



Jeremiah 29:11

**I HAVE PLANS TO
PROSPER YOU.**

Great Swamp Baptist Church
July 16, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Fred Stanley

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery
Help Needed

Children's
CHURCH

Helpers:
Emily Johnson



DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Today:

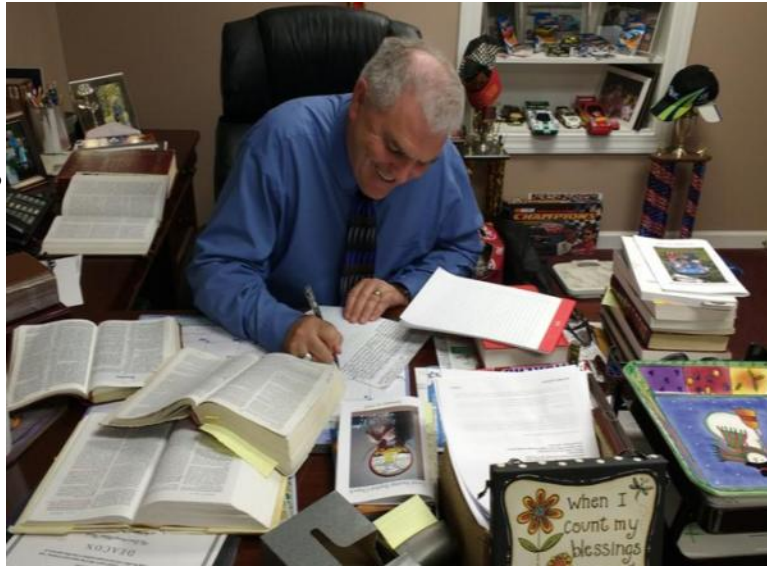
Fred Stanley: 843-726-1963

Next Week:

Mack Pope: 843-540-6636



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Walking Worthy of Your Calling (Eph 4:1-16)

Introduction:

Two Sundays ago we began examining these verses as a means and way of helping us to get ready for the start of our church's new year which begins in September. We want to start our church's new year with a tremendous amount of commitment and dedication to the ministries that God has called the church to do. And to do this I believe that each of us must begin walking worthy of the calling that God has placed on our lives as Christians, which is what these verses are referring to, to walk worthy of your calling. If you walk worthy of your calling you will want to commit and dedicate yourself to the work and ministries of our Lord.

The first Sunday that we examined these verses we said that we walk worthy of our calling because we have a cause. Now the cause that I'm referring to is the cause or reason why we should walk worthy of our calling. In verse one Paul is tying the verses that we are examining together with the first three chapters of the book and what he's doing is saying in light of all that God has done for us as found in those first three chapters then we should definitely do everything possible to walk worthy of our calling. Those chapters are filled with one amazing blessing and grace after another that God has done for us.

The second part we looked at was that walking worthy of your calling meant that you live by certain conduct. Those conducts are mentioned in verses two and three of your present set of verses. These conducts that are mentioned are really pointing out the fact that we should be conducting our lives in the manner that Jesus did when He walked in our midst. As a matter of fact we are the ones that God is using to show Jesus to the world today.

Therefore, we should seek under God's leadership to be humble, gentle, patient, bearing one another in love, and unite together by the spirit of God to carry out God's work. So if we are going to work together as a church we've got to conduct ourselves toward one another in the above manner to get God's work accomplished. If we don't, all we will do is fight one another.

In this specific message I want us to focus on my third point which I preached last week which focuses on the fact that walking worthy of your calling requires that you believe in a specific confession. So let's examine that specific confession.

III. Third, let's notice that you walk worthy of your calling through our confession.

In verses four through six, Paul lays out for us in a very concise form the key doctrines we must adhere to in order to call ourselves Christians. It's vital that we come to agreement on the major beliefs of our faith if we are to move forward in unison carrying out the work of our Lord. For one of the great commands He gave us is to share the faith with our lost and dying world, and in order to do that we must know what we believe in order to share it. And not just anything you want to believe will work. Sadly, however, that's where we are the truths that have once held us all together are slowly but surely disappearing from denominations and churches all across our land.

Many denominations and churches aren't sounding too different than the beliefs of the Unitarian Universalist Organization whose statement concerning God says, "Unitarian universalists have many ways of naming what is sacred. Some believe in God; some don't believe in God. Some believe in a sacred force at work in the world, and call it 'love,' 'mystery,' 'sum of all,' or 'spirit of life.' We are thousands of individuals of all ages, each influenced by our cultures and life experiences to understand the ground of our being in our own way. Unitarian universalists are agnostic, theist, atheist, and everything in between." This quote came from the Unitarian Universalist beliefs and principals on their website.

So that we don't end up with a belief system that really is no belief system at all, such as the Unitarians, let's discover just who we are. I will mention each one of the beliefs and a statement concerning them with more scripture to back them up.

A. First, Paul tells us concerning our confession of faith that there's "one body."

Now this one body is a reference to the body of Christ which is made up of all who have become believers through Jesus Christ in the past, present, and the future, from all places and all people groups. We are all united as one under the leadership of Jesus Christ our Lord.

"For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the other." (Romans 12:4-5).

"And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way." (Ephesians 1:22-23).

"This mystery is that through the gospel the gentiles are heirs together with Israel, members together of one body, and sharers together in the promise in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 3:6).

B. Second, Paul tells us concerning our faith that there's "one spirit."

Of course this is a reference to the Holy Spirit of God. He's the blessed third person of the Holy Trinity. It is He that brought conviction in our lives that revealed our sinfulness and thus our need for Jesus Christ and the redemption that He provides. Also He gave and gives us the strength to believe and serve our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. Apart from Him we couldn't live the Christian life.

"But very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you. When he comes, He will prove the world to be in the wrong about sin and righteousness and judgments; about sin, because people do not believe in me; about righteousness, because I am going to the Father, where you can see me no longer; and about judgment, because the prince of this world now stands condemned." (John 16:7-11).

"But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes on you; and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem, and Samaria, and to the ends of the earth." (Acts 1:8).

C. Third, Paul tells us concerning our confession of faith that there's "one hope."

The hope referred to here is the hope that comes with your calling. When the Lord Jesus Christ called us to salvation He called us to an eternal salvation with everlasting life and an eternal home in heaven where forever we will be with our Lord.

In Corinthians, Paul says this, "If only for this life we have hope in Christ, we are to be pitied more than all men." (1 Cor. 15:19). Thank God however our hope is eternal because it rests in the eternal one Jesus Christ.

"My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:27-30).

Also of course we all know that great set of verses in John 14:1-6 in which Jesus tells us that He was going away to prepare a place for us so that we could be with Him, amen. Oh, thank God for our eternal hope.

D. Fourth, concerning our confession of faith Paul tells us that there's "one Lord."

There are not many Lords, just one and His name is Jesus Christ. What we believe about Jesus Christ comes from God's Holy Word and it teaches us that Jesus eternally existed (John 1:1-14); that he left His home in heaven to come and save us (Phil 2:5-11); that He was born of a virgin (Matt 1:18-25); that He performed miracles (the four Gospels); that He died for our sins (2 Cor 5:20, 21); that He arose from the dead on the third day (the Gospels and 1 Cor 15); and that He's coming again (Matt 24, Jon 14:1-3, Phil 3:20, 21, Titus 2:11-14, Rev.).

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is more than a good person, more than a good teacher, more than a good example, more than a good martyr for a cause. He's the glorious Son of God; the second person of the Holy Trinity; the Savior of the world; the King of Kings and Lord of Lords; the way, the truth, and the light; He is the only means of eternal salvation.

"Beyond all questions the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body; was vindicated by the spirit; was seen by the angels; was preached among the nations; was believed on in the world; was taken up to glory." (1 Tim 3:16).

“Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. But for that very reason I was shown mercy so that in me, the worst of sinners, Christ Jesus might display his unlimited patience as an example of those who would believe in him and receive eternal life. Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only God, be honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen.” (I Tim 1:15-17).

E. Fifth, Paul tells us concerning our confessions of faith that there’s “one faith.”

Now obviously what we’ve been looking at in this message is the content of our faith. So why specifically mention it when we’ve been looking at it all along? And I believe that the answer to that is that Paul wanted to emphasize to us very clearly that there are not many faiths, just one, and it’s the one that we are presently examining. And also to remind us that there are many false religions and beliefs out there, but just one true faith, the one we are looking at.

“‘You are a king then!’ said Pilate. Jesus answered, ‘You say that I am a king. In fact, the reason I was born and came into the world is to testify to the truth. Everyone on the side of truth listens to me.’” (John 18:38). SO our faith is the way of truth.

F. Sixth, Paul tells us concerning our confessions of faith that we have “one baptism.”

We are baptized to show our commitment to the Lord Jesus Christ and our Lord commanded it to be done as one of our first demonstration of loyalty to Him.

However, the one baptism spoken here is most likely referring to our spiritual baptism which takes place when we are born again. The Holy Spirit comes into our lives and at the same time He baptizes us into the family of God.

“Just as a body, though one, has many parts, but all its many parts form one body, so it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit so as to form one body - whether Jews or Gentiles, slave or free - and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Even so the body is not made up of one part but many.” (I Cor 12:12-13).

G. Seventh, Paul tells us concerning our confessions of faith that there's "one God and Father of us all."

Paul doesn't give us a confession of faith that fails to include the entire Holy Trinity. For he spoke of the "one spirit," the blessed third person of the Holy Trinity. He then spoke of the "one Lord," the Lord Jesus Christ, the second person of the Holy Trinity. And now he speaks of the Father, the blessed first person of the Holy Trinity. You can't have a true confession of faith without all three, because they all three together make up the one true God.

I want to share what John McArthur said in his Ephesians commentary about God, the Father.:

"God the Father is often used in scripture as the most comprehensive and inclusive divine title, though it is clear from many New Testament texts that He is never separated in nature or power from the Son or the Holy Spirit. Paul's point here is not to separate the Persons of the Godhead but to note their unique roles and yet focus on their unity in relation to each other and in relation to the church—manifested in the several different aspects mentioned in these three verse.

Our one God and Father, along with the Son and the Holy Spirit, is over all and through all and in all. That comprehensive statement points to the glorious, divine, eternal unity that the Father gives believers by His Spirit and through the Son. We are God created, God loved, God saved, God Fathered, God controlled, God sustained, God filled, and God blessed: We are one people under one sovereign (over all), omnipotent (through all), and omnipresent (in all) God."

Conclusion:

So blessed be the name of our Lord that we don't have to try and figure out what it is that we need to believe. Thank God it's been given to us. Now let us cling to it and share it.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



**Movie: War Room
TONIGHT!!**

Sunday, July 16th

Concessions at 6:00 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.



**Please bring finger foods to share!
Tea and Popcorn provided.**

**Come Enjoy A Great Wholesome Family
Movie!**



The church family would like to thank Kelly Pittinger for pressure washing the parking lots and sidewalks on the church campus.

The church family would like to also thank April Malphrus for keeping the flower arrangements beautiful and seasonal.



The Nominating Committee recommends that Kim Malphrus be voted as Church Clerk for the upcoming church year. This will be voted on Wednesday, July 26th at 7:00 pm before the Bible Study.

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 -
Nicole Mauriocourt

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

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

YOUTH GROUP Youth Annex
Leader-Michelle Waitt

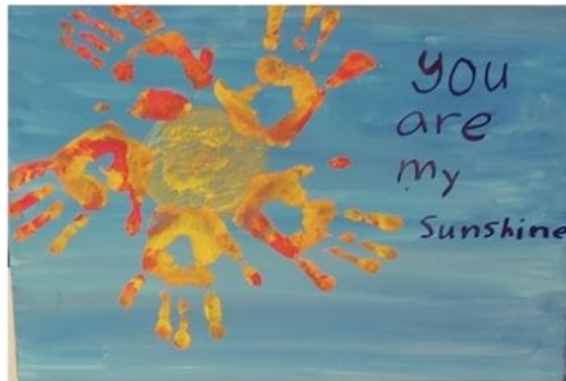
R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors) Room 417
Leader - Pat Mason & Fred Stanley

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

****During Summer-Jennifer Wall****

SAVE THE DATE!

*You Are
My Sunshine*



Senior Celebration

August 17, 2023

10:00am

Sponsored by Savannah River Baptist Association

Place TBA



Christmas in July

Operation Christmas Child

The official kick off to shoebox donations has begun! We are starting with school supplies. There are three way to donate: 1) take an angel off the tree with an item on it; 2) donate something from the list below; or 3) a monetary donation.

Thank you!

July:

Pencils	Pencil Sharpeners
Glue Sticks	Crayons—24 count
Scissors	Notebook Paper
Construction Paper	Ink Pens
Colored Pencils—12 count	

Remember: NO liquids, glass, or military items. You can also give a monetary donation instead of buying the items. No donation is too small!




MEN'S Fellowship

Savannah River
BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

**Men's Quarterly
Multi-Church Fellowship**
Thursday, July 20, 7:00 pm
Great Swamp Baptist Church

For more information contact
Wilbur Daley at (843) 305-0110



Happy Anniversary

"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Monday, July 17th:
Thomas & Erma
Cooler
~and~
Donnie & Burnette
Pinckney

Friday, July 21th:
Alex & Sophia
Sineath



Business Meeting
Wednesday, August 9th
at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons' Meeting
Monday, August 14th
at 6:00 p.m.



Grandmothers' Group
Monday, August 7th
at 11:30 a.m.

All grandmothers welcome!

Swamp Kids

Starting in August, we will be starting a new children's program called SwampKids (formerly GA/RA) on Wednesday nights from 7-8pm. This will be similar to a VBS rotation-style with different stations, Bible/Missions study, Crafts, and Recreation condensed into one hour. The decor will be swamp background. If you would like to help with decorations, snacks, crafts, recreational activities, please sign up or see Kim Malphrus. We want to grow our children's group as we talk about God's creation, their place in it, and the work our Missionaries do to spread God's Word.

NEEDED SUPPLIES:

Craft items needed for SwampKids:

- Paper Egg Cartons**
- Metal Bottle Caps**
- Wooden Clothes Pins**
- Bubble Wrap**

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

Hospitals

Unspoken

Surgery/Recovery

Cindy Rhodes, SRBA

Cancer/Treatments

*Pat Headley
Leigh Laycock
Joyce Garbade
Tex Lowther*

Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade
Barry DeMay
Marie Coleman
James Williamson
Glenn Scott
Rhonda Stones
Debbie Hale
Gene Price
Mark Simpson
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Keith Gamo
Connie Benton
Lewis Hughes
Wanda Davis
Mike Davis
Amy Hannah
Lloyd Freeman
Judy Smith
Kathy Breland
Donald Malphrus
Jase Mole—Burns
Juliette Daring—gallbladder
Stan Stones*

Nursing Centers

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

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>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Thomas & Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</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
Schuler Johnson - Basic Training Army*

Church Staff

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

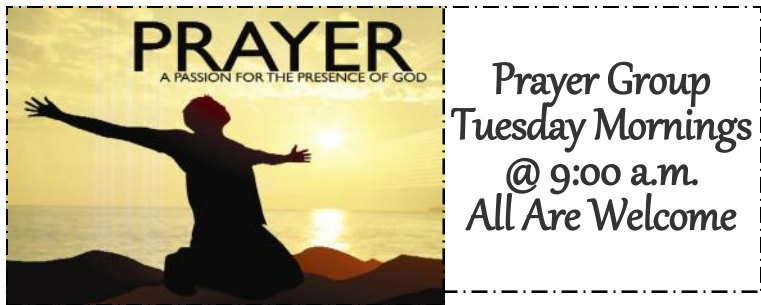
Music Director: Richard Waitt*waittfamily83@gmail.com*

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*



Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$2,965.00	\$ 5,012.49	\$-2,047.49
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Adult Senior Trip 2023</i>	\$1,107.00	*****	\$4,059.94
<i>Kitchen Renovation</i>	\$30.00	*****	\$30.00
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$1,526.24



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