

Ecclesiastes 3:1

For everything there is a season.

Great Swamp Baptist Church
July 21, 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

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley



Greeters for Today:
Juliette & Mike W

Next Sunday 7/28:
Latrell & Mike D

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Lloyd Freeman



Phone: 803-943-6312

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Church Still Stands (Matt 16:13-28)

Introduction:

Tammy and I had an amazing cruise to Iceland, Greenland, and the Canadian coast. Our ship went altogether to eight ports. Five of the eight ports have strong ties to the Viking culture, especially in Newfoundland, Greenland, and Iceland. So we were expecting that when we entered this town we would be seeing and hearing mostly about the Vikings.

However this was not the case. Rather the first thing we were usually advised to do was to go and look at the most well known church that was in town and usually that church was either on the highest hill overlooking the town or in the most central location of the town. They were clearly identifiable and easy to find and get to.

The most impressive one was in Reykjavik, the capital city of Iceland. I couldn't even begin to pronounce the name of the church but it sits on the highest hill in town on the very top of it. You can spot the church from about anywhere in town. Also not only does it sit on the highest point in town but the church itself stands taller than any other building around. It looks like a space ship ready to take off.

Tammy and I paid to ride the elevator all the way up to the bell tower. From there we could see every area of the entire town. It was quite an amazing view from up there.

Now this focus on the churches capturing all the attention in each port town we went to began to lift my spirits in many ways, but for this message especially it reminded me that no matter how much of the past influence the Vikings had over these areas when they were pagan before they had Christian influence it didn't stop the missionaries from coming. And it didn't stop them from building churches and spreading the gospel. And praise be to God these churches still stand and get the greater attention.

So in this message I want to point out that throughout history no matter how many rulers, leaders, cultures have tried to stamp the church out she still stands. She still stands and will stand until Jesus Christ comes to take her home to be with Him. In our scripture text for this message we will examine why and how the church will continue to stand.

I. First, let's notice that the church still stands because Christ is the founder and builder of the church (vs 18)

Now we all know that the conversation taking place is between Jesus our Lord and directly to Peter while the other disciples listened on. So they all were hearing clearly what Jesus was saying directly to Peter.

This conversation they were having began as a discussion as to who exactly Jesus is. The disciples mentioned answers that had been given by different groups of people, but then Jesus asked them point blank who they say that He is. Well, under the leadership of our Heavenly Father, Peter gave the correct answer. Peter said that He was, "the Messiah, the Son of the living God." (vs 16).

Now Jesus assures Peter that his answer is the correct one because His Father had blessed him with this answer. So now knowing that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Jesus can now introduce to His disciples the building of the church. For knowing that He is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, they can be assured that the church will indeed come to past, thrive, and last until He's ready to bring it home to be with Him.

As a matter of fact, Jesus directly tells them that, "I, the Messiah, the Son of the living God, will build my church." Therefore, we all can be assured that because of who He is, and because He's the one who is the founder and builder of the church, it will last the test of time.

Many businesses, industries, companies, nations, and other entities that were once founded and built by great leaders have ceased to exist. But the church will never cease to exist because its founder is none other than "the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

II. Second, let's notice that the church still stands because Christ is the finality and financier of the church (vs 18)

Now what I mean by this is that Jesus founded the church and built the church so that the church would totally belong to Him. As the old saying says, lock, stock, and barrel. He financed it with His own blood and therefore He's the sole, final, and complete owner. As He specifically said to His disciples in our text "...I will build My church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it." (vs 18).

In the book of Acts, Paul speaking to the Ephesians elders to them to "keep watch over yourselves and all the flock of which the Holy Spirit has made you overseer. Be shepherds of the church of God, which He bought with His own blood." (Acts 20:28).

So because it's His church, lock, stock, and barrel it will stand the test of time absolutely.

III. Third, let's notice that the church still stands because Christ is the foundation of the church. (vs 18).

So we discover in this verse that Jesus declares to Peter that He's going to build His church on a particular rock. As He specifically says, "...on this rock I will build my church." (vs 18).

Now it's no news to anyone that if you are going to build something and you want it to stand against the storms of life then you need to build on a solid rock foundation. When Tammy and I went to the capital city of Greenland called Nuuk we were absolutely amazed that nearly the entire city was built on nothing but virtually rock. As a matter of fact, it appeared as though many of the homes and businesses simply just started building right on top of the rock. We even saw the first house and church that had been there for over 200 or more years and they were still standing strong.

So we need to answer the questions what particular rock was Jesus referring to? To answer that question we need to remember that Peter's name means a rock. However when Jesus said, "on this rock" He was using a different word for rock than what Peter's name means. Peter's name means small rock whereas the other rock word refers to a massive stone. Now a lot of books have been written about this difference in the words for rock, but when it boils down to it Jesus is ultimately saying that either the declaration that Peter made that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, is the massive rock. Or that Jesus is saying you are a small rock but My church will be built on a massive rock referring to Himself. However either way it points to the fact that Jesus is the foundation of the church.

Therefore the church will not fail. It will not collapse nor will it cease to be because it's sitting on the surest foundation, this is Jesus Christ, our solid rock. As the old hymn says, "On Christ the solid rock I stand, all other ground is sinking sand."

IV. Fourth, let's notice that the church still stands because Christ is the force of the church (vs 18, 19)

I'm using the word force to represent the power and authority of the church, for the church, and with the church. Three times in these two verses Jesus used the word "I" and each time that He used that word He was instructing Peter and His disciples that I am the one telling you what's going to happen. I'm the one who is going to build my church and the gates of Hades will not overcome it. I'm the one who is going to give you the keys to carry out the work I've given you to do.

So once again Jesus is plainly saying I am the one in control and it's by my power and authority that all of this will get done.

Let me say that if ever we are encouraged to stay with it this should do it. To know that what we are called to do in preaching and proclaiming the gospel to a lost and dying world so that sinners can belong to the church of the living God is backed by and carried out through the power of the Lord Jesus Christ through the Holy Spirit of God. Keep on keeping on. Jesus will be with us to empower us.

V. Fifth, let's notice that the church still stands because Christ is the focus and function of the church (vs 19)

Most scholars believe that the basic message of this verse is that the key to the kingdom of heaven is the gospel message and those who respond to the gospel message which we preach will be bound for heaven. However those who reject it will be lost from heaven.

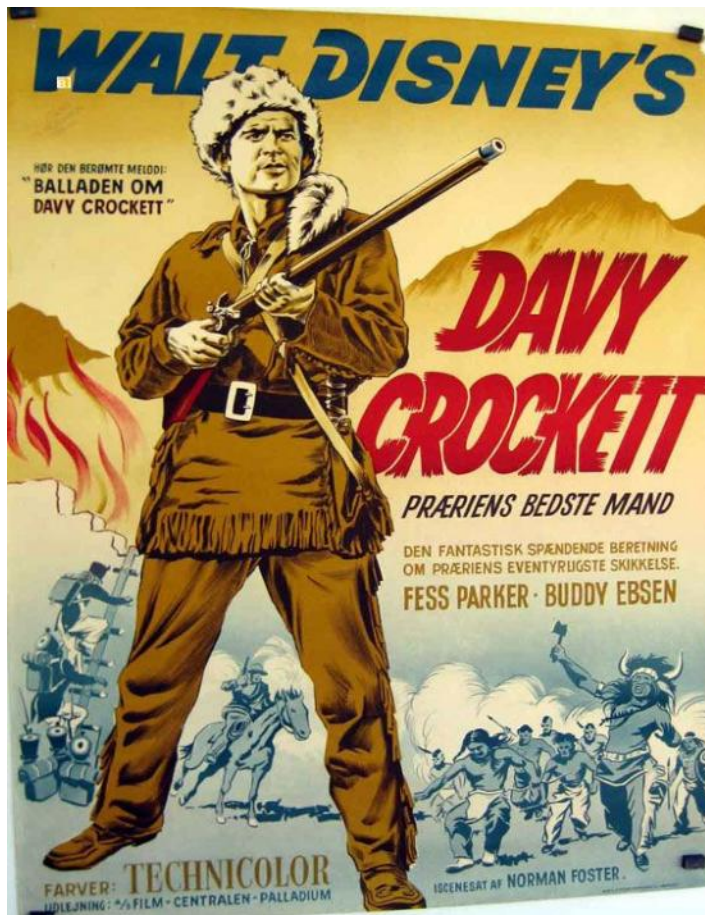
So therefore our focus and function is to take the gospel message of our glorious Lord and Savior Jesus Christ to our lost and dying world. Since it is the calling that our Savior has given for us to do the church will stand until the last sinner is saved and Jesus comes to get His bride the church to come and dwell with Him.

Conclusion:

So because it is totally and completely built by the one whom is the Messiah, the Son of the living God, Jesus Christ our Lord, let us stand tall and boldly proclaim Jesus Christ as our Messiah and as we do we will stand with the test of time through Christ Jesus our Lord.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



MOVIE NIGHT!!

Showing: Davy Crockett
TONIGHT!! Sunday, July 21st
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!



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



Operation Christmas Child



CHRISTMAS IN JULY

Kick off for OCC shoeboxes. This month donations will be school supplies. Three ways to donate: 1) from the list below; 2) monetary donations; 3) get an angel off the tree, which has an item on the back. Bring the angel back with your donation.

Pencils	Crayons
Colored Pencils	Scissors
Construction Paper	Spiral Notebooks
Glue Sticks	Pencil Sharpeners

Also need monetary donations for buying the shoeboxes. 600 boxes = \$500.00.

Any questions please ask Dorthie.



Please Note:
We will be going over the leadership manual for the 2025 church year at the business meeting on August the 14th.



<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>23rd</i>	<i>Katie Mock</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>23rd</i>	<i>Bobby Smith</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>25th</i>	<i>Kevin Malphrus</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>26th</i>	<i>Red Malphrus</i>

<p><i>Happy Anniversary</i></p> <p>"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."</p> <p>1 Corinthians 13:4-5</p>	<p><u>Sunday, July 21st:</u> Alex & Sophia Sineath</p> <p><u>Tuesday, July 23rd:</u> John & Julie Mingledorff</p> <p><u>Friday, July 25th:</u> Duane & Dorthie Armstrong</p>
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ANNOUNCEMENT

DEACON ELECTION LIST

Instead of calling to remove your name from the Deacon Election List, we have put a sign up sheet on the back wall for any man that feels he is qualified and being called by God to serve as a deacon. Please note, to serve as a deacon, you must be a member of Great Swamp Baptist Church for at least one year and 18 years of age.

If you meet these qualifications and feel the Lord is calling you, please sign up on the back wall or call Jennifer to have her put your name on the Deacon Election List.

We will vote on the new deacons in August using this list of names.

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.

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

Family of Bertha Kinard
(Wallace Malphrus's sister)

Unspoken

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

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

Cancer/Treatments

Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Ken Lawler
Rachel Vaughn

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pearson
Rodney Malphrus, Jr.
Mike Wall
Sage Lanier (2 week old
baby with seizures)
Buzz Bonds
Dean Daley
Earl Dean Pope
Cindy Price (Vicki
Archuleta's sister)
Joseph Walters, III

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
Shirley Malphrus

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

Tithes	This Week 6/30	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$5,249.00	\$4,923.33	\$-316.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$150.00</i>		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
Operation Christmas Child	\$35.00	*****	\$479.00



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