



Great Swamp Baptist Church
August 4, 2024

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Fred Stanley

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 8/11:
Kim & Richard

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Fred Stanley



Phone: 843-726-1963

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Biblical View of Progression

Introduction:

In this introduction I want to ask the question what was the Olympic committee's reason for depicting in the opening ceremonies of the Olympics a blasphemous and demonic re-enactment of Leonardo Da Vinci's famous painting of the Last Supper of Jesus with His disciples by using drag queens to do the re-enactment. This re-enactment was done near the end of the ceremony so that this ungodly demonstration is plastered into the hearts and minds of the millions upon millions of people that were watching.

Now this evil display had nothing whatsoever to do with the Olympics. It did not in anyway promote any of the specific competitions that will be taking place during the Olympics. So once again what was the rational for using this evil re-enactments?

Now let me answer the questions first of all by saying that obviously satan was behind the whole thing. For this display was not against any religion of faith other than the Christian faith. Satan wants to degrade the person of the Lord Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord before the whole world and this was his opportunity to do so. However though that's clearly what happened that's not what the Olympic committee of Paris, France would give for their reason to carrying it out.

Rather their rational was that Paris, France is a progressive city. They have progressed to the point that they allow this type of behavior to take place. So they are a progressive, inclusive, open society and anything is okay with them. And if you were going to show up in Paris for the Olympics this would be the kind of behavior you would see taking place openly.

Now for this message I want us to see that what Paris, France, the Olympic Committee, and all who were in support of what they call progress or progression is anything but. Rather from God's perspective it's complete digression. Thus I want to show the Biblical view of progression. What does God consider to be progress and how do we get there.

I. First, let's notice let's notice that the world's present view of progression according to the Bible is perversion (Romans 1:18-28)

These verses leave us with no doubt as to where God stands when it comes to the present view of progression. From these verses I can absolutely and positively declare that the world's view of progression is total and complete perversion. The verses say it without hardly any need for explanation because it's pretty straightforward.

"The wrath of God is being revealed from heaven against all the godlessness and wickedness of people, who suppress the truth by their wickedness, since what may be known about God is plain to them, because God has made it plain to them. For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature—have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that people are without excuse.

For although they knew God, they neither glorified him as God nor gave thanks to him, but their thinking became futile and their foolish hearts were darkened. Although they claimed to be wise, they became fools and exchanged the glory of the immortal God for images made to look like a mortal human being and birds and animals and reptiles.

Therefore God gave them over in the sinful desires of their hearts to sexual impurity for the degrading of their bodies with one another. They exchanged the truth about God for a lie, and worshiped and served created things rather than the Creator—who is forever praised. Amen.

Because of this, God gave them over to shameful lusts. Even their women exchanged natural sexual relations for unnatural ones. In the same way the men also abandoned natural relations with women and were inflamed with lust for one another. Men committed shameful acts with other men, and received in themselves the due penalty for their error. Furthermore, just as they did not think it worthwhile to retain the knowledge of God, so God gave them over to a depraved mind, so that they do what ought not to be done." (Romans 1:18-28)

So as one can see I make no apology for calling our modern day progressive movement the modern day perverted movement. But thanks be to our God that He actually determines what's progressive, and that He's able to pull us out of a movement that is pulling us as fast as it can to the very pit of hell and places us into a progression that's rather moving us into the direction of heaven. And that's what our next point will reveal.

II. Second, let's notice what the Bible declares to be true progression.

From several Bible references we will discuss what is the Biblical view of progression. And the Biblical view of progression, and of course of anything else, is where Gods people are called to stand.

Now the reason why the Biblical view of progression is the only true and right view of progression is because the world's view of progression is tainted by sinful nature which humanity is born with. And the sin nature never results in true spiritual progress as fallen humanity has shown over and over. Especially is this true as humanity push God out of every aspect of our lives the end result will be that instead of progressing humanity will fail and fall.

However Praise be to a God that He has a clear definition and direction for true spiritual progress. From these Bible references what we discover to be the true Biblical view of progression for our lives is that ultimately we will be made to be like Jesus. We will not become Jesus or take His place. But we will be made to have the mind of Christ, to think, and act like Christ and even to have a perfect body like Christ. Now that's what you call progress.

"And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who have been called according to his purpose." (So what's God's purpose for us?) "For those God foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, that he might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters. And those he predestined, he also called; those he called, he also justified; those he justified, he also glorified. (Romans 8:28-30). As we see the purpose to which God called us is to be conformed to the image of Jesus Christ the Son of God.

"So it is written: "The first man Adam became a living being"^[a]; the last Adam, a life-giving spirit. The spiritual did not come first, but the natural, and after that the spiritual. The first man was of the dust of the earth; the second man is of heaven. As was the earthly man, so are those who are of the earth; and as is the heavenly man, so also are those who are of heaven. And just as we have borne the image of the earthly man, so shall we bear the image of the heavenly man." (I Cor. 15:45-49).

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." (2 Cor 3:18).

"See what great love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are! The reason the world does not know us is that it did not know him. Dear friends, now we are children of God, and what we will be has not yet been made known. But we know that when Christ appears, we shall be like him, for we shall see him as he is. All who have this hope in him purify themselves, just as he is pure." (I John 1:1-3).

We need to grasp the fact that based upon God's holy word the progression that's presented in these verses is the only progression that will actually succeed and produce perfection, because our Lord Jesus Christ alone is perfect perfection. So it is in Him and through Him that we can alone know the progression and perfection that God wants us to have.

III. Third, let's notice the Biblical direction of how we experience the progression God intends on us knowing

Now the truth is that we could write an entire book on this point. The whole word of God was given to us to point us in the direction of progress and ultimately perfection. The kind that our last point revealed was God's plan of progress for His people to become like Christ.

Now first let me point out that becoming like Christ is not an option for us as God's people. Nor is it a mere possibility of happening. For all the verses of our previous point assures us that God has absolutely purposed and promised that He's going to conform us into the image of His Son.

However we also understand from those verses in the previous point that our ultimate transformation into the image of our Lord Jesus Christ will not fully and completely take place until we are in the presence of our Lord free from our old sin nature.

However in the meantime we are to be seeking under our Lord's leadership to already, in the present, be progressing in the direction of Christlikeness. Of course you can't even begin the progressive journey of Christlikeness until you enter into a saving relationship with Christ in which you surrender yourself through repentance and faith in the finished work of Calvary and resurrection of our Lord. Just as Jesus told Nicodemus that you must be born again a term referring to getting saved but with the understanding that your salvation begins in spiritual infancy and thus must grow into maturity, Christlikeness, which is full maturity. As the apostle Peter said, "Like newborn babies, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation, ³ now that you have tasted that the Lord is good." (I Peter 2:2-3). And of course the spiritual milk and meat is the word of God. Thus God's progressive plan begins with saving faith in Christ Jesus our Lord and diving into the milk and meat of God's holy word.

So the question I want to ask now is how is that progression of Christlikeness suppose to look in our lives? Well, there are so many places to look in the Bible for that answer. But I'm going to choose the book of Philippians.

"Therefore if you have any encouragement from being united with Christ, if any comfort from his love, if any common sharing in the Spirit, if any tenderness and compassion, then make my joy complete by being like-minded, having the same love, being one in spirit and of one mind. Do nothing out of selfish ambition or vain conceit. Rather, in humility value others above yourselves, not looking to your own interests but each of you to the interests of the others.

In your relationships with one another, have the same mindset as Christ Jesus: Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be used to his own advantage; rather, he made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.

And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself by becoming obedient to death—even death on a cross! Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name, that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, and every tongue acknowledge that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” (Phil. 2:1-11).

Therefore progression as a Christians means that you have an attitude like Jesus had when He came into our midst with the greatest display of humility ever by leaving His home in heaven to become not only a human but the lowest form of one a servant and then willing sacrifice His life on the cross to save us. So progression as a Christian is to humbly offer our lives to God as living sacrifices to help others come to Christ and grow in Christ. That’s being like Jesus.

And the apostle Paul even after committing himself fully to the cause of Christ facing death many times still conceded that he had not yet fully attained full and complete Christlikeness but was always working to get there and so we must do the same.

“I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead. Not that I have already obtained all this, or have already arrived at my goal, but I press on to take hold of that for which Christ Jesus took hold of me. Brothers and sisters, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.” (Phil 3:10-14).

Conclusion:

Thus let our prayers be that our blessed Lord will move us to ever continue striving to be like Jesus and look forward to the day when we will become as He is in His image.

“But our citizenship is in heaven. And we eagerly await a Savior from there, the Lord Jesus Christ, who, by the power that enables him to bring everything under his control, will transform our lowly bodies so that they will be like his glorious body.” (Phil 3:30-21). Oh, what a day it will be!

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

W O M E N

O N

M I S S I O

(formerly Grandmothers' Group)

SPECIAL GUEST: DAVID MEARS

When: August 5th at 11:30 a.m.

Where: The Multi-Purpose Building

Bring: A Covered Dish and/or Dessert



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!





Operation Christmas Child



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.



<i>Monday</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Gideon Mobley</i>
<i>Monday</i>	<i>5th</i>	<i>Saylor Olivas</i>
<i>Friday</i>	<i>9th</i>	<i>Juliette Daring</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
Deacons*

Leadership

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

Bereavement

*Family of Bertha Kinard
Family of Mary Into*

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, III
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: **Jennifer Meador** greatswampbc@gmail.com
843-726-3631

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



Upcoming Church Events

Sunday, August 11th:

Senior Sunday
Vote for Deacons

Sunday, August 18th:

Teacher Dedication Sunday

Tithes	This Week 6/30	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$2,775.00	\$4,923.33	\$-2,148.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
Operation Christmas Child	\$40.00	*****	\$445.59
MPB Fees	\$140.00	*****	\$254.97
Kitchen Supplies	\$50.00	*****	\$711.82



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