

THEREFORE TO HIM THAT
KNOWETH TO DO GOOD,
AND DOETH IT NOT,
TO HIM IT IS SIN.

JAMES 4:17

Great Swamp Baptist Church
February 16, 2025

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Lloyd Freeman

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 Workers

For Today:
Nicole & Barbara L

Next Sunday 02/23:
Pat & Chyleen



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley



Greeters for Today:
Courtney & Betty

Next Sunday 02/23:
Kim & Richard

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Lloyd Freeman

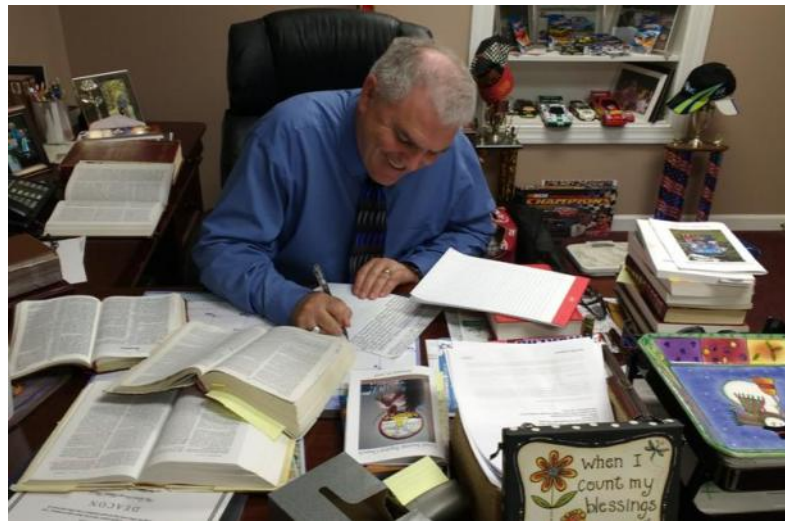


Phone: 803-943-6312

**NEXT WEEK'S
DEACON:**
Chuck Scoggins



*From
the
Pastor's
desk:*



Jesus Weeps Over Jerusalem

Matt 23:33-39

Luke 19:41-44

Introduction

In our new president's first week in office most of us in the Evangelical community of believers are very pleased with the many steps and measures that he has taken. One of those measures that he took that greatly pleased me was the one that pardoned 24 pro-life protesters who for the most part were peacefully protesting near an abortion clinic. Also what has pleased me is the many people that the president has surrounded himself with that clearly claim to be born again believers such as his vice president JD Vance and Franklin Graham whom he often consults with.

However let us not fool ourselves to believe that just because we selected a conservative president and many conservative congressmen and senators that we are going to be okay. Because it's not what we do with Donald Trump or any political figure that matters. Rather it's what we do with Jesus that matters. He's truly the one hope for America as well as for any other nation, and for any individual as well. The scripture text that I have chosen for this message clearly will bear out this point that I am making that it's what we do with Jesus that matters.

What our set of verses show us is that the downfall of the nation of Israel at the time Jesus walked upon the earth was totally based upon what the nation did with Jesus, and what they did with Him was to reject Him and this rejection is what led to their destruction as a nation at the time.

Now this downfall of the nation caused our Lord Jesus Christ to weep over the nation for their rejection of Him and what that would result in. So for our own country's sake as well as for our own personal lives, I want us to examine why Jesus wept over Jerusalem.

I. First, let's notice that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of His recognition of who He Himself is (Matt 23:37; Luke 19:41, 42, 44)

On this occasion Jesus said to the people in Jerusalem, "...how often **I** have longed to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you were not willing." (vs 37) Here Jesus is emphasizing that He is the one who was the means to gather the nation of Israel together in a way that would bless them and honor them.

Then in Luke's Gospel on the same occasion Jesus is declaring to them that instead of having peace as a nation, which He wanted to give them, they were going to experience destruction and desolation. The reason why was as He said in verse 44, "...because you did not recognize the time of God's coming to you."

So Jesus was saying to them that while He walked among them God was in their presence because He is God, and He knows that because He is who He is He alone could give them peace and save them from their enemies. But sadly regardless of all the miracles He did and messages He preached and prophecies He fulfilled they did still refuse to believe. So let us not make the same mistake as they did but rather let us accept Jesus for who He knew Himself to be a man, yes, but also God.

II. Second, let's notice that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of the rebellion and rejection of the people of Israel (Matt 23:37; Luke 19:42)

Jesus tells the people in Jerusalem that He could not gather them together unto Himself, nor could He give them peace, not because He didn't want to, but rather because they were not willing.

So it was their rebellion and rejection that prevented them from experiencing all that God desired to give them. It's so sad that they failed to recognize that Jesus was God. However it wasn't because He didn't do what He needed to do to convince them for He did as I mentioned in my first point. He performed miracle after miracle. He preached powerful messages and He fulfilled many O.T. prophecies.

However the people rejected Him and rebelled against Him, because they loved their sinful ways more than they loved God. (Rom 1:18-23).

No wonder Jesus wept because the very people that He created and the very people that He chose to be His special earthly chosen nation did not recognize Him nor trust Him. "The true light that gives light to everyone was coming into the world. He was in the world and though the world was made through Him, the world did not recognize Him. He came to that which was His own, but His own did not receive Him. Yet to all who did receive Him, to those who believed in His name, He gave the right to become the children of God -- children born not of natural descent, nor of human decision or a husband's will, but born of God." (John 1:9-13)

Our hearts should weep, too, when people are unwilling to believe in Christ because there is no other way of salvation. America's only hope is Jesus.

III. Third, let's notice that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of the reward He was willing to give them. (Matt 23:37, Luke 19:41, 42)

Because Jesus is who He is, God who took upon flesh, He could do for the nation anything He so desired to do, and there were many things that He was willing to do and wanted to do but couldn't because they were unwilling for Him to do so. So His heart was broken because of the many wonderful things He desired to do for them but couldn't because of their rejection and rebellion.

However, He told them on this occasion that He desired to gather them under His wings. He told them that He desired to give them peace as a nation. Now what Jesus is referring to is the fact that He came to set up His glorious reign on earth and make Jerusalem the capital of His kingdom and their nation the ruling nation of the world. So this mean that He was willing to forgive them, reconcile them, restore them, bless them and give them peace. But sadly they were unwilling.

So today know and understand that Jesus Christ desires to give you more than you could ever imagine, and all that I just mentioned that he was willing to do for the nation He is willing to do for you as an individual. So be willing to receive all that God wants you to have by believing in Christ with all your being.

IV. Fourth, let's notice that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of the retribution that the nation was about to face (Matt 23:38, Luke 19:41-44)

Jesus' tears were agonizing tears because He knew what the nation was about to face because of their rejection of Him as their Messiah, and it wasn't a pretty picture at all. In Matthew's gospel He tells them, "Look, your house to you is left desolate" (vs 38).

However in Luke's gospel the description of the destruction that they are about to face is hard to grasp. For He warns them that their city and their lives are about to be as the saying goes, to totally come unhinged. For their enemies will surround them, conquer them, destroy many of them and take the rest into captivity. This all literally happened in 70 AD when the Romans came in and did everything mentioned in the text. Also they continue to experience some of this retribution to this day until the day that they finally believe in Him as their Messiah when He returns.

So let us ever challenge people to believe because if they don't then their only option is hell. And God does not desire anyone to perish. Nor did He desire for the nation to face retribution. "Say to them, as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but rather that they turn from their ways and live." (Ezekiel 33:11)

V. Fifth, let's notice that Jesus wept over Jerusalem because of the range of time before He comes back (Matt 23:39)

Jesus said in this verse, "For I tell you, you will not see Me again until you say, 'blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.'"

So Jesus weeps because what He was willing to do for them at that time will have to wait until another day way down the road out in the future, when He returns and they recognize Him to be their Messiah. But it could have been theirs then. And tragically while they wait then more retribution to until that day.

The apostle Paul said, "As God's co-worker we urge you not to receive God's grace in vain. For He says, 'In the time of My favor I heard you and in the day of salvation I helped you.' I tell you, now is the time of God's favor, now is the day of salvation.;"

It is now that God is calling us not tomorrow. Let us not wait until it's too late.

Conclusion

There is good news. There will be a day and I believe soon that the nation will finally believe when Christ returns. But for us here and now the good news is that Christ Jesus our Lord took our condemnations and retribution from us on the cross of Calvary so that if we would repent and believe we would have eternal life.

The hope of America, the hope for any nation, and the hope for each one of us is Jesus and Jesus alone.

Jesus loves you
Ralph Lee



SFCA Blood Drive

Monday, March 3rd @ the MPB Building. Sign up online to reserve a spot early or walk-ins are always welcome!



<i>February</i>	<i>16th</i>	<i>Alex Sineath</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>19th</i>	<i>Vera Miles</i>
<i>February</i>	<i>22nd</i>	<i>Pat Azzarelli</i>

*****:



Saturday, February 22nd:
 Ronnie & Ann Nettles

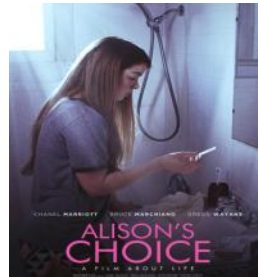


A child's zip code should no longer determine whether they get a good education. With the State Senate overwhelmingly passing S. 62, the House of Representatives needs to pass S.62 and provide broad school choice, including education savings accounts, to give maximum opportunities for all children in South Carolina. Here is your opportunity to communicate your support for S. 62 with your elected representative in the SC House; your representative should hear from you immediately. Why? Those opposing S. 62 will be pull out all stops to see the bill die in the SC House.

The link below is provided by Palmetto Family Council to make your communication process as simple as possible.

<https://www.votervoice.net/mobile/PFA/campaigns/120115/respond>

If you have any questions, please see Mrs. Carter or one of the secretaries in the SFCA office.



Showing: **Alison's Choice**
TONIGHT! Sunday, February 16th
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:45 p.m.

Please bring finger foods for your family as well as to share with everyone else!
Tea and popcorn will be provided by the church.

Come watch an amazing movie!



(formerly Grandmothers Group)

The next meeting will be held Monday, March 3rd,
at 11:30 a.m. in the youth house.



**Monday. March 10th at
6:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, March
12th at 7:00 p.m.**



RADIANCE PREGNANCY CARE CENTER

Please pick up a baby bottle to help these women. Bottles to be turned in by Sunday February 23rd. Please fill all you can!



Now Hiring

Apply Today

OPEN POSITION: Church Secretary

If you are interested in working as the church secretary, please send your resume to greatswampbc@gmail.com, give it to a deacon, or drop it off in the church office.



**Operation
Christmas Child**
A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

It is time to start our year round collection again. It's amazing how fast time goes by when you're having fun!

Listed below is what is needed for February. Hygiene items. As of right now we have 750 shoeboxes to fill this year. You can also give a monetary donation if you do not want to shop.

Thank you!

- Wash Cloths***
- Toothbrushes***
- Combs/Hair Brushes for Boys & Girls***
- Head Bands, Hair Ties, Barrettes***



Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from
6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
\$5.00 per person or
\$15.00 per family of four or more.
No meal deliveries.



Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served
from 8:30 a.m. to
9:00 a.m.
\$5.00 per person or
\$15.00 per family of
four or more.

GSBC Prayer Page

Church Leadership

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

Leadership

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

Bereavement

Unspoken

Hospitals

Other Health Needs

*Ralph Lee
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Arthur Pearson
Earl Dean Pope
Rachel Mixon
Maria Coles' Brother*

Surgery/Recovery

Cancer/Treatments

*Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Ken Lawler
Rachel Vaughn
Ella Gourlay - 10 years old
(Leukemia)*

Nursing Centers

*Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home
David Sauls - Florence Place Assisted Living
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI*

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

*Rose Boyles
Judy Smith
Barbara Mills
Kenny Smith
Shirley Malphrus*

*Tom Hinely
Ann Blocker
Red & Helen Malphrus
Diane Hannah
Ann Long
Donald Malphrus*

Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton - Deployed
Matthew Mills - US Marines -
Okinawa, Japan
Jericho Malphrus - Sp. Agent/Air Force -
Pinehurst, NC.
Andrea C. Daring - Charleston, SC
Schuyler Johnson - Basic Training Marines*

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr......*jehu27@gmail.com*
Sunday School Director: Mike Davis.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*
Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meador.....*greatswampbc@gmail.com*
843-726-3631
School Administrator: Donna Carter.....*dcarter@sfcaweb.org*



The church office will be
 closed tomorrow,
 Monday, February 17th
 in observance of
 President's Day.

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,188.00	\$5,172.63	\$-1,984.63
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
VBS	\$1.00		\$3,056.13



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