

*Great
Swamp
Baptist
Church*

June 9, 2024

9009 TARBORO ROAD
RIDGELAND, SC 29836
843-726-3631

Great Swamp Baptist Church

**VACATION
BIBLE SCHOOL**

JUNE 9 - 12, 2024
5:30 PM - 8:00 PM

***FOOD *ART *CRAFTS
*GAMES *MUSIC
AND SO MUCH MORE!!**

BREAKER ROCK BEACH

Lifeway

GOD'S ROCK-SOLID TRUTH IN A
WORLD OF SHIFTING SANDS
ROMANS 12:2

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Keith Gamo

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley



Greeters for Today:
Courtney

Next Sunday 6/16:
Kim & Richard

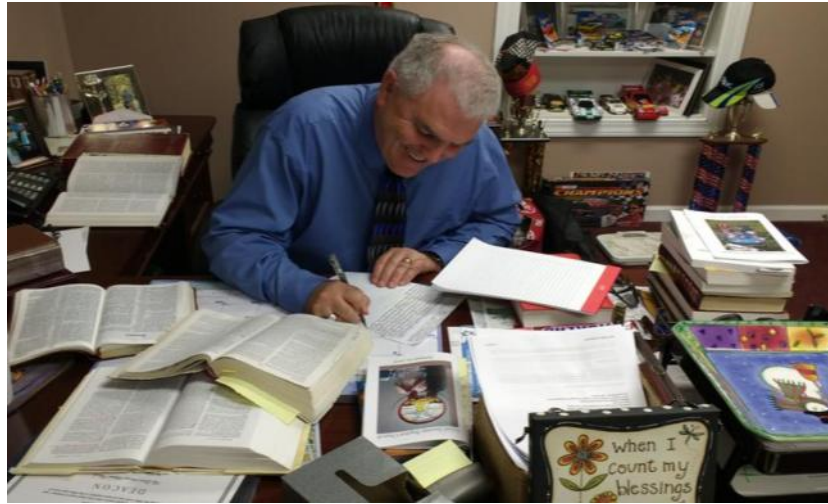
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Keith Gamo



Phone: 843-986-8525

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Truth Shall Set You Free

(John 8:30-59)

Introduction:

When Tammy and I went to visit Mammoth Cave near Bowling Green, Kentucky, we had to choose between 20 tours available for touring the cave. We chose the historical tour of the cave. I am grateful we did because the history of this cave is far better than the natural beauty found in it. For this message I want to share one of the historical events that took place in the cave. It gave me a tremendous thought for a message which I want to share in this sermon.

In 1839 a doctor by the name of John Croghan purchased the Mammoth cave property for 10,000 dollars. He heard from many different persons who had spent time in the cave just how exhilarating and revived they felt from their time there. He also knew that timber and animals within the cave didn't decay. These two combined things convinced the doctor that the cave would be an excellent place to treat persons with tuberculosis which at the time was one of the leading causes of death.

So in 1842 Dr. Croghan and 16 tuberculosis patients entered the cave to stay and live to see if the atmosphere of the cave would treat and cure the tuberculosis.

However because of the dampness of the cave, and the smoke and fumes from the oil burning lamps and the fires for their warmth, instead of getting better, they were getting worse. Within six months of living in the cave five of the 16 that went in died from the disease. Therefore the doctor closed down the experiment.

Now the point I want to use from this failed experiment is that it was the exhilarating and revived feelings that were reported from those having been in the cave that led to this failed attempt. So we learn from this that just because something feels good doesn't actually mean it's good, or is right. Jesus teaches us that the only thing in life that is truly beneficial for us is not our feelings or even our good works. Rather He says it's the truth, only the truth will set you free. So this message is all about the truth that will set you free.

I. First, if the truth is going to set you free then you need to know where it comes from (vs 27-29, 31-32)

In this set of versus Jesus is speaking to a crowd of people including the Pharisees somewhere on the temple grounds. His discussion with them begins by Him declaring Himself to be the light of the world (vs 12). Once He does this He is right away challenged by the Pharisees on the validity of His declaration. They say to Jesus that He needs some other witnesses other than Himself to verify His claim.

Well, Jesus declares to them that He can make His declaration alone and it's enough because He knows confidently just who He is and where He came from. However He does have another witnesses to give validity to His declaration that He's the light of the world and the witnesses is His Heavenly Father.

As a matter of fact everything Jesus came to do and did was what His Heavenly Father sent Him to do. But not only did everything He do was what the Father sent Him to do but also everything He said was what the Father told Him to say.

Now Jesus said, "If you hold to my teaching you are really my disciple. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free." (vs 31, 32). So what Jesus is telling us is that His teachings reveals the truth, and are the truth.

Now what we've already stated is that the words, teachings, and message that Jesus preached, taught, shared, and discussed all came from above, from the Heavenly Father. "So Jesus said, 'When you have lifted up the Son of Man, then you will know that I am He and that I do nothing on my own but speak just what the Father has taught me.'" (vs 28).

So if we are going to know the truth that sets us free then there's only one place where we can find it and that's God's holy word. Those are the words that Jesus spoke and it's those words alone that come directly out of the throne room of Heaven. It's not the teachings of the world. It's not the feelings of the flesh. It's not the teachings of the experts of the world. No, only the words that come from above, the ones Jesus taught are the ones that will set you free.

I don't have any problem speaking out against the teachings and theories and opinions and feelings of this world because I know that our sacred book, the Bible, God's holy word, the words Jesus taught, all came from the top, directly from headquarters, directly from God. So look for the truth nowhere else.

II. Second, if the truth is going to set you free then you need to know what the truth is (vs 12, 31-36)

So from our first point we know that what Jesus is teaching is the truth. We also know that it is the truth because it comes from the Heavenly Father. So the question is just what is the truth that our Heavenly Father lead Jesus to speak and actually to fulfill that will set us free?

So Jesus began the whole discussion with the crowd with exactly what the truth was and is and will ever be. "When Jesus spoke again to the people He said, 'I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life.'" (vs 12).

So here's the truth and that truth is that Jesus is the truth. In these verses, for this point, Jesus told the group that supposedly had believed in Him, that being a descendent of Abraham was not enough to make them true children of God. He told them that there was only one way for them to become a true child of God and it was through Him alone.

“They answered him, “We are Abraham’s descendants and have never been slaves of anyone. How can you say that we shall be set free?” Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (vs 33-36).

So Jesus is the Son of God who will set you free to belong to the same family the Son of God belongs to God’s family.

Therefore the truth is not your feelings. It is not your good works. It’s not the teachings of the world. No. The truth that shall set you free is all wrapped up in the person of Jesus Christ the holy Son of God. He is that truth that sets you free, and later in the book of John it tells us that directly. Actually Jesus tells it to us. “Jesus answered, ‘I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.’” (John 14:6).

So come to Jesus and you will have arrived at the truth, and when you do you will be set free, made right, given eternal life, made a child of God.

III. Third, if the truth is going to set you free then you need to know what you’re being set free from (vs 21-24, 31-36).

The crowd that Jesus was speaking to were, as already mentioned, convinced that they didn't need to be set free of anything because they already were free, because they were the descendents of Abraham.

However Jesus reveals to them that even though they were the physical descendants of Abraham they still weren't true children of God because they had a problem that kept them out of the family of God. Actually they had two problems that kept them out of the family of God. These two problems are true for us all.

Those two problems were that they were sinners and the second problems was that they refused to believe in the only one who could set them free of those sins the Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God who came as the light of the world to set us free from the darkness of sin.

“Once more Jesus said to them, “I am going away, and you will look for me, and you will die in your sin. Where I go, you cannot come.” This made the Jews ask, “Will he kill himself? Is that why he says, ‘Where I go, you cannot come?’” But he continued, “You are from below; I am from above. You are of this world; I am not of this world. I told you that you would die in your sins; if you do not believe that I am he, you will indeed die in your sins.” (vs 21-24).

“ Jesus replied, “Very truly I tell you, everyone who sins is a slave to sin. Now a slave has no permanent place in the family, but a son belongs to it forever. So if the Son sets you free, you will be free indeed.” (vs 34-36).

So it’s obvious that what the truth (Jesus) sets you free from is your sins and the consequences of those sins. Also it sets you free to become the children of God. So have you come to Jesus Christ in faith yet, so you can be set free from your sins and be made a child of God?

Conclusion:

We Americans make much of our freedom. We claim that we are the freest people in the world. While I am thankful for our Declaration of Independence which declared our freedom from England and declared that each of us individually are a free people, it does not have the means to set us free from our sins so that we can become the children of God. The only truth that can do that is the truth of Jesus that He’s the only truth who can set you free. Cry out to Him today to forgive you and set you free.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



<i>Thursday</i>	<i>13th</i>	<i>Margie Malphrus</i>
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Monday, June 10th:
 Red & Helen Malphrus

Tuesday, June 11th:
 Wayne & Wanda Cooler

Wednesday, June 12th:
 Sam & Chyleen Mock
 ~ *and* ~
 Donald & Gail Malphrus

W O M E N

O N

M I S S I O

(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**

ANNOUNCEMENT

Business Conference

The regular business conference scheduled for June 12, 2024 will be rescheduled for June 19, 2024 due to VBS week.

Sunday School Director Info

The Sunday school director for 2024-2025 year should have been voted on at May's business conference, however, this was overlooked. The church recommends that Mike Davis be elected as the director. This will be discussed and voted on during the June business conference.

Recommendation

The CDM committee at their May conference decided to add Chuck Scoggins as a member on the CDM committee. This was however overlooked as well for the May business conference. The nominating committee recommends to the church that we vote on this at the June conference.



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.

Boys	Girls
<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 :)



VBS STARTS SUNDAY!!!

June 9th - June 12th

5:30 pm - 8:00 pm

Any and all volunteers welcome. We will gladly find you something to help with!! Please let Nicole Mauriocourt know if you can help, even if it's just for one night!

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

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
Bertha Kinard

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 + / -
	<i>\$4,470.00</i>	<i>\$4,923.33</i>	<i>\$-453.33</i>
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$146.80</i>		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	<i>\$100.00</i>	*****	<i>\$301.00</i>
VBS	<i>\$200.00</i>	*****	<i>\$2,520.18</i>
<i>Gleaners SS Class</i>	<i>\$48.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,428.06</i>
WNS	<i>\$132.00</i>	*****	<i>\$1,181.77</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