



"Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, laid hands on them, and blessed them.

Mark 10:14-16

Great Swamp Baptist Church
May 11, 2025

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

“Hand full of Weeds”

Ayden & Olivia

Invocation

Calvin Bryan

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

Pastor Ralph Lee

Worship by Giving

“Open up the Heavens”

“Lion and the Lamb”

Offertory Special

“When God Made You My Mother”

Saylor

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

“Great is Thy Faithfulness”

Benediction Prayer

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.....jehu27@gmail.com

Sunday School Director: Mike Davisgreatswampbc@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: June Bessgreatswampbc@gmail.com

School Administrator: Donna Carterdcarter@sfcaweb.org

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery Workers

For Today:
Teresa & Myra

Next Sunday 05/18
Barbara & Chyleen



In the school
office building

Teacher:
Olivia Stanley



Greeters for Today:
Courtney & Betty

Next Sunday 05/18:
Kim & Richard

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Calvin Bryan

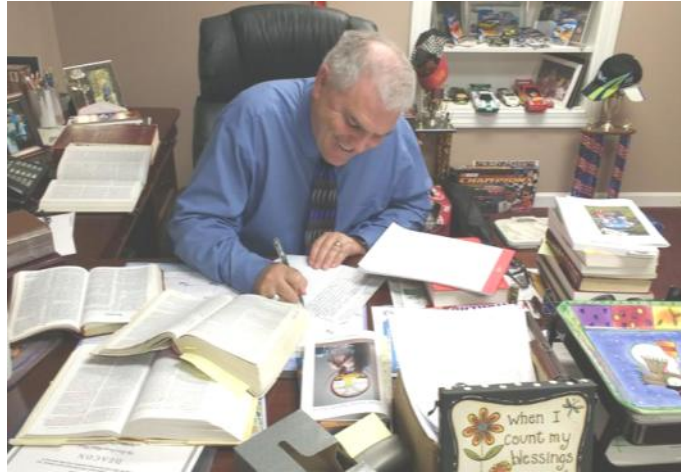


Phone: (843) 226-0238

**NEXT WEEK'S
DEACON:**
Mack Pope



*From
the
Pastor's
desk:*



Questions Concerning Jesus' Ascension

Luke 24:44-53, Acts 1:1-11

Introduction: In our last message we examined why Jesus waited forty days to ascend back to Heaven. In this message we will take a direct look at the ascension itself. I believe that just as we emphasize the virgin birth of Jesus, and His crucifixion, burial, and His resurrection, we too must emphasize His ascension. Without the ascension we are missing essential elements of the work and ministry of Christ.

The way that we will examine His ascension is by asking a number of questions concerning His ascension. The answers that we find will give us a clear vision of the facts and purpose for the ascension of our Blessed Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

I. The First question we will ask is; Why did Jesus ascend when He did? Luke 24:44-49, Acts 1:1-8.

As we read the verses for this point we become keenly aware that Jesus, both before and following His resurrection, drilled into the heart and minds of His disciples that He had to be crucified, buried, and resurrected because the Old Testament scripture had predicted that He would and had to do so. Therefore since He had fulfilled all that was written and prophesied about Him He could now ascend back to His heavenly home to receive the glory that He deserved. In other words, His work being completed He could then return back to His glory from which He left when He came to earth.

Let us rejoice that Jesus did not ascend before He finished the tasks He was sent to do. For without Him fulfilling His prophesied tasks and purpose we would have no redemption available to us.

As well this teaches us the tasks of staying the course until God is finished with us, and that won't be until He is ready to take us home.

II. The Second question we will ask is; Where did Jesus ascend from? Luke 24:50.

Now this verse tells us that the place Jesus ascended from was Bethany. Bethany is on one of the slopes of the Mount of Olives. This was a very familiar place for Jesus and His disciples. Because this was the Home place of Mary, Martha, and Lazarus. Here Jesus spent many hours of commune, fellowship, teaching and performing many miracles.

Therefore Jesus ascended from this place of deep intimacy, caring love, precious fellowship, great miracles and vital teaching to assure them that though He's going away He's still going to, through the Holy Spirit, do all those things with them that He did while He walked with them. In other words, His physical absence is not His absence at all, because He's also God as well as man. Thus He can still, through the Holy Spirit of God, do these things mentioned with us and through us. Besides we walk by faith and not by sight.

III. The Third question we will ask is: Why did Jesus ascend in the presence of witnesses? Acts 1:9,10.

First Jesus ascended in the presence of His disciples to give further evidence that He was who He claimed to be all along. For the involvement of angelic beings and clouds carrying Him away, this could only mean one thing; that Jesus was, beyond any shadow of a doubt, the Lord, Master, Savior, and King! It put a great big AMEN on all the other events which they have witnessed.

Second, it gave a total and complete assurance and reality that His ascension did and in fact, take place. This was important because it further verifies that Jesus didn't just disappear without any knowledge of where He went. Which would have given the enemy of Christ ammunition to declare that since no one saw where He went that He probably didn't actually arise or ascend, just another fabricated story.

However, praise God that these were not the only witnesses of His ascension here on Earth, but there were also witnesses in Heaven. I believe that Psalm 24:7-10 are a prophecy of His ascension.

*7 Lift up your heads, you gates;
Be lifted up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
8 Who is this King of glory?
The Lord strong and mighty.
the Lord mighty in battle.
9 Lift up your heads, you gates;
lift them up, you ancient doors,
that the King of glory may come in.
10 Who is the King of glory?
The Lord Almighty-
He is the King of glory.*

The disciples watched Jesus as He departed and worshipped Him and the citizens of Heaven witnessed, welcomed and worshipped Him as He returned. And we got a grand picture of worship of our Savior and Lord in glory in chapters four through six of the book of Revelation.

Let it be remembered that only those who know Christ, our Lord and Savior, will have the honor and privilege of witnessing Jesus in His Heavenly Home. I pray that you have trusted Him so that you might be granted this privilege..

IV. The Fourth question we will ask is: What did Jesus do as He ascended? Luke 24:50,51.

Actually we are told in these verses what He was doing before He ascended and while He ascended. "...*He lifted up His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them He left them and was taken up into heaven.*" So just before the ascension what He's doing is blessing them, but also while He's ascending He continues to bless them.

Oh what an amazing last view that the disciples had as they witnessed His ascension. The last thing that would always be imprinted on their hearts and minds is that their Savior and Lord was blessing them. This is a reminder to them and to us today, that our Savior continues to bless His people even while He's away in glory.

Now the blessings from our Savior are not, as sadly so often preached today, blessings of wealth, health, and prosperity. For when the disciples, walked away that day, following our Lord's ascension, they didn't suddenly become rich, prosperous, well, and so on. But they were blessed because they now knew that our Lord, though leaving, was still going to be in their midst to do all the things He had been doing with them. So let us rejoice that we continue to be blessed by our Lord!

Charles Spurgeon said, "If He has blessed you , you shall be blessed, for there is no power in heaven, hell, or earth that can reverse the blessing that He gives".

V. The Fifth question that we will ask is: Why did Jesus even ascend back to Heaven?

Well there are several reasons why. First, which we've already mentioned in previous points, that He's ascended back to Heaven because He completed His task here on Earth.

Second, He ascends back to Heaven because that's His home. That's where He left to come into our midst. Earth was never His original home, Heaven has always been and will always be. So He returned to go back home and receive the glory that was His.

Third, Jesus ascended back to Heaven so that He could prepare a place for us so that we could be where He is. (John 14:1-6)

Fourth, He ascended back to Heaven to carry out a vital ministry to make it possible for us to be able to deal with a very fallible world that we live in. Where we will face many difficulties, trials, and hardships, and will therefore require His help and assistance to face it all. Thus He's up there in Heaven at the right hand of the Father, interceding on our behalf. (Romans 8:34)

Fifth, Jesus ascended back to Heaven so that He could send back to us the promised gift of the Holy Spirit to dwell within each of us to empower us to do the work that we've been called to do. So, as we see, it was imperative that our beloved Lord ascend back to glory.

VI. The Sixth question we will ask is: Now that He's ascended will He come again? Acts 1:9-11.

As the disciples were watching Jesus ascend the two angelic beings that were present said, "Why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into

Heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into Heaven”.

The ascension is a reminder to us that Jesus is coming again. For He all along had been teaching that He would, and now as He ascends back they are reminded of the promises that He’s been making that He will indeed, and in fact come again.

The wonderful thing is with their eyes they watched Jesus walk in their midst. With their eyes they’ve watched Jesus be crucified, buried and resurrected. Now they have watched Him ascend. Thus they, and us, are clearly reminded that when Jesus returns it wont be merely Spiritual but also literal. For as the angels said that they would see Him with their own eyes return just as they saw Him leave.

Conclusion: In conclusion I hope that you are watching because Jesus our Lord, was seen ascending and He will be seen returning. Are you ready? If not then today, repent and trust Jesus for your salvation today!

Jesus Loves You!

Pastor Ralph Lee

Traveling out of town for the week-end? Don’t miss a minute of Sunday morning at Great Swamp Baptist Church - Join us by LIVESTREAM on our YouTube channel. You can even watch services from Sundays past!

@greatswampbaptistchurch8998

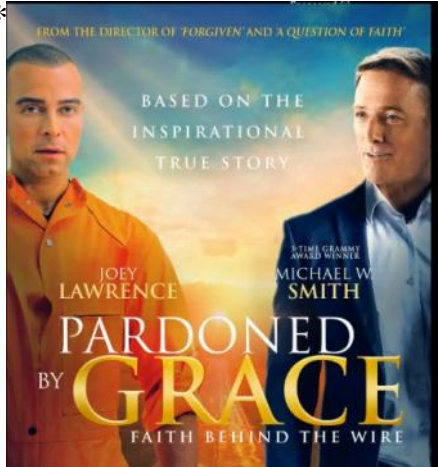


Or on FaceBook at **Great-Swamp Baptist Church**
BUT ... It would be best of all to see you here!



**Tuesday, May 13th-Singing at the Ridgeland Nursing
Center 1516 Grays Hwy**

Meet there at 5:45 so we are ready by 6pm to sing, pray and hear
the Word with the residents the 2nd Tuesday of each month.





**Family Movie Night
Sunday,
May 18th at 6PM.**

Bring your favorite snacks and friends
Tea and popcorn will be provided.

Pick up tickets on the lobby table to share with friends!



You could make a difference for eternity!

**Did you know that 77% of Christians made that decision
before they were 18 years old? (Barna Research)*

- *GO on a mission trip and still sleep in your own bed every
night!*

Our Vacation Bible School needs YOU!

It's fun and rewarding!

Please write your name on the sign up sheet on the bulletin
board at the back, OR talk to Nicole.



Pastor Search Committee

The nominating committee has presented the following names for the Pastor Search Committee. The congregation will have the opportunity to vote for confirmation of those nominated on **Sunday, May 18th.** Please keep this matter in prayer.

Mack Pope Chuck Scoggins Pat Mason
Kim Malphrus Connie Benton

Alternates:

Keith Gamo Michelle Waitt

*... Holding firmly the faithful word which is
in accordance with the teaching, so that he will
be able both to exhort in sound doctrine and to
refute those who contradict it.*

**

Titus 1:9



***Coming soon!
Sunday, June 22nd
Thru
Wednesday, June
25th***



Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

May items needed:

- *Ziploc bags in quart and gallon size****
- *Socks, socks, socks and more socks for all age groups.***
- *Small dolls, plastic animal sets, games, puzzles, hair bows....***

For any questions ask Dorthie

Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served 8:30-9AM



ANNOUNCEMENT

May 18th

The Last one!
(till fall)

\$5.00 per person or \$15 for family



Monday, June 2nd, at 11:30 a.m.
Details to be announced.

Happy Birthday!

Happy Birthday!

May 15-31

Saturday	17th	Chesney Thames
Monday	19th	Calvin Bryan
Monday	19th	Courtney Humbert
Tuesday	20th	Travis Amason
Wednesday	21st	Jed Carter
Thursday	22nd	Madison Malphrus
Thursday	22nd	Max Cole
Sunday	25th	Kim Malphrus
Friday	30th	Victoria Standard
Saturday	31st	Jake Holland



PRAISE THE LORD!!



Rejoice!!

Sunday School Classes

Starting at 9:15 am

CAMO CLASS: *Room 406 -- Leader: Bobby Smith*

GLEANERS CLASS: *Room 411 -- Leader: Darlene Bollack*

VISIONARIES CLASS: *Room 413 - Leader: Greg Mariocourt*

SOJOURNERS CLASS: *Room 417 -- Leader: Mack Pope*

YOUTH: *Youth Annex*

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES:
Room 412 -- Leader: Nicole Mauriocourt

RAINBOW KIDS - 3RD GRADE AND OLDER -- Room 415

Tuesday Morning Prayer Meeting

Breakfast begins at 9:00 am

Followed by the Prayer Meeting

Located in the Multi-Purpose Building

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE *Multi-Purpose Building*

Leader - Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

YOUTH GROUP *Youth Annex*

SWAMP KIDS *Nursery Hall*
Leader – Kim Malphrus

GSBC Prayer Page

***FOR WHERE TWO OR THREE ARE GATHERED
IN MY NAME, I AM THERE IN THEIR MIDST.***

MATTHEW 18:20 (NASB)

Church Leadership

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

Leadership

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

Bereavement

*Ralph and Tammy Lee and
their extended family.*

May Smith

Unspoken

Vacation Bible School

Health Needs

*Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Arthur Pearson
Earl Dean Pope
Rachel Mixon
Marie Cole's Brother
Phoebe Ferguson
Drew Jeffries
Donnie Smith
Holly Malphrus
Sadie O'Connor
Earl Pope Sr.
Vera Miles
Ann Blocker
Beth Owens*

Cancer

*Ralph Lee
Revel Crosby - 4 yrs old
Ken Lawler
Rachel Vaughn
Ella Gourlay - 10 yrs old
David Boyles
Paul Holmes
Randy Floyd*

In Hospital

*Michelle Ashley- Trident
David Daring*

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*

Homebound

*Rose Boyles
Judy Smith
Barbara Mills
Kenny Smith
Shirley Malphrus
Tom Hinely
Red & Helen Malphrus
Diane Hannah
Ann Long
Donald Malphrus*

Pray For Our Military

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



Step of Faith Christian Academy
is accepting applications for
a teacher for the 2025-2026
School year. Please see Mrs.
Donna Carter or call
(843) 726-6100



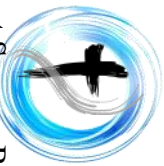
**Monday, May
12th at 6pm**

**Wednesday June
11th, at 7:00 p.m.**



Stewardship

TITHES	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus / Deficit
	\$5303.00	\$5,172.63	+\$103.37
<i>Online Offerings</i>	446.36		
Designated Funds	891.00		Acct. Balances



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