

Great Swamp Baptist Church
August 20, 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



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:*



The Devotion of the Early Church **(Acts 2:1-47)**

Introduction:

After my dad sold his fairly large construction company in Greenville back in the mid-seventies he began doing small jobs by himself in our home community. I had just began going to my first Bible college which was Fruitland in Hendersonville and I needed a job to do when I wasn't at school so I began working for my dad.

Now a lot of the work that we did was remodeling and repairing mountain cabins that families had for generations been coming to for summer vacations. Because many of these cabins had been built more than a hundred years ago, they had very poor foundations under them. As the result of their very poor foundations, many of them were sinking into the ground. Some of them were beginning to sag and some were beginning to slide down the mountain side.

Therefore we spent hour and days raising these homes up and putting solid foundations under them so they could last for years to come for many more generations to enjoy their summer vacations.

If, however, they had put adequate foundations under them to begin with they would not had to have gone to all the expense of shoring them up and repairing the damage caused by inadequate foundations.

Jesus Christ our Lord clearly revealed how important foundations are. He told us that wonderful set of verses that has been turned into a song that we as Christians sing in Sunday school. It's all about the wise man who built his house on the rock and the foolish man who built his house on sand.

Now Jesus compares these two men and their different foundations to the spiritual condition in people's lives. He points out that the one who builds on a solid foundation will have a healthy spiritual condition. "He is like a man building a house, who dug down deep and laid the foundation on rock. When a flood came, the torrent struck that home but could not shake it, because it was well build." (Luke 6:48).

Well, praise be to our God that the early church was built on a solid foundations, and because of that she has stood the test of time. However the church today has begun to remove the foundations that have been supporting her and sustaining her. So it's time that we get the structure back on the foundations that were and are solid and God honoring. So today we will begin examining the foundation the church was built on and challenge ourselves to be sure that we, too, are situated on these same foundations.

We will discover these foundations of the early church from the devotions they were committed to, and what better place to discover these devotions than on the day the church was born into existence. That's exactly what's taking place in our present set of verses.

I. First, let's notice where their devotion came from! (Acts 2:1-11)

In Matthew's gospel, Jesus told us, ". . . I will build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (Matt 16:18). Thus, Jesus is the Builder of His church, and on the day of Pentecost Jesus brought His church to life by the means of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit indwelt the believers that day. He baptized them spiritually together as the body of Christ, and He them empowered them to be witnesses for Christ.

So if we are going to return to the foundations of the church then we must devote ourselves to the Holy Spirit's leadership. For our flesh and our own human wisdom, is all lacking when it come to accomplishing the will of God. However the Holy Spirit's whole purpose is to magnify Christ and because He's the blessed third person of the trinity he lacks no power or wisdom to carry out God's perfect and Holy will.

II. Second, let's notice whom their devotion was to (vs 22-36).

The biggest portion of this chapter is the Apostle Peter's preaching a message to the crowd that had gathered at the temple for the Pentecost celebration. The believers were filled with the Holy Spirit and in different languages they began to tell the crowd there about the amazing wonders of our Lord. This caused an even bigger crowd to gather to see and hear what was taking place.

Now the next thing that happened was that Peter stood up in the midst of that large gathering and began preaching about the Lord Jesus Christ. He concluded his message by saying, "Therefore let all of Israel be assured of this: God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ" (vs 36). So on the very first day of the life of the church their emphasis and focus was the Lord Jesus Christ. He received their full attention.

In the New Testament in one form or another, Jesus' name is mentioned over 1,000 times. In one form or another, it's mentioned over 300 times in the Old Testament. The day the church loses its focus upon the Lord Jesus Christ will be the day that she begins to die. He's the very life and foundation of the church. The Apostle Paul said, "By the grace God has given me, I laid a foundation as an expert builder, and someone else is building on it. But each one should be careful how he builds. For no one can lay any foundation other than the one already laid, which is Jesus Christ." (I Cor 3:10-11).

Paul also said this, "Consequently, you are no longer foreigners and aliens, but fellow citizens with God's people and members of God's household, built on the foundation of the apostle and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the chief cornerstone. In Him the whole building is joined together and rises to become a holy temple in the Lord. And in him you, too, are being built together to become a dwelling in which God lives by His Spirit." (Eph 2:19-22).

A church without Christ is not a church.

III. Third, let's notice what their devotion was to (vs 42-47).

So in our last point we noticed whom the early church was devoted to and whom we must be devoted to as well. In this point what we are looking at are the ways in which they carried on their devotions to Christ and these are the ways we, too, must be devoted to Him. So what were those things? Well, there are five of them and we will look at each one of them briefly but clearly.

A. First, they devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching (vs 42).

The teachings of the apostles came from God's Holy Word, and also became a part of God's Holy Word. I can't emphasize it enough. God has not left what we are to believe based upon the opinions of man but rather what does God say. The apostle only preached, shared, wrote and taught what God had led them to. Then we must, too, devote ourselves to the apostles' teaching.

B. Second, they devoted themselves to fellowship (vs 42).

Now the meaning fellowship is far more than a cover dish supper. Of course there's nothing wrong with a covered dish supper and I'm all for them, however, fellowship in the Biblical sense is coming together for sure, but to do more than just eat, it's to also build one another up in Christ. To do as the Book of Hebrews tells us, "And let us consider how we may spur one another on toward love and good deed. Let us not give up meeting together, as some are in the habit of doing, but let us encourage one another and all the more as you see the day approaching." (Heb 10:24, 25).

C. Third, they devoted themselves to the breaking of bread (vs 42).

This is a reference to the Lord's Supper. God's people are to regularly come together to take of the bread and the juice to constantly be reminded of the sacrifice that Jesus made on our behalf. It is to be a time in which nothing, and I mean nothing, is to take precedent over focusing upon Jesus Christ's sacrifice.

D. Fourth, they devoted themselves to prayer (vs 42).

Prayer was an on-going event in the life of the early church. They prayed privately and publically. They prayed at church and in their house. They prayed believing that God would absolutely accomplish in them and through them whatever He so desired to do with them as they intently sought Him out. A church can only be as powerful as they are prayerful.

E. Fifth, they devoted themselves to one another (vs 43, 44).

They genuinely looked at for one another. Part of the concern for one another even led them to sell their belongings to raise money to provide for those in their midst who were in need. We, too, must remember that God expects us to love one another in such a deep manner as well.

F. Sixth, the devoted themselves to worship (vs 46, 47).

Worship was an absolute priority of the early church. It wasn't just a once a week thing but rather it was a daily activity. Actually it was more than an activity, it was also an ongoing attitude and life style. God loves and deserves the worship of His people.

IV. Fourth, let's notice where their devotion was displayed (vs46, 47).

The point I want to make here is that the early church met in large groups as when they would gather at the temple to worship. However they also gathered in small groups when they would meet from house to house.

So like the early church we must devote ourselves to large gatherings of believers for the purpose of worship, but we must also devote ourselves to small groups where personal attention can be given to one another. I like what one author used to say, we grow large by growing small.

Conclusion:

So let us pray that we will be like the wise man who built his house upon the rock for solid foundation. So that the storm of life could not move his house.

We can do the same if we will devote ourselves to the things that the early church did.

Jesus Loves You
Ralph Lee, Jr.



<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Ralph Lee</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Charles Malphrus</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Mike Mingledorff</i>



Monday, August 21st:
 Stephen & Amy Mobley



Business Meeting
Wednesday, September 13th
at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons
Called
To Serve

Deacons' Meeting
Monday, September 11th
at 6:00 p.m.



Grandmothers' Group

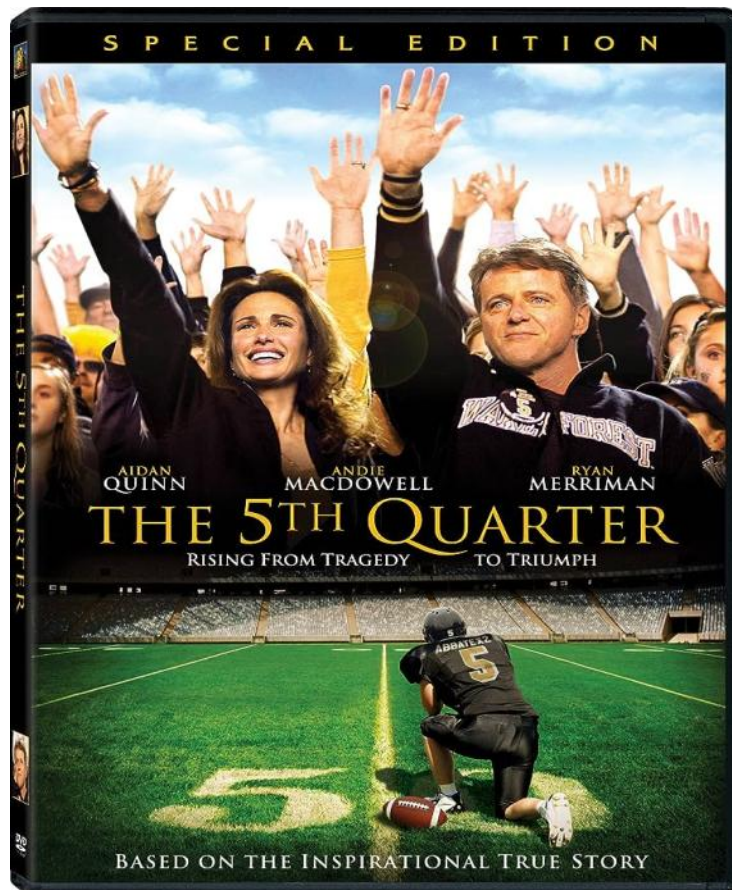
Monday, September 4th at 11:30 a.m.
We will be meeting at the youth house
each month to help with Operation
Christmas Child.

Please bring a dish or
a dessert to share.

Hope to see everyone there!

All grandmothers welcome!





Movie: The 5th Quarter
Sunday, August 20th
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!

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****

Introducing Great Swamp Baptist
Church's new and improved Wednesday
night children's program:



Wednesday, September 6th
At 7:00 p.m. until 8:00 p.m.
Ages K-3 through 6th Grade

We will have worship, activities,
and crafts!

BRING YOUR FRIENDS!!!

**Meeting Sunday, August 20th
after church service.



Operation Christmas Child

We are still collecting school supplies for Operation Christmas Child for the month of August. 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.

August:

Pencils	Pencil Sharpeners
Glue Sticks	Crayons—24 count
Scissors	Notebook Paper
Construction Paper	Ink Pens
Colored Pencils—12 count	
Spiral Notebooks—70 sheets/1 subject	

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

No donation is too small!



Creation Seminar

Guest Speaker: Steve Levinson
Coming September 10th!

Sunday School Hour (9:30 a.m.)

Creation2Communion Seminar

A gospel illusion presentation! Steve transforms into “Dr. LivingStone,” complete with a lab coat and wig! Several illusions are performed to demonstrate the gospel message. Please invite all ages – it’s not just for kids!

Worship Hour (10:30 a.m.)

Foundations Under Fire Seminar

This PowerPoint message reveals how evolution undermines the gospel message and how it has affected our culture. The church is encouraged to wake up and get serious about the issues.

Sunday Evening (6:00 p.m.)

Fossils, the Flood, Noah’s Ark, and Dinosaurs

This jammed-packed message answers many questions from the Bible and demonstrates that people are “evolutionized.” A young earth is clearly shown from the Bible! Steve also brings his fossil collection.

You do NOT want to miss any of these seminars. They will be fantastic! Bring your family, bring your friends, bring everyone you can!!!

A love offering will be taken up after each seminar.



This is the covenant that our Deacons adopted for their ministry at Great Swamp Baptist Church

Read it, encourage your Deacons, and vigilantly pray for them.

The Deacon Covenant

We will be accountable to God and to each other. We will ask the hard questions about faith and ministry to this church and will provide honest answers.

We must be men of peace. We will strive to allow the Spirit of Christ to rule in our relationships with our families, with each other, and with the members of our church.

We will be shepherds of the Family of God that worships at Great Swamp Baptist Church. We will be servants in the model of Jesus who tenderly watched over his sheep.

We will be vigilant in our personal life. We will put on the whole armor of God as a necessity to help guard against the attacks of Satan.

We will seek an intimate relationship with God through His Son Jesus. We will try to live a life that is above reproach in speech, love, faith, and purity.

We will support the ministries of this church with our finances, our influence, and with our prayers.

We will partner with the pastor of this good church to meet the spiritual needs of all of our members, our guests, and the community as God leads us.

Deacon Election List

Lloyd Freeman
Johnny Westbury

Announcement

Any man 18 years and older who has been a member of Great Swamp for a year or more and does not want their name on the Deacon Election List please contact the church Jennifer at 843-726-3631 or a current Deacon and have it removed.

Voting by secret ballot will take place on Sunday morning, August 27th following Morning Worship Service. Once a deacon has been voted in, ordination will commence September 3rd.

GSBC Prayer Page

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

Leadership

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

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

Nursing Centers

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

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

Unspoken

Cancer/Treatments

*Pat Headley
Leigh Laycock
Joyce Garbade
Lloyd Freeman*

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>

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

*Family of Glenn Scott
Family of Myrtle Malphrus*

Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade
Debbie Hale
Gene Price
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Judy Smith
Kathy Breland
Juliette Daring
Mr. Williamson - heart attack
Venny Robinston (Allene's
sister)
Karen Malphrus - Fall
Mike Wall
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pierson
Jerry Koons
Dwight Malphrus
Tom & Connie Benton -
Covid*

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
Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines*

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 + / -
	<i>\$3,777.00</i>	<i>\$ 5,012.49</i>	<i>\$-1,235.49</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
Designated Funds		*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Adult Senior Trip 2023</i>	<i>\$728.00</i>	*****	<i>\$8,859.94</i>
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	*****	<i>\$972.84</i>
<i>Kitchen Renovations</i>	<i>\$20.00</i>	*****	<i>\$2,413.00</i>



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