

# for every

YOU'VE PREPARED

THE love of God HAS BEEN Shared

Great Swamp Baptist Church August 18, 2024

# 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 Worship by Giving Offertory Special	Pastor Ralph Lee
Message	Pastor Ralph Lee
Invitation	
<b>Benediction Prayer</b>	
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## <u>Sunday Mornings</u> <u>Following The Song Service:</u>



# Nursery



Teacher: Olivia Stanley



## **Greeters for Today:**

Juliette & Mike W.

Next Sunday 8/25: Mike D.



# DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Keith Gamo



Phone: 843-986-8525

From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:



#### **ARE YOU READY?**

(I Cor 13:1-13)

#### **Introduction:**

Well, as we celebrate the moving up of our new class of seniors for Step of Faith Christian Academy, our church school, I need to ask the seniors, and all of us really, are you ready? So this leads to another question, are you ready for what?

Well, the answer to the question is, are you ready to grow up? Are you ready to become a man or a woman? Are you ready to become an adult? Your senior year is not just about wrapping up your high school education, but it's also about getting you ready to move on into adulthood. So, once again, are you ready to grow up?

In our chosen chapter for this message the apostle Paul said, "When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things." (vs 11 KJV).

So as these students step up to the role of seniors I pray that our God will give you the wisdom and strength to grow up this year to begin becoming the kind of adult that pleases God. Thus we will examine from these verses, particularly the last six, to see how we can be ready, ready to grow up.

# I. First, let's notice that you grow up by the means of pursuing (vs 8-10)

In these verses Paul is saying that we have not yet reached that final state of perfection which will only take place when we finally reach our final home in heaven in the presence of our Lord.

Now in a message I preached a couple of weeks ago, I gave what I called the Biblical view of progression. The reason for that message was because of the ungodly demonstration that took place during the opening ceremony of the Olympics. Paris, France and the Olympic committee were demonstrating how progressive that they had become.

However, God's word clearly teaches that the world's view of progression is really perversion. Instead the word of God teaches that the progression that God has for us is that He's going to ultimately conform us into the image of Christ. However we aren't there yet. As a matter of fact, we are far from it, but by the grace, strength, and wisdom of our blessed Lord we are even now to be pursuing a life that's progressing more and more into the image of Christ.

So it's not a time to say, well, I'm a senior now, so I can sit back and coast along. No, if you're ready to grow up and become the adult God wants you to be then you must, with His help, pursue it because you aren't there yet.

# II. Second, let's notice that you grow up by the means of God's proclamation (vs 8-10)

We are blessed that our amazing God has continuously spoken to His people from the very beginning of creation. As the writer of Hebrews says, "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom also he made the universe." (Hebrews 1:1,2 NIV)

However, according to our present set of verses, there will come a day when God Himself will bring to close the various ways that He has spoken to us. As Paul says here, "Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away. For we know in part and we prophesy in part, but when completeness comes, what is in part disappears." (vs 8 -10 NIV).

So these verses tell us that a day will come when these means of God speaking to us will cease. And that will happen, as we've already pointed out, when we go to be with our Lord. Then we won't need all these means that God has spoken to us with because we will then have the mind of Christ, thus knowing it all things that Christ knows.

However until that day comes we still need to hear the voice of God speaking to us to give us the wisdom to grow up to become the people that God wants us to be. And the way that God speaks to us today is through His final and complete inspired word of God, the Bible. We need to listen to Godly parents, pastors, Bible study teachers, and our own school teachers as they open God's word to us. We also need to dive ourselves through our own personal study of His Holy word.

In my first point, I said that if we were going to grow up we must pursue it. Well, it is impossible to grow to spiritual maturity without pursuing the word of God. So are you ready to grow up? Then pursue God's word. It is the milk and meat of spiritual growth.

# III.Third, let's notice that you grow up by the means of God's passion (vs 1-13)

Now, obviously, the theme of this chapter is all about love and not just any old type of love but rather the supreme type of love and the supreme type of love is what's called agape love. It's the type of love demonstrated by God Almighty when He chose to send His only begotten Son into the world to die on the old rugged cross to pay for and be penalized for the sins which we had committed against His perfect holiness.

As you read through the entire chapter, you first discover that without love we are nothing. Then you discover what love looks like. It's patient, kind, not envious, nor boastful and proud, not selfish, not disrespectful, not easily angered, doesn't keep a list of wrongdoings, and it rejoices in the truth. It always protects, trusts, hopes, and perseveres.

Now as you read all of those definitions and descriptions of love, you should come to one conclusion and that conclusion is that it perfectly demonstrates who Jesus was when He walked in our midst, who He is now in the present, and who He will be in the future and forevermore.

The closing section of this chapter is that when all else is going to cease, there's one thing for sure that never will and that, of course, is love. So if we are going to grow up, then we must pray that our blessed God of love will demonstrate His love to others through our lives. And may our lives demonstrate to one another and to the world that our lives are committed fully to the God of love. You are never more grown up than when you are showing God's love to others. If you are not demonstrating love, then you're not growing up.

#### **Conclusion:**

So you're now a senior. Well, the next step is adulthood, like it or not. The question is, will your adulthood be one that demonstrates the love of Christ to the world? It can if we chose to pursue it and if we chose to let God guide us through His proclamation, His Holy word, and finally, if we chose to allow Him to demonstrate His passion and His love through us.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee





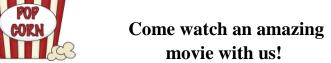
### **MOVIE NIGHT!!**

Showing: I Can
TONIGHT!! 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.





Sunday	18th	Iola Daring
Thursday	22nd	Ralph Lee
Thursday	22nd	Charles Malphrus

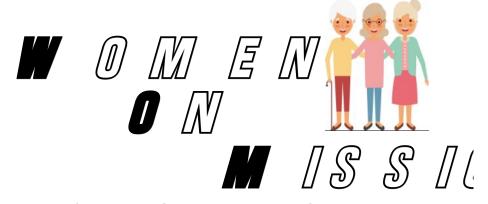
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"Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs."

1 Corinthians 13:4-5

Wednesday, August 21st:
Stephen & Amy Mobley



(formerly Grandmothers' Group)

# **SPECIAL GUEST: DAVID MEARS**

\*\*YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS THIS!!!\*\*\*

When: \*\*RESCHEDULED. NEW DATE\*\*
September 9th at 11:30 a.m.

**Where:** The Multi-Purpose Building

**Bring:** A Covered Dish and/or Dessert





# SFCA TEACHERS & OFFICE STAFF FOR 2024-2025 SCHOOL YEAR

Church Family, please join us in praying for each of our amazing school staff members as they begin a new school year. We know, without a shadow of a doubt, that God has placed each of them here at SFCA for a reason and we know He will work through them, just as He does year after year. Please pray for the students and their parents/guardians as well, that God would reach them through SFCA. Thank you, again, teachers for answering that call to serve, to teach, and to reach and to do it with love, grace, patience, and humility. It is a testimony much bigger than you realize and we are ever so grateful for you.

Mrs. Carter - Principal
Mrs. Gray - Finance Dir.
Mrs. Simmons - Secretary
Mrs. Smoak - K-3
Mrs. Keiffer - K-4
Mrs. Scherger - K-5
Mrs. Scott - 1st Grade
Mrs. McDaniel - 2nd Grade
Mrs. May - 3rd Grade
Mrs. Ballinger - 4th Grade
Ms. Rose - Tutoring

Mrs. Mixson - 5th Grade
Dr. Gillian - 6th Grade
Mrs. Stones - High School
Mrs. Cramer - High School
Mrs. Spikes - High School
Mrs. Smith - High School
Mrs. Creech - High School
Mrs. Herlong - Library
Mr. Huskey - HS PE
Ms. Daniels - Elem. PE
Ms. Stanley - Aftercare





ANNUAL LADIES MEETING

"A Proverbs 31 Woman in Today's Society" Special Speaker: Mrs. Tristan Zorn

> September 14th, 2024 11:00am - 1:00pm 536 Welch Creek Rd. Walterboro, SC 29488

Lunch will be provided Please register on: welchcreekbaptistchurch.com



## **AUGUST NEEDS**

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.

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## **Deacon Candidates:**

Richard Roberts Fred Stanley

Mike Wall Mack Pope

Chuck Scoggins Bjo Mills

Calvin Bryan

#### **GSBC Prayer Page**

#### **Church Leadership**

Sunday School SFCA-Donna Carter Child Development Ministries Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor Deacons

#### Leadership

President / Vice President of the United States of America

#### Bereavement

#### Unspoken

#### **Hospitals**

#### Surgery/Recovery

#### **Cancer/Treatments**

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

#### **Other Health Needs**

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arthur Pearson
Sage Lanier (2 week old
baby with seizures)
Dean Daley
Earl Dean Pope
Cindy Price (Vicki
Archuleta's sister)
Joseph Walters, IIII
Mike Davis (test)

#### **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

#### 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
Sunday School Director: Mike Davis	
Pianist: Michelle Waitt	waittfamily83@gmail.com
Administrative Assistant: <b>Jennifer Meador</b>	greatswampbc@gmail.com 843-726-363.
School Administrator: Donna Carter	dcarter@sfcaweh or



<u>Please Note:</u> We will be voting on the new deacons after church Sunday, September 1st.

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# Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,323.00	\$4,923.33	\$-1,600.33
Online Offerings	\$50.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
Gleaners SS Class	\$46.00	******	\$1,326.06
MPB Fees	10.00	*******	\$254.97



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