

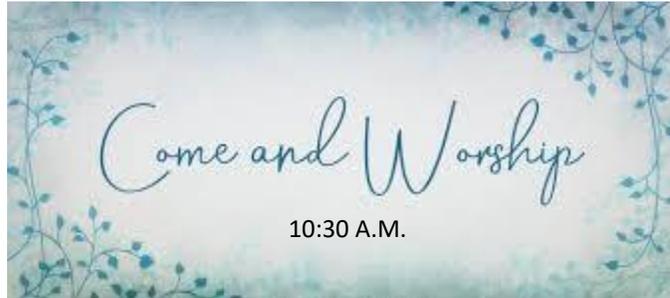
Welcome



And Jesus came up and spoke to them saying, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Go, therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son, teaching them to follow all that I commanded you; and behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age." Matthew 28:18-20

Great Swamp Baptist Church
July 20, 2025

**Great
Swamp
Baptist
Church**



Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer

Calvin Bryan

Worship by Giving

Offertory Special

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Church Staff

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

Sunday School Director: Mike Davis.....greatswampbc@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: June Bess.....greatswampbc@gmail.com

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

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery Workers

For Today:

Next Sunday 07/27



In the school
office building

Teacher:
Olivia Stanley



Greeters for Today:
Juliette & Mike W.

Next Sunday 07/27

DEACON OF THE

Calvin Bryan

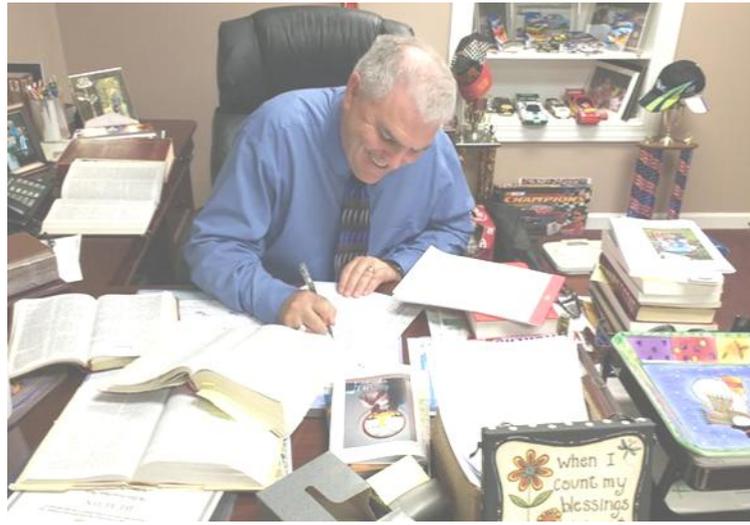


Phone: (843) 226-0238

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



*From
the
Pastor's
desk:*



Encouraging words, 1Thess 4:13-18

Introduction: For the two previous Sundays we've looked at signs that tell us to "Look up" because our Redeemer is drawing near. We then looked at why I believe that the Word of God reveals that the next prophetic event to happen is the Rapture of the Church. Our Redeemer is returning, first to receive His Bride, and to meet Him in the air to dwell with Him forever.

Now these verses that we have chosen reveal to us the actual events that take place when the Rapture of the Church happens. The words found in these verses are the most encouraging words for Gods' people than just about any place in all of the Bible, and as far as that goes in all words ever written or spoken. So that's how we are going to look at these verses, by seeing how they encourage us. As a matter of fact, its exactly what the last verse of the chapter says about these words. "*therefore encourage one another with these words.*" So lets encourage one another.

I. First, these are encouraging words because they are words of enlightenment, vs 13.

Part of the problem that was going on at the church in Thessalonica was that there was someone ,or someone(s)

who was promoting a false teaching about the believers who had already passed away. The false teaching was that if a believer died before the Lord returned then they would not be resurrected , but would be left behind.

Well the Apostle Paul said to the believers in Thessalonica that they need to be enlightened to the truth, and to stop being uninformed about the matter of their dead loved ones who died in Christ. SO the Apostle gives them the truth on the matter so that they will no longer be uninformed on the subject.

As the Lord Jesus Christ told us when He walked in our midst; He said *“You shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free”* (John 8:31).

So, here's the truth about your dead loved ones who have died in Christ. The truth is that they will not be left behind and they will be resurrected from the grave. So child of God, be informed whether you are alive or not when Christ returns, you will come up out of the grave. The truth is not about ‘when’ you die, but rather were you ready when died. Being ready is all that matters. And if you're ready, then no matter when it happens, you will come up out of the grave, Amen!

II. Second, these are encouraging words because they are words of expectation, vs 13.

The expectation comes from the word “hope” found in this verse. Of course the sense that the word ‘hope’ is used in this verse is not referring to the kind of hope and expectation that we are either looking for or longing for. For what Paul is referring to is the fact that for the unbelieving, when they lose a loved one they have no positive expectation. They have no hope of a glorious resurrection, or no hope of eternal life in the glorious and holy presence of our Blessed Lord.

Having done more funerals that I can count, and many of them of persons whose weren't involved in church, or who didn't openly claim to be a Christian,

And of course there were those that I did that I was absolutely assured that they weren't saved, I clearly could sense the difference in the spirit of the service of those people versus the services of the ones that you knew were true believers and now in the presence of our Lord.

While there is no hope or expectation for the unbelieving, there is total and complete expectation and assured hope for the family of a believing loved one that has passed on, because they are now in the presence of our glorious Lord. And because of Paul's teaching they, the loved ones, know their departed ones will resurrect at the Rapture.

Are you living with this expectation and assured hope? If Christ is your Savior then you've got nothing to fret about nor will your family when you pass on.

III. Third, these are encouraging words because they are words of easement, vs 13-15.

The easement that I'm referring to is found in the terms that Paul uses to refer to the believers that have and will die. Three times in these verses he says that the Christians who have died, and the ones that will, have fallen asleep. Now in verse sixteen Paul calls them the dead in Christ.

Therefore the Apostle Paul is not really suggesting that the believers who have passed on are in some kind of soul-sleep so to speak. As he acknowledges in verse sixteen, they are really dead. So then why does he refer to them as having fallen asleep?

So the answer to the question, I believe, is that Paul is saying, like when we go to sleep the majority of us eventually wake up. So Paul is saying that our dead loved ones bodies in the grave won't remain there forever because one day Jesus will wake them up when He resurrects them on that great resurrection day at the Rapture.

The Word of God teaches us that at the moment that the child of God dies, their soul and spirit immediately depart to be in the presence of the Lord. *“Therefore we are always confident, knowing that whilst we are at home in the body, we are absent from the Lord; For we walk by faith and not by sight; We are confident I say, and willing rather to be absent from the body, and to be present with the Lord” (2Cor 5:6-8).*

“And dust returns to the ground it came from and the spirit returns to God who gave it” (Ecc12:7)

Also Jesus told the thief on the cross that *“today you will be with me in paradise” (Luke23:43).*

“And when Jesus had cried our again, in a loud voice, He gave up His Spirit” (Matt.2:50).

All of these Scriptures teach us that we have eternal life and at the moment of death our spirits leave our bodies and go to be with Jesus. However our bodies are laid in the grave, where they remain and return to the dust from whence they came.

However on the great day of the Rapture these bones will wake up and come our of the grave and receive a new body and be reunited with the spirit that’s already with the Lord. This sure eases for us, the death of our loved ones who die in Christ as well as our own death. If you want your dead bodies to wake up you must trust in the one who can wake them up- Jesus Christ our Lord.

IV. Fourth, these are encouraging words because they are words of Establishment, vs 15.

The fact that our dead loved ones without any doubt whatsoever, will indeed be resurrected and raptured up out of the grave, is fully established by the very words of the Lord Himself. For Paul tells us in this verse that the events of the Rapture are “according to the Lords’ word..”

We can bank on the fact of the rapture of the believers, both dead and alive, because our blessed Lord declared it to be so. But it's not only by His words that we can be assured of our being raptured, but also by His actions can we be assured that both we who are living, and those who have died in Christ will be raptured out.

In other words we can be assured of the rapture of both the living and the dead Believers because it's all the words, works and strength of our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ that causes it to happen. For only those who believe in Jesus words and His actions will participate in it. But they will be in it because it's Jesus who promised they would, and it is Jesus who died and arose to make it possible for us to participate, and it's Jesus who has the power to raise us from the dead, transform our bodies and bring us up to be with Him because He overcame the grave Himself, arose and ascended in His new glorified body. So don't, for one minute, doubt the Rapture, it's established in Christ words and actions. So have you believed in those words and clung to His actions on our behalf?

V. Fifth, These words are encouraging because they are words of Eternity, vs 17,18.

I really only need to say exactly what the words themselves say, they wrap it up in a few short words, but those few words open up our eternal future. *“And so we will be with the Lord forever. Therefore encourage one another with these words”* (1 Thess 4:18)

Conclusion: Fear of the future should play no role in the life of the child of God because they are absolutely assured of a resurrection of a new body and of an eternal fellowship with Christ and all other believers. May our Lord encourage you with these words.

Jesus Loves you!

Pastor Ralph

DID YOU KNOW....?



The bulletin board on the back wall is full of news and events happening near-by.

Articles and announcements from our Savannah River Baptist Association newsletter, and from The South Carolina Baptist News, and others. Things you wouldn't want to miss, but might not fit in the Sunday Bulletin. Please feel free to share any God glorifying, Christ-centered news or announcements!



Next meeting will be August 4th

Details to follow!

Contact Debbie Hale for questions

(843) 368-5436

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Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Christmas in July!

School supplies are the donations needed this month- and they are on sale! Here's what's needed:

- *Pencils * sharpeners * erasers **
- scissors * pens *crayons-24ct * 12ct*
- colored pencils * construction paper **
- spiral notebooks * glue-sticks*
- *Monetary donations are very helpful too!*



For any questions ask Dorthie (843)258-0573

“Now may the God who gives perseverance and encouragement grant you to be of the same mind with one another, according to Christ Jesus, so that with one purpose and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

Romans 15:5-6

**Nadine Smoak
Sawyer Smoak**

**Steve Pounder
Jason Smoak**



Great Swamp welcomes you!

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.

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Deacons likewise must be men of dignity, not insincere, not prone to drink much wine, not greedy for money, but holding to the mystery of the faith with a clear conscience. These men must also first be tested; then have them serve as deacons if they are beyond reproach. Women must likewise be dignified, not malicious gossips, but temperate, faithful in all things. Deacons must be husbands of one wife, and good managers of their children and their own households. For those who have served well as deacons obtain for themselves a high standing and great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.

1Timothy 3:8-13

Printed from our Constitution (Art.6, Sect. 4) and By-Laws (page 4):

Deacons

- The body of deacons shall consist of ordained men chosen by the church to serve as deacons. They will elect their own chairman, vice-chairman, and secretary as well as prescribe such rules as necessary for the conduct of their meetings.
- There will be regular meetings at least once a month. Special meetings may be called as necessary by the Pastor or Chairman of the Deacons, providing each is aware of the meeting being called.
- The deacons will be assistants to the Pastor in all those things which would be helpful to the Pastor in the ministry of the Word. The deacons have no authority to control the church, but to assist by their counsel. The deacons will promote the whole program of the church, enlistment, discipline, education, missions, etc. The deacons will have charge of the benevolence of the church.
- A deacon will be elected for a three-year term and may succeed himself when his term expires, if he so desires and is elected by the church.
- The number of deacons will be determined by the needs of the church, upon the recommendation of the presiding deacon body, and voted on by the church.
- The selection of deacons will take place each year, the second Sunday in August. Announcement will be made at least two weeks in advance. The present deacon body will qualify and will present the list for the ballot at that time. The church members present at the morning worship service will vote by secret ballot for the number of deacons to be selected. The present deacon body will count the ballots.



Reprinted from SC Baptist convention news, 7/8/2025

Why Should Each Church Have An Intentional Evangelism Plan?

Each Church Is Called To Obey. As God calls each believer to make disciples by sharing the Gospel and teaching new believers to "obey" everything in the Bible, he also calls his church to do the same. Evangelism has proven to be one of the most challenging areas of obedience for believers and even churches. It is often the last and least practiced discipline of believers. Every Life Counts. Every life is important to God. Jesus stated this clearly when he told Nicodemus,

"For God loved the world in this way: He gave his one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life. For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him. Anyone who believes in him is not condemned, but anyone who does not believe is already condemned, because he has not believed in the name of the one and only Son of God." (John 3:16-18, CSB).

In **South Carolina**, four out of five people have no meaningful relationship with a local church. We believe that these men, women, boys, and girls are likely not followers of Jesus. Most of the people in our state are living without a relationship with God through Jesus Christ and are headed toward a future separated from God and living in eternal agony. Below are some great online resources.

Blesseveryhome.com

Whosyourone.com

Artofneighboring.com



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

Shoebox Gifts are Just the Beginning

A Life Saved and Transformed



Maykel, an 11-year-old boy in Panama, gave his life to Jesus Christ when he heard the Gospel at an Operation Christmas Child outreach event. He began to attend *The Greatest Journey*—our 12-week discipleship course—but then was hospitalized with leukemia. Nonetheless, Bolivar Santos, the course teacher, didn't let Maykel miss a single Bible lesson. He visited him in the hospital and connected with him via video. Miraculously, God healed Maykel. Now, as an adult, he teaches *The Greatest Journey* to other boys and girls.

Senior Celebration

FOOD FUN FELLOWSHIP MUSIC



***Thursday, August 7th
10:00am***

Port Royal Baptist Church

Tickets: \$10 Deadline: July 24th

GSBC will cover tickets, Sign-up sheet on bulletin board

Call the association office at (843) 726-8294



**Monday, Aug
11th**

At 6 PM

**Wednesday Aug
13th,**

at 7:00 PM



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

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Tuesday Morning Prayer Meeting

Breakfast begins at 9:00 am

Followed by the Prayer Meeting

Located in the Multi-Purpose Building

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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

PRAISE AND GRATITUDE TO OUR GOD FOR THE ANSWERS TO PRAYER WE HAVE ALREADY RECEIVED, AND THE CONFIDENCE THAT WE WILL RECEIVE HIS GRACE AND MERCY!

Church Leadership

Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Deacons
Pastor Search Team
Youth Program
Worship team

Leadership

President / Vice President of the United States of America

Bereavement

Family of David Raines

Other needs

Interim Pastor
New permanent Pastor

Nursing Centers

Byron Vaigneur -
Legacy at South Pointe

Tommy 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

Health Needs

Amy Hannah
Arthur Pearson
Earl Dean Pope
Rachel Mixon
Beth Owens
Pinky Rushing
Julia Rushing
Donnie Smith
Bill Carter
Clark Lawson
Jackie Mole
Tony Carr
Ruby Reeves
Red Malphrus
Patricia Bryan

Cancer

Darlene Bollack
Mandy Drew
Misty Mole
Ralph Lee
Revel Crosby - 4 yrs old
Ken Lawler
Rachel Vaughn
Ella Gourlay - 10 yrs old
Paul Holmes
Randy Floyd

In Hospital

Pray For Our Military

All Leaders of each Branch of 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

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
even watch services from Sundays past!



can

[@greatswampbaptistchurch8998](#)

Or on FaceBook at [Great-Swamp Baptist Church](#)

BUT ... It would be best of all to see you here!

Stewardship

TITHES	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus / Deficit
	\$3054.00	\$5,172.63	\$2118.63
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		



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