you there!
Call for Info: Debbie 843-368-5436
or Jennifer 843-726-3631



Deacons' Meeting

Monday, November 14th
at 7:00 p.m.



Prayer Group
Tuesday Mornings
@ 9:00am
All Are Welcome



Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Service to follow at 7:00 p.m.

Team Timmy will be cooking!
Come out and have dinner
and fellowship with us!

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



Sunday Morning Breakfast

Begins at 8:00 a.m.
\$5.00 each or \$15.00
for a family of 4
or more

GSBC Prayer Page

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

Leadership

*President / Vice President of the
United States of America*

Hospitals

*Shannon Pinner—Greenville
Mark Mingledorff*

Surgery / Recovery

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler - RNC
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Dot Nettles - NHC
Dot Smart - NHC*

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

<i>Shirley Malphrus</i>	<i>Tom Hinely</i>
<i>Rose Boyles</i>	<i>Ann Blocker</i>
<i>Judy Smith</i>	<i>Doby Cleland</i>
<i>Vera Floyd</i>	<i>Lucille & Ron Degler</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Red & Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Alice & Gary Way</i>	<i>Thomas & Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

Unspoken

Leigh Laycock

Cancer / Treatments

*Skip Brooks
Regina Bouye
Kaiaya Alston
Lloyd Freeman
Lisa Chandler
Pat Headley*

Ministries

*Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

Nelson Family of 8

Other Health Needs

*Tracey Lake
Pinky Rushing
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Marie Malphrus
Mary Kay Cade
Ellen Nettles
Donna Roberts
Jennifer Pitts Key
Tim Roberts
Chris Blanchard
Jane Himes' Nephew
Keith Gamo
Doug & Melanie Hamm
Randy Smoak
Dean Daley
Laurie Norman
Rex Norman
Rose Sheehan
Steve Bailey*

Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed
Matthew Mills-US Marines
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent / Air Force
Washington, D.C.
Michael Sottile - Ret.
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/ SWCC
Andrea C. Daring-Charleston, SC*

Church Staff

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

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

Sunday School Director: **Mike Davis**

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

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador**greatswampbaptist@hargray.com
843-726-3631

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

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

Finance Director: **Timmy Sauls**greatswampbaptist@hargray.com

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,324.00	\$ 4,982.47	-\$1,658.47
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$0.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$69.00	*****	\$127.19
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$115.00	*****	\$263.66
<i>Gleaner's SS Class</i>	\$58.00	*****	\$799.06
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	\$405.00	*****	\$2,751.05



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

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

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