A photograph of a lighthouse with a white base and a red upper section, situated on a grassy hill. The sky is filled with dramatic, golden clouds from a sunset or sunrise. A semi-transparent white box is overlaid on the upper portion of the image, containing text.

“Stay awake, stand
firm in your faith,
be brave, be strong.”

1 CORINTHIANS 16:13

*Great Swamp Baptist Church
July 28, 2024*

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Bjo Mills

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:
Richard & Mike D

Next Sunday 8/4:
Courtney

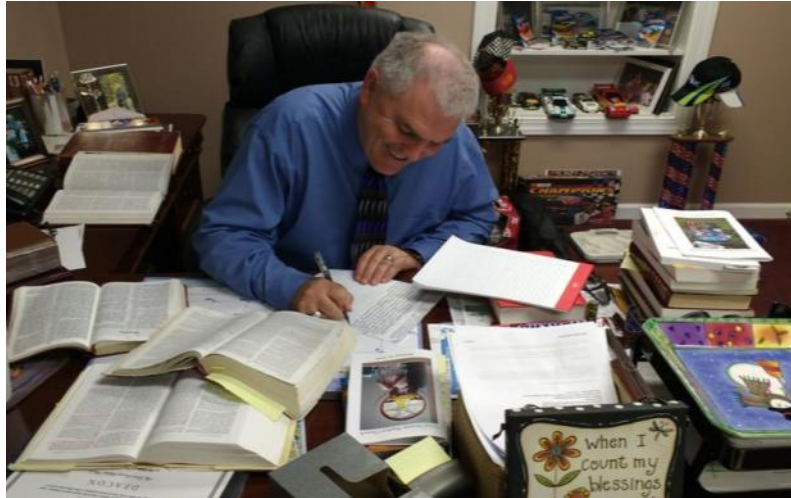
DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Bjo Mills



Phone: 843-271-2840

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Word of God Spread (Acts 6:1-7)

Introduction:

While on our cruise I was reading from the book of Acts and a particular verse jumped out at me. This particular verse and the statement that it makes is mentioned at least three times in the book of Acts. So the word of God spread, the number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7). But the word of God continued to spread and flourish." (Acts 12:24). In this way the word of God spread widely and grew in power." (Acts 19:20).

Tragically all across our nation and our world as well there are words that are being spread at a rate that we can't even keep up with but sadly these words are anything but the word of God. As a matter of fact they are the exact opposite of God's holy word. From the mainstream media to social media our world is told that what's right is now wrong and what's wrong is now right.

And the most tragic and terrifying word that's being put out there is coming from the pulpits across our land. As so-called ministers and preachers open the pages of God's holy and sacred word and compromise it by forcing it to support the ungodly views and teachings of the world. Actually what these so-called ministers and preachers are doing is allowing themselves to become instruments in the land of the evil one, satan himself.

So we need to know however that Satan has always had religious leaders spread his lies and his deception. However in spite of all that we discover from these verses that I shared God's holy word still managed to spread and God's word can and must spread today. God used the church to spread His word at the beginning of the life of the church and the church continues to be His means of spreading His holy word. Also it's only by the spreading of God's word that men and women will come to faith because faith comes by the hearing of God's word. (Romans 10:17).

So the question is how did God's word spread then? The answer to that question will help the church today in spreading His word in our world today. So let's examine those ways the church spreads the word of God.

I. First, the word of God spread because it was the priority of the church (vs 1-4)

Initially the church grew rapidly on the first day in the life of the church. Around 3,000 souls were added to the church. In chapter 4 of the book of Acts another 5,000 or so men were added to the number of believers. So by the time we get to the verses that we are dealing with for this message most Bible scholars believe that the church in Jerusalem had around 20,000 members.

Now when you get that large in such a fast amount of time you're going to have problems arise like the one we encountered in our verses. A specific group of widows is being neglected because they come from a different culture of Jews verses the more traditional group of Jewish widows.

Now this problem that had risen up within the church was threatening to take the attention of the apostles away from their primary ministry and responsibility, which was the preparation and proclamation of God's holy word.

Well, not only did the apostles understand that their preaching of the word of God was their priority but also did the whole church. For they all agreed with the apostles to choose out seven men to deal with the widow issue that had arisen so that the apostles could continue to focus on the priority of proclaiming God's word.

May God help us to never allow whatever issue arises up in the church to take away our priority to the preaching of God's holy and authoritative word.

II. Second, the word of God because of the prayers of the church (vs 4)

Now we plainly see in this verse that not only will the apostles focus on the preaching of the word but prayer also. For they understood that in order for them to be bold and effective in the preaching of God's word they must have the help of the almighty God. And prayer is how we obtain that help from God. As the writer of the book of Hebrews said, "Let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in our time of need." (Hebrews 4:16).

Now this is exactly what we find both the apostles and all the early believers doing. Peter and John had been arrested and commanded not to teach and preach about the Lord Jesus Christ. After they were threatened by those that had arrested them they were released and once released they went to start back to where the church was gathered and began praying for God to strengthen them to carry on the work of spreading His word in the midst of the threats given to them by those in authority. This is the prayer that they prayed.

"When they heard this, they raised their voices together in prayer to God. "Sovereign Lord," they said, "you made the heavens and the earth and the sea, and everything in them. You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: "Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth rise up and the rulers band together against the Lord and against his anointed one." Indeed Herod and Pontius Pilate met together with the Gentiles and the people of Israel in this city to conspire against your holy servant Jesus, whom you anointed. They did what your power and will had decided beforehand should happen. Now, Lord, consider their threats and enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus." After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." (Acts 4:24-31).

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

III. Third, the word of God spread because of the positions in the church (vs 1-4)

So the point I am making here is that because the church understood that the preaching of the word of God had to be the priority that it was necessary to take measures that allowed for those who had the primary responsibility of preaching the word to not be deterred from carrying out their responsibility.

Therefore they selected seven men from among them to take care of the type of concerns of the church so that the apostles, pastors, and teachers could focus on proclaiming God's word. So what this means is that when every believer in the church helps to do the various ministries in the church then that will allow for the word of God to continue spreading because those who proclaim it can focus fully on it. This means that we must all pray that our Lord will give us the wisdom and discernment that we need to know the specific positions or ministry that he wants us to fulfill so that we can help to promote the preaching of God's holy word.

**IV. Fourth, the word of God spread because of the purpose
(vs 1-4)**

Now the reasons why the apostles and the early church as a whole made the spreading of God's word as the priority of the church is because God commanded that the spreading of His word was the responsibility and priority of the church.

Of course the reason why God gave the church this responsibility and why it must be our priority is as we've already said is that "faith comes from hearing the message and the message is heard through the word about Christ." (Romans 10:17) And because Christ Jesus our Lord came into the world to save sinners and the preaching and sharing of God's word promotes faith and Christ for salvation then God will continue till the last sinner is saved to work through His people to get the work done. Thus we must stay the course. It's our God-given purpose.

V. Fifth, the word of God spread because the power of the church (vs 1-7)

As we've already seen the church was facing grave threats from the religious and political leaders in Jerusalem. In the next set of verses we see the story of Stephen's martyrdom for his faith. So the threats were real yet in spite of that the word of God continued to spread meaning that there had to have been a greater power and authority above the religious and political leaders to make this happen and there was. It was the power of God's holy spirit.

Well, He's with us as much as He was with them. The question is are we allowing Him to have His way in us as they did? May our Lord help us to do so.

Conclusion:

The world has a word for the world. The mainstream media has a word for the world. The social media has a word for the world. And Satan has a word for the world. As a matter of fact almost all of them are promoting Satan's agenda.

However the word of the world, the media, and the devil will only move you in one direction and the direction is hell bound. But God's word and His word alone can give you that upward direction, that heavenly direction, through Christ Jesus our Lord. May God help us to spread His word.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



Upcoming Church Events

Monday, August 5th:

Women on a Mission (formerly Grandmothers' Group)
Meeting in the Parsonage at 11:30 a.m.

Sunday, August 11th:

Senior Sunday
Vote for Deacons

Sunday, August 18th:

Teacher Dedication Sunday



MOVIE NIGHT!!



Showing: TBD
Sunday, August 18th
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.



<i>Monday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>Nicole Cole</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>30th</i>	<i>Josh Carter</i>

**IMPORTANT
ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

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

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
Mike Davis (test)

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 + / -
	\$3,430.00	\$4,923.33	\$-1,493.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	<i>\$50.00</i>		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
Operation Christmas Child	\$180.00	*****	\$659.00



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