

# Happy Father's Day

The righteous  
man walks in  
his integrity;  
**His children  
are blessed  
after him.**

PROVERBS 20:7

*Great Swamp Baptist Church*

*June 16, 2024*

# *Great Swamp Baptist Church*

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

**Announcements**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Call to Worship**

**Invocation**

*Lloyd Freeman*

**Praise & Worship**

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

**Message**

*Pastor Ralph Lee*

**Invitation**

**Benediction Prayer**

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*Sunday Mornings*  
*Following The Song Service:*



**Nursery**



**Teacher:**  
**Olivia Stanley**



**Greeters for Today:**  
Kim & Richard

**Next Sunday 6/23:**  
Juliette & Mike W

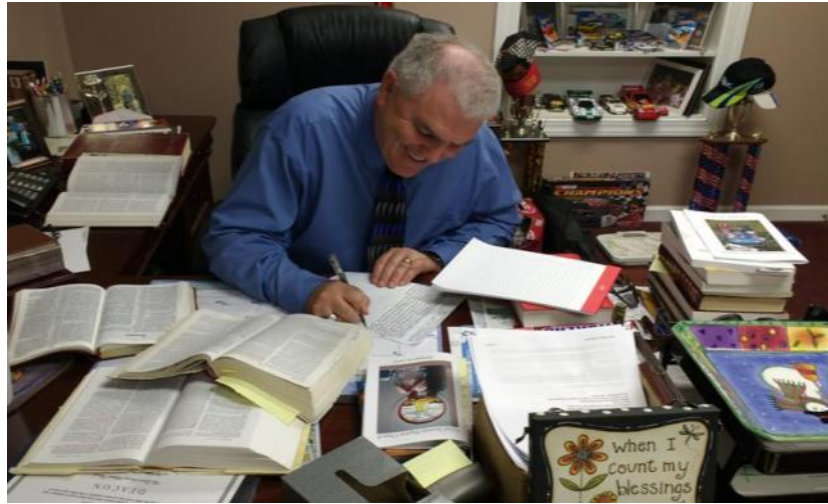
**DEACON OF THE WEEK:**

*Lloyd Freeman*



*Phone: 803-943-6312*

*From  
Pastor  
Ralph's  
Desk:*



## **The Love of God** (John 3:14-36)

### **Introduction:**

In the late 1980s I was preaching a revival in Kennett, Mo. With a preacher friend of mine named Dale Rickman. As we went out visiting during the day time, Dale would share with everyone that we saw that Jesus loved them. When I got home from that revival, I felt led to begin doing the same. I would have no doubt whatsoever that since that time I probably have said it at least a million times.

However I've often wondered that those many times when I've said it and didn't have the opportunity to say more or to listen to a response did those persons understand that statement the way I meant for them to, or did they take it to mean what it's not supposed to mean?

In today's world our government, our politicians, our denominations, and churches are telling us that we must be more inclusive of people and accepting them regardless of the choices they make in life about their identify or their lifestyles. They tell us that God loves us and is therefore accepting of us regardless and therefore that's how we should all be. Thus, as we've just seen in the United Methodist denomination which decided that God's love is what lead them to open their doors up to the whole community of gay people.

So the question is are all of the aforementioned entities right that God's love opens the door to accepting any and all lifestyles? Well, we must know that God's love is not defined by the politicians, nor by denominations, nor by the world but rather by what God's word says about it. And clearly God's word tells us that God doesn't just have love but is indeed the only source and origin of true love because as I John 4:7-2 tells us God is love.

So to understand what it means to tell someone that God loves them we will look at the most familiar verse in all of God's word and the context that surrounds it.

**I. First, let's notice that God's love has a specific aim (vs 16, 17)**

There's not a soul whose reading this message who aren't aware of the fact that the aim or object of God's love is the world. As we all know John straightforward states it as clear as it can be stated. "For God so loved the world. . ."

However it's a shame that we've all memorized verse 16 but verse 17 gets very little recognition. In verse 17 the aim or object of God's love is boldly declared like verse 16 to be the world. "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world but to save the world through Him."

Throughout the word of God we see one example after another where God clearly proved His love for the world. For example, when He decided to destroy the world by a flood. He first gave Noah the instruction to build an ark. This ark took over a hundred years to build and during that one hundred years Noah preached to and warned the people. God gave the world ample time to get right but they didn't respond to His patience and love.

Now it's important however that this verse doesn't end with "For God so loved the world. . ." If it did then we could go along with our politicians, some of our denomination and the world and be more inclusive and accepting. So what does it mean then that God loves the world? Our next set of points will answer that.

**II. Second, let's notice that God's love was expressed by His gracious actions (vs 16-21).**

Now of course, again, everyone of us know what that action was. It was the giving of His glorious and only unique son, Jesus Christ. In the book of Romans, Paul says it this way, "But God demonstrates His own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."(Romans 5:8).

So we need to ask the question why didn't God end the verse with "God so loved the world"? Why was it necessary for Him to send His only begotten son to us?

Well, John answers that question in these verses by telling us that, "This is the verdict: Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness instead of light because their deeds were evil." (vs 19). There's your answer. God's love for the world is not because of who we are, but because of who we can become in Christ Jesus. Through the interventions of Christ our sins can be forgiven, our evil punished, and our separation reconciled and our condemnation removed. So without the gift of God's Son Jesus Christ we cannot know nor experience the love of God. So blessed be the name of our God who took the action of giving His Son to save us from our sins, our evil, and our darkness.

**III. Third, let's notice that God's love is absolutely made available (vs 15, 16, 18, 33, 36)**

In the verses selected for this point the word whoever or everyone is mentioned five times. Thus this reveals the fact that God makes the gift of salvation through Jesus Christ available to whosoever will. Thus it's made available to anyone who is willing. So God has made His offer of love available to all. Have you taken up this offer of availability of God's love? If not, today is the day that you should.

**IV. Fourth, let's notice that God's love must be acquired (vs 15, 16, 18, 33, 36)**

In our last point we noticed that God's offer of love through the gift of His Son and the salvation that He brings is made available to whosoever will. However that offer must be acquired if we are going to be able to experience all that it entails and John reveals how we acquire it and that is by our faith and belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior and as God's Holy Son.

Now we are not talking about a mere head knowledge type of belief which is part of a saving faith. However the kind of faith that John is referring to is the kind of faith that surrenders oneself completely to the person of Christ. Only then will the love of God take up its residence in your heart and your life.

**V. Fifth, let's notice that God's love is therefore not automatic (vs 14,15, 16, 33, 36)**

Now the point I'm making here is that this is the point that the world, politicians, and denominations, and churches misunderstand, misinterpret or purposely mislead the public. For as we've noted in the last two points God's love, and its offer of salvation is available but it must be acquired through faith. Thus, you don't automatically receive the love of God without acquiring it by faith.

As a matter of fact the opposite is true. If you don't accept God's offer of love through faith in Christ then the only thing that is for sure automatic is that you are not under the love of God but rather under His condemnation and wrath. "Whoever believes in Him is not condemned, but whoever does not believe stands condemned already because they have not believed in the name of God's one and only Son." (vs 18).

"Whoever believes in the Son has eternal life, but whoever rejects the Son will not see life, for God's wrath remains on them." (vs 36).

**VI. Sixth, let's notice that God's love comes with some out of this world acquisition (vs 14-17, 33-36)**

So what we acquire for accepting God's offer of His Son and the salvation that comes with Him is literally out of this world. For we are assured of victory over death, hell, and the grave and assured of everlasting and eternal life. These are things that you don't have if you are unwilling to take advantage of the opportunity that God provides through His love in the free gift of His glorious Son.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion I want to then clearly point out that God's love is available but apart from Christ it is not automatic. Only will believing in Christ bring you into the love of God. Otherwise you remain under the condemnation and wrath of God.

Dr. Herschel Hobbs speaking of God's wrath found in verse 36 says that it is a continuous abiding of His wrath. He said that it's like fire burning through desert vegetation with animals fleeing from it. The only safe place is to get where the fire has already burned through. And where is that? At Calvary. There God's orge was poured out without measure upon His Son. In Him were satisfied all of the demands of God's holy and righteous nature. And only there can the sinner find eternal security from God's abiding, universal opposition to his sin. So this security, this "life of the ages" is only in "the Son." For upon those outside "the Son" this abiding, universal opposition of God to sin "keeps on abiding [keeps on being at home] upon him."

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



## **MOVIE NIGHT!!**



**Showing: On A Wing & A Prayer**  
**Sunday, June 23rd**  
**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! It's  
even a true story!!!**





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Johnny Malphrus</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>17th</i>	<i>Stephen Mobley</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Gerald Boyles</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Gail Malphrus</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Betty Robertson</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Angel Cole</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Amanda Hodges</i>

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The church office will be closed,  
 Wednesday, June 19th due to  
 observation of the federal holiday.

Note: Jennifer will be out of town  
 Monday, June 24th through  
 Thursday, June 27th as well.

**W O M E N**

**O N**

**M I S S I O N**

*(formerly Grandmothers' Group)*



**When: July 8th at 11:30 a.m.**

**Where: the Youth House**

**Bring: A Covered Dish or Dessert**

**ALL LADIES  
WELCOME!!**

**YOU'RE  
INVITED**

# Sunday School Classes

**@ 9:15am**

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

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

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**VISIONARIES CLASS - Building 3, Old Social Hall**

*Leader - Greg Mariocourt*

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

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

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**BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 417 -**

**Nicole Mauriocourt**

**RAINBOW KIDS - 3RD GRADE AND OLDER - Room 415 -**

**Kelly Scherger**

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# Wednesday Night Services

**@ 7:00 pm**

**WORSHIP SERVICE** *Multi-Purpose Building*

*Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.*

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**YOUTH GROUP** *Youth Annex*

*Leader-Michelle Waitt*

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**SWAMP KIDS** *Nursery Hall*

*Leader - Kim Malphrus*

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# Operation Christmas Child



Items below are the items being collected for the month of June. Beside the items are the amounts still needed to fill 600 boxes in the age groups. You can also give a monetary donation. Any questions please ask Dorthie.

<b>Boys</b>	<b>Girls</b>
<u>Ages 2-4</u> Socks - 39 Toys - 75	<u>Ages 2-4</u> Socks - 69 Toys - 84 Baby dolls - 45
<u>Ages 5-9</u> Toys - 50 Socks - 52	<u>Ages 5-9</u> Toys - 46 Socks - 57 Dolls/stuffed animals - 89
<u>Ages 10-14</u> Socks - 64 Toys- 68 Matchbox cars - 200 Stuffed animals - 187 Toothbrushes - 414	<u>Ages 10-14</u> Socks - 74 Toys- 62

The Gleaners Class has placed three boxes in the MPB for the three new babies at GSBC. Please help us give these three mamas some love by bringing a baby gift and putting it in their box. Please note all three babies are girls :)



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# Thank You

**A special thanks to Nicole Mauriocourt and everyone who volunteered to help with VBS. It wouldn't have been so successful without each and every one of you. We are very thankful for another great year of VBS and can't wait for VBS 2025!!**

# GSBC Prayer Page

## Church Leadership

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

## Leadership

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

## Bereavement

## Unspoken

## Hospitals

## Surgery/Recovery

*Chyleen Mock*  
*Bill Carter*

## Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old*  
*(Leukemia)*  
*Ken Lawler*  
*Barry DeMay*  
*Rachel Vaughn*  
*Bertha Kinard (stage 4*  
*lung cancer)*

## Other Health Needs

*Mary Kay Cade*  
*Julia Rushing*  
*Pinky Rushing*  
*Amy Hannah*  
*Kathy Breland*  
*Grace Hetrick*  
*Arthur Pearson*  
*Rodney Malphrus, Jr.*  
*Mark Mingledorff*  
*Mike Wall*  
*Sage Lanier (2 week old*  
*baby with seizures)*  
*Buzz Bonds*  
*Dean Daley*

## 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*  
*Shirley Malphrus - Resorts at Beaufort (D wing)*

## Please Continue To Remember

### Homebound

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

### Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed*  
*Matthew Mills - US Marines -*  
*Okinawa, Japan*  
*Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -*  
*Pinehurst, NC.*  
*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** .....greatswampbc@gmail.com  
843-726-3631

School Administrator: **Donna Carter** .....dcarter@sfcaweb.org

## Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$2,940.00	\$4,923.33	\$-1,983.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$243.90		
<b>Designated Funds</b>			<b>Acct. Balances</b>



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](mailto:greatswampbc@gmail.com)  
Website: [greatswampbaptistchurch.com](http://greatswampbaptistchurch.com)  
Church Office: (843) 726-3631