

“The LORD makes
firm the steps of the
one who delights in
him; though he may
stumble, he will not fall,
for the LORD upholds
him with his hand.”

PSALM 37:23-24

Great Swamp Baptist Church

February 26, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Invocation

Fred Stanley

Praise & Worship

Sophia Sineath

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery
Help Needed



Helpers:
Emily Johnson



DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Today:

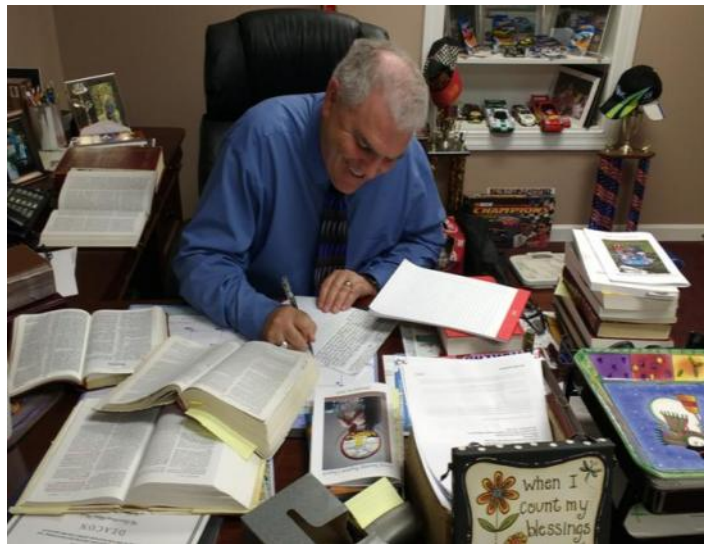
Fred Stanley: 843-726-1963

Next Week:

Mack Pope: 843-540-6636



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Paul's Message to the Athenians **(Acts 17:16-34)**

Introduction:

In our previous message we examined Jesus' witness to the Samaritan woman. We noticed that this was a great example of how our Lord used the opportunities that were at hand as a means of sharing salvation with a lost soul.

In our present message I want us to take notice of the Apostle Paul following the example of Jesus our Lord by also taking advantage of the opportunities that presented themselves to him as well.

The specific example we are looking at is the time He went to Athens. While he was there he had the opportunity to preach to what may have been a fairly large crowd in a very distinguished place, the Areopagus.

However, the privilege to be able to preach at the Areopagus didn't start at the Areopagus. It rather began in the market place where the people carried out their everyday living. That's where he began his witnessing, in the midst of life as usual for the Athenians.

Which then opened the door to preach to the larger audience at the Areopagus. So when we take advantage of the opportunities that present themselves to us in the market place of life it can open up even greater opportunities. So let's take a look at Paul's message to the Athenians as a great example of taking advantage of the opportunities at hand as a means of witnessing.

I. First, Paul's message to the Athenians began with the place where they were and the people they were (verse 2:2)

Paul started his message by saying, "Men of Athens!" He spoke those three words from knowledge he had gained from others about the men of Athens. But more importantly he spoke to them from the experience he had while he was personally moving around their city, and witnessing in their market place.

Paul discovered that indeed Athens was all that it had always been advertised as. It was known for hundreds of years as the cultural and educational centers of the known world. It produced the most well known philosophers the world had ever known such as Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, Epicurus, Zeno, and many more.

So what Paul encountered while moving about in their market place were a lot of philosophical debates taking place. As well there was a lot of discussion concerning religion. Over the years Athens had created so many idols of so-called gods that some of their writers said Athens had more gods than it had humans. As a matter of fact they even made an altar with the inscription, "to an unknown God." (verse 23). This was just in case they missed one.

So Paul began his message right where the people of Athens were and who they were. By stating that they were the men of Athens he was honoring them as men well educated, philosophical, and religious. He also began with one of their own religious altars, the one to the unknown God, to ultimately share the message of salvation to them.

Just the other day at the hospital Mack Pope and I were waiting for an elevator to come up. The elevator right next to that one was being worked on. So we struck up a conversation with the man working on it. I started my conversation with him by using the business that he was in. I said to him, you're in the business of moving people up and down. Then I said, I'm in the business of just moving them up because I'm a preacher. He laughed and said, that's good.

So once again let us observe and listen for where people are and who they are so that we can grab their attention by starting our conversation with them from their point of view, to move them to where they need to be.

II. Second, Paul's message to the Athenians was to give them the proclamation they needed to understand.

What Paul is going to show the Athenian is that with all their education, their philosophy, their religion, and their idols they had not yet been able to settle on just exactly who God is. It was for this reason that they created the altar to the unknown God.

Now with Paul's own personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ, and his knowledge of the word of God he could definitely give the Athenians the exact knowledge and understanding of who the unknown God was and is. This is an important reminder to us that if the world is going to know just who God is then it must come from God's word. For man's education, philosophies, and religions are tainted by our sin nature. But the word of God is infallible and inerrant because God gave it to us.

Now the knowledge of God that Paul revealed to them is the awesome view of just how Almighty our God is. He revealed that God is the creator of all things. He's the self-existing one not requiring the assistance of anyone to exist. He's the giver of life, and the sustainer of life. For every breath we breathe He gave to us, and gives it to us. He is sovereignly in control of the universe.

Next Paul reveals something that is absolutely incredible about God, and that is that though He's all the amazing things we just wrote about, He is also knowable. Our awesome God can be known intimately and personally. As a matter of fact, it's His desire that we know Him. Listen to Paul's words. "God did this so that men would seek Him and perhaps reach out for Him and find Him, though He is not far from each one of us." (verse 27).

Next Paul reveals to the men of Athens not only who God is but who they are. First, he revealed the simple fact that mankind is definitely, not God. For God is the creator but we are the created. God needed no one to exist but we needed Him to exist. Paul taught that God only created one human race not many. For we all come from one man, (Adam was the first man) and his wife Eve. While there is one human race, there are many different people groups. Thus, this makes each individual human accountable to God because we are all one race.

The next thing Paul showed them about mankind was that though they were created by God they were separated from Him. He showed that they were separated from Him because of their sin. Particularly their sin of making God out to be a worthless idol made from mankind's own hands. Finally, Paul showed them that because of their sinful ways that one day they would face God for judgment.

However, the glorious news is that even though mankind had sinned against Him God still desired to have a relationship with them. And in our next point we will see how God made it possible for this to happen.

III. Third, Paul's message to the Athenian revealed the procedure that they need to follow

In other words Paul revealed to them what they needed to do in order to have a relationship with God. Also to have the sins forgiven and their condemnation taken away.

So what was the procedure they needed to follow? First, Paul tells them that they must repent of their sins. And this command was not for a select few, or for a particular people group, or for the people who appear to be the worst among us. No, rather this command is for each one of us, because it was addressed for all people everywhere.

To repent means to acknowledge our sinfulness and have a willingness to turn from it. But this alone will not restore our relationship to God. We must move to the next step in the procedure we need to follow in order to restore our relationship to God.

So as we noted Paul first tells them to repent. Repentance is turning away. But as we turn away from sin we need to turn toward something or I should say someone. Paul cries out for them to move in faith and commitment toward the risen and exalted Savior Jesus Christ, He alone can forgive sin, redeem the lost and restore them to an eternal relationship with God.

The knowable God can be known through Christ and Christ alone.

Conclusion:

We have much a glorious message to share. So let's get out there in the market place of life and share this glorious good news!

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

SFCA Drama Department Presents.....

NIGHT AT THE
WAX MUSEUM
THE MUSICAL

Friday, March 24th @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 25th @ 7:00 p.m.

SFCA Gymnasium
9009 Tarboro Road
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Ticket Prices:

Student - \$8.00

Senior - \$8.00

Adults - \$12.00

Concession stand will be open.



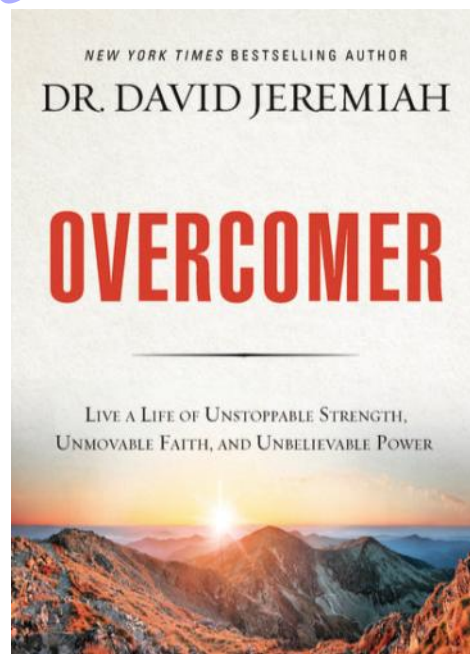
SFCA Blood Drive
Thursday, March 2nd
GSBC Multi-Purpose Building
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sign up *online* now to reserve a spot!
Walk-ins are welcome as well!



Visionaries Sunday School Class

**Let's
overcome our
difficulties
together with
God!**



**Sundays at
9:15 a.m.
Building #3
School office
building**

Come join us for a new Bible study called “Overcomer” by David Jeremiah. This is an amazing Bible study from a trusted pastor. We all face difficulties today such as anxiety, fear, temptation, confusion, etc. and we have to choose how we respond to those. This study will help teach you to how to overcome them all. We will meet Sundays at 9:15 a.m. in building 3 (school office building).
Hope to see you there!

*If you have children, April Malphrus will be teaching the children’s Sunday school class.

Grandmother's Group
Paparazzi Party

Guest: "Dianne Hemmings \$5.00 Bling"

Come join us on March 6, 2023
at 11:30 a.m. until ??

Please bring a dish or dessert for
everyone to enjoy! Fried chicken and
drinks provided.

Ladies of ALL ages are welcome!!

Blessed
by God
Spoiled
by 

paparazzi

Also, bring some
extra \$\$ to purchase
Mrs. Dianne's items!!!

For more info:

Debbie Hale

843-368-5436

~ Or ~!

Jennifer

843-726-3631

Sunday School Classes

@ 9:15am

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

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

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

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

YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges
.....

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 415 -
April Malphrus

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

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-Diane Thames



Operation Christmas Child

Time to start gearing up for another year of Operation Christmas Child! We will start this year off collecting hygiene items for boys and girls. The more you can donate, the more boxes we can fill, hence the more children receive boxes. So let's all bring in some hygiene items!

February:

Wash Cloths	Toothbrushes
Comb/Brushes (Boys & Girls)	
Pony tail holders	Head bands
Hair Barrettes	





<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Richard Waïtt</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>3rd</i>	<i>Darlene Bollack</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Jeffrey Stanley</i>

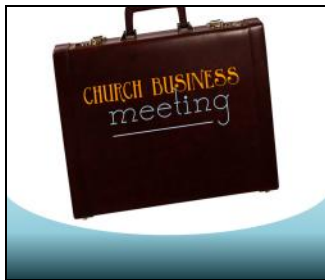


VBS 2023



**More Info Coming!
Stay Tuned!!**

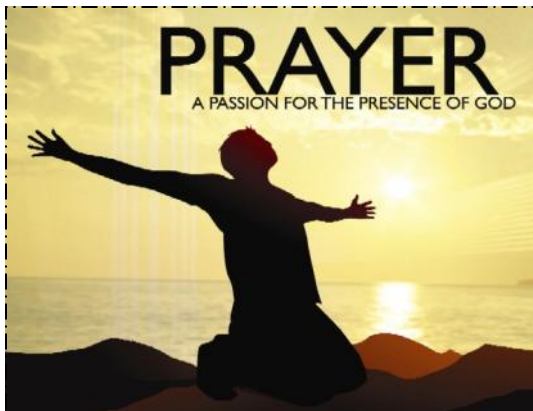
Sign up sheets are up! Please sign up to help with VBS this year, if possible. If you cannot physically help, maybe you can donate money or supplies. Anything helps! A list of supplies will be coming shortly. More information to follow as well. So stay tuned!! Any questions, please contact Nicole Mariocourt (843-726-2211) or Jennifer Meador (843-726-3631).



Business Meeting
Wednesday, March 8th
at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons' Meeting
Monday, March 13th
at 6:00 p.m.



Prayer Group
Tuesday
Mornings @
9:00am



**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.
Ends at 9:00 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*

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

*Melonie Williams Family
Landy Thomas Family*

Unspoken

Hospitals

*Jane Garbade—MUSC
Marie Cole—Savannah
Memorial*

Surgery/Recovery

Cancer/Treatments

*Regina Bouye
Kaiaya Alston
Pat Headley
Leigh Laycock*

Other Health Needs

*Pinky Rushing
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Mary Kay Cade
Ellen Nettles
Jennifer Pitts Key
Chris Blanchard
Doug & Melanie Hamm
Rose Sheehan
Steve Bailey
Kayla Malphrus
Stephanie Crowe
Saylor Olivas
Dorthie Armstrong
Lewis Hughes
Rose David
Karen Malphrus
Barry DeMay
Marie Cole*

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler - RNC
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Dot Nettles - NHC
Karen Malphrus - Encompass (Rm 114)*

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>Marie Malphrus</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Margaret Nelson</i>
	<i>Melanie Williams</i>

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, Jrjehu27@gmail.com

Music Director: Richard Waittwaittfamily83@gmail.com

Sunday School Director: Mike Davis

Pianist: Michelle Waitt waittfamily83@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meadorgreatswampbaptist@hargray.com
843-726-3631

School Administrator: Donna Carterdcarter@hargray.com

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$5,278.00	\$ 5,012.49	+\$515.51
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$250.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$322.09
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$95.00	*****	\$820.50
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$160.00	*****	\$435.68
<i>GSBC Senior Adult Trip 2023</i>	\$50.00	*****	\$249.22



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