



**The refining pot is for SILVER
and the furnace for GOLD
But the Lord tests the HEART.**

Proverbs 17:3 KJV

Great Swamp Baptist Church March 17, 2024

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



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Fred Stanley



Phone: 843-726-1963

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



He Is More So He Does More
(II Cor. 5:13-21; Mark 5:1-20)

Introduction:

The advertisement campaign called He Gets Us recently spent several million dollars to run an advertisement during the Super Bowl in order to show that Jesus is against hate. The advertisement shows several different scenes of different persons washing the feet of those who in society are considered the most disfranchised. Thus, the message is that Jesus doesn't hate these people. Instead he washes their feet. So, as the name of their advertisement campaign is He Gets Us, with this particular advertisement and with all the other ones that they have shown or promoted they are showing that Jesus get us just the way we are.

So why has this advertisement campaign come into existence? Well, a couple of Christian businessmen had become greatly concerned with the perception that the media and society as a whole had of Jesus and the Christian faith. The perception that they had discerned was that Jesus and his followers were all judgmental, condemning and negative toward the rest of society, especially against those considered to be the most disenfranchised.

Now the manner in which they determined how to create their advertisement campaign and the advertisements they would use was to interview over 8,000 people in society all around the nation.

From these interviews, they determined that it was the humanity of Jesus that society most resonated with. Thus, they made their advertisement more in line with the humanity of Jesus, so that Jesus would be more acceptable to society. In reality, they are rebranding Jesus and Christianity to society in order to make a more positive view of Jesus and our faith for society.

Because so many persons saw the advertisement during the Super Bowl and have seen it on other occasions and also because it has become a hot topic to discuss from both the left and the right I felt as though I should deal with this subject and reveal the many problems that I have with this particular advertisement campaign.

The first fault that I find with this advertisement campaign is the strategy used in order to get the information they needed to make their advertisements. We've already mentioned that strategy was to interview 8,000 or more people across the country to determine what their advertisement would look like. The fault with this is that our view of who Jesus is should never come from society's perception of who He is. Rather, it should always come from what does God's Holy Word say about Jesus and who He is and what the Christian faith is all about? Jesus, speaking to the religious leader of his day revealed that the scripture revealed who He is. "Nor does his word dwell in you, for you do not believe the one he sent. You study the Scriptures diligently because you think that in them you have eternal life. These are the very Scriptures that testify about me, yet you refuse to come to me to have life." (John 5:38-40).

Also when speaking with His disciples Jesus used the word of God to explain to them who He was and what He came to do. "He said to them, 'How foolish you are, and how slow to believe all that the prophets have spoken!. Did not the Messiah have to suffer these things and then enter his glory?' And beginning with Moses and all the Prophets, he explained to them what was said in all the Scriptures concerning himself." (Luke 24:25-27)

The second fault that I had with this advertisement campaign is the almost complete focus on the humanity of Jesus. There are a couple of concerns I have with this mere focus on Jesus's humanity. The first concern is that you are leaving out a whole other side of Jesus that is clearly prominent in the Word of God and that side is His divinity. You don't have the complete Jesus without both His humanity and His deity. As John in his Gospel said, "The Word became flesh and made His dwelling among us. We have seen His glory, the glory of the One and Only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth." (John 1:14).

The second concern I have with just focusing on His humanity, as presented in their advertisement, is that it tends to remove any sense of accountability to our blessed Lord and Savior Jesus. If Jesus is a mere man, then He's just one of us and doesn't deserve any sense of our commitment to Him. However, if He's God, as well as man then we are accountable to Him because He is our creator, and indeed as the above Bible verse tells us, He's both man and God.

The third fault that I find with this advertisement campaign is that its intent is to make Jesus, and our Christian faith popular with society. However, our Lord didn't call us to make Him popular with society, but rather to proclaim Him to society. Also, what He told us to preach to society was to repent of their sinful ways and then come and follow Him, and this is not popular at all with the norms of our day. Jesus said that not only would He but also we, His followers, would not be popular with society, but rather hated. "If the world hates you, keep in mind that it hated me first. If you belonged to the world, it would love you as its own. As it is, you do not belong to the world, but I have chosen you out of the world." (John 15:18-19).

There's one more fault I want to express with this advertising campaign that I see and it's that Jesus is portrayed as not one who came to change lives, but rather to accept them as they are. However, over and over in the gospels, we read that Jesus in His love, grace, and mercy called people out of their sinful ways, offering them forgiveness and salvation into a new life.

I now want to share the thrust of the title of my message which is, He is more so He does more. Therefore because Jesus is more than just human, He's God as well, then He does more than just get us. He also saves us, transforms us, and changes us. To do this we would look at a couple of sets of verses.

I. First, we will examine the clear teaching that He is more, so He does more. (II Cor 5:13-21)

First of all, I want to point out that in these verses, the Apostle Paul points out that there was a time when he himself looked at Christ from merely a human point of view. "So from now on, we regard no one from a worldly point of view, though we once regarded Christ in this way. We do so no longer." (vs16).

It was before Paul's conversion in Christ that He looked at Jesus by human standards and as a human. He considered Jesus to be a mere man who claimed to be the Messiah, but really wasn't. He also considered at that time that Jesus had deserved to be crucified because He was a false messiah. So as a man, before his conversion, Paul could not see the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ.

However once Paul met the risen, exalted Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, on the road to Damascus and was truly converted into the Christian faith he then had a whole new point of view with which to look at Jesus Christ and all others as well. With this new point of view, he was able to see the divine nature of Jesus and not just his humanity. For with his very own eyes, he actually saw that Jesus indeed was not just a mere man because he saw him alive and no longer in the grave. Paul understood that Jesus had to be the Messiah and that He had to be divine in order to conquer death.

So because of Paul's conversion to Christ, and through Christ, he became a new creation as verse 17 says and with that new creation, he understood then that Jesus's death was not because He was a false messiah, but rather because He was dying and suffering on our behalf. He was paying the price required to cleanse us from our sins to make us pure and right in God's holy presence so that we could be reconciled to God.

Paul is showing us here that once he understood that Jesus was more than just a man, he then understood that Jesus could do more. Jesus doesn't just get us but because He's God, who came in flesh and died on Calvary's cross to pay for our sins and three days later He arose out of the grave, He also saves us, transforms us, changes us and makes us new so that we no longer live for ourselves but for Jesus who died for us and arose from the dead. "And He died for all that those who live should no longer live for themselves, but for Him who died for them and was raised again. (vs 15).

So once again as Paul discovered himself and is revealing it to us, we need to see that Jesus doesn't get us, but does so much more. He makes us new. "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: The old is gone. The new is here." (vs 17).

II. Second, I want us to examine an example that shows that He is more so He does more. (Mark 5:1-20).

This is one example of many where because Jesus was and is more as both man and God He can therefore completely makes us new when He encounters our lives, and we place our trust in Him.

In the example I'm using Jesus meets a man that has been filled with and tortured by many demons. He lived in the cemetery. He went unclothed. He obviously was dangerous to himself and others, because the people in the area continually put chains on him, but because the demons indwelt him, he was able to break the chains.

The good news, however, was that Jesus cast the demon out of the man, and when the people in the area heard about it, they came out to see for themselves to see what had happened to the man. What they discovered was that the man was now a whole new person. "When they came to Jesus, they saw the man who had been possessed by the legion of demons, sitting there, dressed and in his right mind; and they were afraid." (vs 15)

There are three things this man now was that he wasn't until he met Jesus. First, he was relaxed because he was sitting. Second, he was no longer naked because he was clothed. The third, he no longer was out of his mind, but in his right mind. He was completely changed by Jesus.

Conclusion:

My friends, Jesus doesn't want to just get you, He wants to change you completely and because He's God, He can and He will if you're willing to let Him do so. Be willing to repent of your sins and place complete trust in Him today. He is more so He does more.

Jesus Loves You,
Ralph Lee



SwampKids is in need of the following items on Wednesday nights:

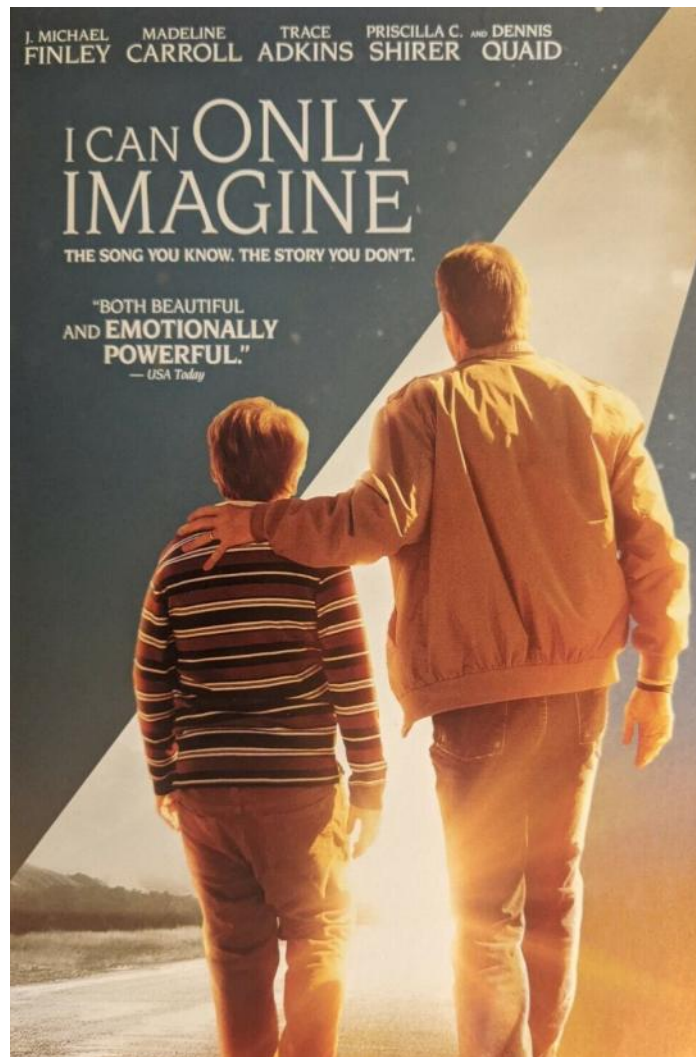
- 1) small bottles of water
- 2) *snacks such as fruit, fruit cups, fruit snacks, pretzels, Goldfish, cookies, crackers, etc*
- 3) paper products, such as plates, small cups, small zip lock bags, napkins, paper towels, straws, wet wipes
- 4) *monetary donations to purchase craft supplies*

We appreciate your support and prayers. If you would like us to minister to anyone through cards, prayer, etc, please let Kim Malphrus know.



**ANNIE
ARMSTRONG**
EASTER OFFERING®

The Week of Prayer for Annie Armstrong Easter Offering is March 3-10. The theme this year is "Make Jesus Known." Our church goal this year is \$1,200. For every \$100 given, we will color an Easter egg in the basket. See the back wall information board.



MOVIE NIGHT!!

Showing: I Can Only Imagine
Sunday, March 17th
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.



**Please bring finger foods for your family and more to share with all!
Tea and Popcorn provided.**

Come watch an amazing movie with us!



<i>Sunday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Chyleen Mock</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Jane Himes</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>23rd</i>	<i>Wayne Cooler</i>



Greeters for Today:

Courtney & Jeff

Next Sunday 3/24:

Kim & Richard

Men's Meeting
New Info

The Men's Quarterly Meeting has now changed to being held every other month, instead of quarterly. The next meeting will be at Red Dam Baptist Church in Hardeeville on Thursday, March 21st at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Business Meeting

Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00 p.m.

Deacons' Meeting

Monday, April 8th at 6:00 p.m.

Prayer Meeting

Every Tuesday morning at 9:00 a.m.

Grandmothers' Group

Monday, April 8th at 11:30 a.m.

Meet in the parsonage, please!!

All ladies welcome!

Swamp Kids

Every Wednesday night at 6:00 p.m.

VBS Supplies Needed!!

We need sand, preferably beach sand or play sand. If you go to the beach, please fill a bag and bring it in!



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

SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope

YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 417 -
Nicole Mauriocourt

RAINBOW KIDS - 3RD GRADE AND OLDER - Room 415 -
Kelly Scherger

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

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

YOUTH GROUP *Youth Annex*
Leader-Michelle Waitt

SWAMP KIDS *Nursery Hall*
Leader - Kim Malphrus

Great Swamp Baptist Church
Sunday School Social

We're Having a
COOKOUT

Invite your friends and neighbors so
we can grow our Sunday School



Saturday, April 27th
11:00 am to 3:00 pm
At the church



Church will provide the
hot dogs and hamburgers, fries, tea
and water.

Church members please bring a
side and/or a dessert to share!



Bounce House and
Games for Kids!!





Operation Christmas Child



It's that time again -- time to start our year 'round collection! We've had two months off for the holidays, but now onward to the rest of this year. 600 boxes are anticipated to be packed this year, possibly more if more donations come in. The OCC account is \$0 but good thing we have items left over from last year to get us started! You can donate the items each month from the list or give a monetary donation if you don't want to shop. Let us do the shopping for you!

Here is the list for the month of March:

Washcloths Stuffed Animals
Toothbrushes Barbies Tennis Balls
Combs/Brushes - both boys and girls

Thank you for your donations.

-Dorthie

Narrowway Trip

For those attending the Narrowway trip, please meet at the church at 7:30 a.m. so that we can depart.

Any questions, please talk to
Timmy Sauls.

Grandmothers Group Spring Luncheon

Monday April 8th at 11:30 a.m.
Located in the Youth House

Please bring a covered dish or a
dessert to share.

All ladies are welcome, even if
you aren't a grandmother. Bring
a friend and be ready to have a
good time with good people!
Hope to see you there!

Any questions, please call
Jennifer at 843-726-3631 or
Debbie at 843-368-5436



UPCOMING EVENTS

Esther, The Musical

Friday, March 22nd in the SFCA Gymnasium

Palm Sunday

Sunday, March 24th

Good Friday - SF No School

Friday, March 29th

Narrowway Dinner & Show

Saturday, March 30th

Easter "Son Up" Service

Sunday, March 31st at 8:00 a.m. at the crosses

Regular Easter service in MPB at 10:00 a.m. like normal

NOTE: Breakfast will be served at 8:30 a.m.

Lord's Supper

Sunday, March 31st during normal worship service

"Down by the Creek" Musical

Friday, April 12th at 12:00 p.m.

SFCA 1st-6th grades

Great Swamp Cookout

April 27th 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.



Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
every Wednesday night.

Team Keith will be cooking Wednesday, March 20th.

\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family of four or more.

No meal deliveries.



Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served
from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00
a.m.

\$5.00 per person or
\$15.00 per family of
four or more.

GSBC Prayer Page

Church Leadership

Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries
Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons
Church Finances

Leadership

President / Vice President of
the United States of America

Bereavement

Family Don Self

Unspoken

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

Shirley Malphrus

Cancer/Treatments

Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Morgan Warren
Ken Lawler

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pearson
Pete Williamson
Latrelle Steedly
Rodney Malphrus, Jr.
Mark Mingledorff
Bill Carter
Chad Duncan

Nursing Centers

Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home
David Sauls - Morrell Nursing Center
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

Shirley Malphrus *Tom Hinely*
Rose Boyles *Ann Blocker*
Judy Smith *Red & Helen Malphrus*
Vera Floyd *Marie Malphrus*
Barbara Mills *Diane Hannah*
Kenny Smith *Ann Long*
 Tex Lowther

Pray For Our Military

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

Church Staff

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

Music Director: Richard Waitt

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@sfcaweb.org*

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	<i>\$2,556.00</i>	<i>\$4,923.33</i>	<i>-\$2,367.33</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$75.00</i>		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>SMB</i>	<i>\$95.00</i>	*****	<i>\$905.14</i>
<i>WNS</i>	<i>\$195.00</i>	*****	<i>-\$87.51</i>
<i>Seniors Group</i>	<i>\$106.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,228.60</i>
<i>Annie Armstrong</i>	<i>\$125.00</i>	*****	<i>\$205.00</i>
<i>VBS</i>	<i>\$70.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,973.18</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