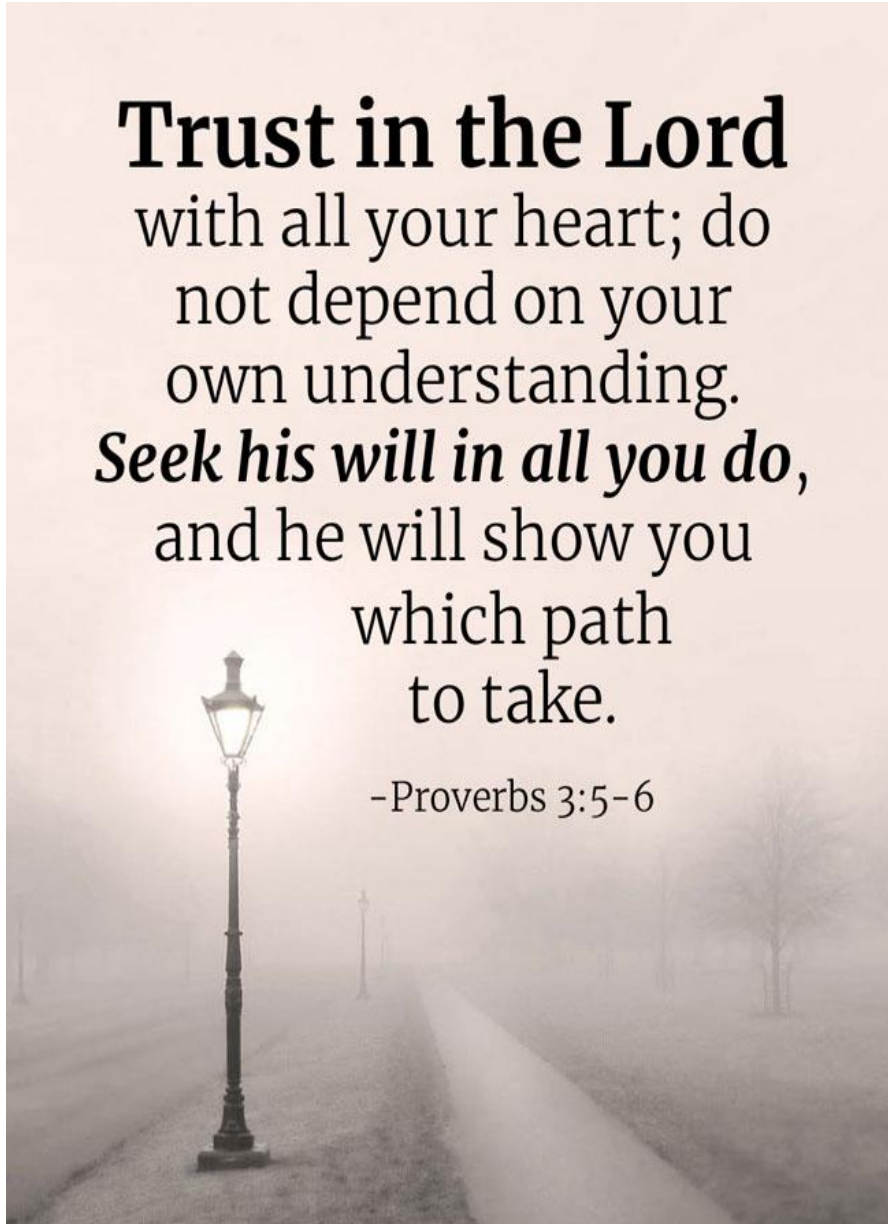


Trust in the Lord
with all your heart; do
not depend on your
own understanding.
Seek his will in all you do,
and he will show you
which path
to take.

-Proverbs 3:5-6



Great Swamp Baptist Church

January 29, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Hymn 135 "Nothing but the Blood of Jesus"

Invocation

Mack Pope

The Lord's Supper

Praise & Worship

"We Believe"

Richard Waitt

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special by Mended

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Guest Speaker

*Cassandra Deans
Radiance Women's Center*

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery
Help Needed



Helpers:
Emily Johnson



DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Today:

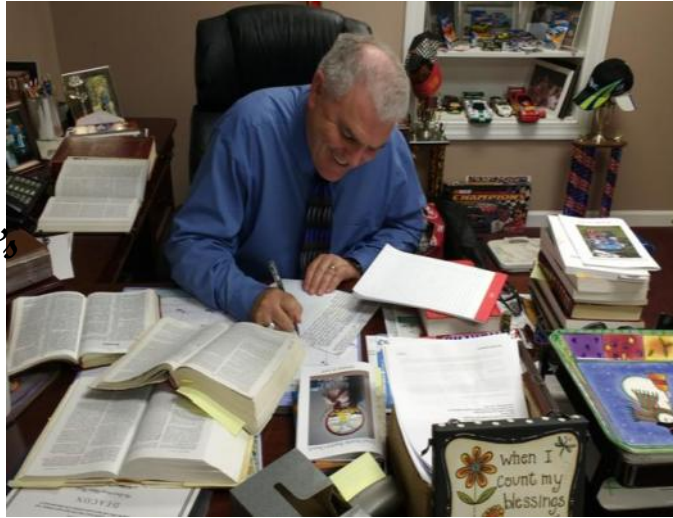
Mack Pope: 843-540-6636

Next Week:

Keith Gamo: 843-986-8525



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



God's Insistence on Ezekiel Being a Watchman **(Eph 33:1-20)**

Introduction:

Two weeks ago we examined Ezekiel's call to be a watchman. We looked at everything that call entailed. In this message, however, I want to ask the question why was it that God was so insistent that Ezekiel be a watchman? For there is no doubt that God was extremely insistent on Ezekiel carrying out the role of a watchman. For our Lord takes up nearly two full chapters in the book commanding Ezekiel to be a watchman to the house of Israel. In these chapters our Lord is extremely repetitious in His call to Ezekiel to be a watchman. He also shows His insistence by holding Ezekiel responsible and accountable if he fails to do this important job.

Now to answer the question why God is so insistent that Ezekiel be a watchman, we must look at the matter from God's perspective, and very clearly this current chapter goes a long way to reveal the way God looked at the important role of a watchman. So let's examine God's insistence of Ezekiel being a watchman

I. First, let's notice that God insisted that Ezekiel be a watchman because of man's condition

Now God has asked Ezekiel to do what He's already done and what He does. In other words, God is a watchman, and He's been a watchman since the beginning of time. So He's asking Ezekiel to do what He does. Only there is a vast difference between Ezekiel as a watchman and God as a watchman. For our God looks down upon the people from the perspective of Perfect Holiness. So when He looked down upon mankind more than anyone else He could see clearly the condition of the human race, and it wasn't a good sight. For from His position of Perfect Holiness He could see that our condition was that of pure sinfulness.

From the book of Psalms we get this clear picture of God carrying out the role of the watchman, and from that role seeing mankind's sinful condition. "The Lord looked down from heaven on the sons of men to see if there were any who understand and any who seek God. All have turned aside, they have together become corrupt, there is no one who does good, not even one." (Ps 14:2, 3)

Thus because God sees the utter sinfulness of the human race He needs many watchmen who will sound the horn and shout to the people of the danger that they face because of their own sinfulness. For mankind to get the cure they need to give them eternal redemption they must first understand that they are sinners in need of redemption. Thus our prayer should be that our God could effectively use us to help humanity see their sinfulness that this will in turn help them seek the only cure there is that can deal with their sin problem.

II. Second, let's notice that God insisted that Ezekiel be a watchman because of man's consequences

Now it's extremely obvious why God wanted Ezekiel to be a watchman, and warn people about their sin problem, which the last point covered, and it's because of where their sin will lead them and that's to just one place — death. Last week's message in Ezekiel 3 and in this chapter and chapters in between all lead to one conclusion, "the soul who sins is the one who dies. . . ." (Ezekiel 18:20).

Now this consequence is not something that just began happening during the days of Ezekiel, but rather since the beginning of creation God warned Adam and Eve that if they chose sin they then would be choosing death because death is the consequence of sin.

So God needed and needs watchmen who will warn and remind people that because of their sin nature they are spiritually dead, and will also one day physically die, but also remind them that there is a remedy for the consequences that they face.

III. Third, let's notice that God insisted that Ezekiel be a watchman because of man's capability

In these verses it is obviously clear that even a righteous person by the standards of that time period could choose to disobey and do wrong. Thus, the ability to choose to do wrong reveals that within us all is a sin nature that makes it possible for us to sin, and from the Book of Romans we are flat out told that we, "all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God."

So because we are all sinners, even the most righteous appearing among us, then we are incapable of redeeming and saving ourselves. In the Book of Isaiah we discover that is God's sight that, "all of us have become like one who is unclean, and all our righteous acts are like filthy rags. . ." (Is 64:6). So even our so called righteousness is incapable of redeeming us. The Apostle Paul was quite clear about it that no one can be saved by their own ability. "For it is by grace you have been saved, through faith and this is not from yourselves, it is the gift of God not by works so that no one can boast" (Eph 2:8.9). Thus we must stand on the wall and warn humanity that they are incapable of saving themselves so that they can turn to the one who can save them.

IV. Fourth, let's notice that God insisted that Ezekiel be a watchman because of His craving.

In the last message and in this message we've clearly noted that Ezekiel is fulfilling the role of a watchman because it's what God desired and wanted him to do not because it was a role he chose for himself. Thus the motivation for the position came from God. In other words this whole push for Ezekiel's role as a watchman was coming from the craving, and desire and motivation of God.

The question is what was the craving and desire that pushed God to push Ezekiel to be a watchman? Well, let's just quote it exactly as God Himself does, "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. Turn! Turn from your evil ways! Why will you die, O home of Israel?'" (vs 11).

This same desire is revealed a couple of times more in Ezekiel's writings. God asked a question about the matter and then answered that question that leaves no doubt about the craving of our God. "Do I take any pleasure in the death of the wicked? Declares the Sovereign Lord, Rather am I not pleased when they turn from their ways and live?" (Ch. 18:23)

Again God repeats the same message at the end of Chapter 18, "Rid yourselves of all the offenses you have committed, and get a new heart and a new spirit. Why will you die, O home of Israel? For I take no pleasure in the death of anyone, declares the Sovereign Lord. Repent and live!" (18:31, 32).

So like Ezekiel we must all understand that as Christians we must take the role of a watchman seriously because our God is not willing that any perish but that all come to repentance (2 Peter 3:9).

V. Fifth, let's notice that God insisted that Ezekiel be a watchman because of His cure.

In verse 10 we discover that the house of Israel declares that their sins were weighing them down and that because of them they were wasting away. And so they asked the question, "How then can we live?"

Well, God answers their question in verse 11 when He tells them to, "Turn! Turn from your evil ways!" This instruction to "turn! Turn" is a call to repentance. This is an acknowledgement of your sinful ways and a desire and willingness to turn from them. However you are not simply turning from something but more importantly turning toward someone. And of course the question is turning toward whom? Well, the Bible is very clear that we turn from our sins but turn to Christ Jesus our Lord in faith believing that our sins may be forgiven and our lives redeemed.

Jesus Himself went around preaching and saying, "The Kingdom of God is near. Repent and believe the good news!" (Mark 1:15) Of course the good news or the Gospel is the fact that Jesus came into the world to save us.

The Apostle Paul says it in a very straight forward manner. "I have declared to both Jews and Greeks that they must turn to God in repentance and have faith in our Lord Jesus Christ." (Acts 20:21).

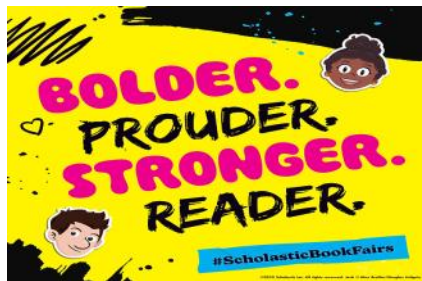
So our God wouldn't call us to carry out a task that doesn't have a way of fulfilling the purpose of the task. God told Ezekiel to call the house of Israel to turn from their sins and do the right thing so that they would live and not die. However as we've already stated that their own ability to do so was lacking because they were sinners. But God had a cure for the dilemma, repent and believe and you will be saved. Of course, that's repentance from sin and faith in Jesus Christ.

Conclusion:

So let's climb the walls of our cities, towns and communities, so to speak and shout it out loud and clear as watchmen on the wall that we are all sinners destined for death but our precious Savior Jesus Christ our Lord has conquered sin, death, hell and the grave through His death and resurrection and any who will repent and trust Him will be eternally saved.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee



**Scholastic Book Fair
at SFCA
February 6th - 10th**



If you would like to send Mel Toland's son and daughter-in-law a card or flowers offering you condolences here is the address:

**Mr. & Mrs. Toland
2501 Forrest Drive #235
Plover, Wisconsin 54467**

SPECIAL MESSAGE

A huge heartfelt thank you to the many folks who prepared our campus for the 2023 Accreditation Site Visit! So much work was accomplished in and on the buildings across our campus; the team effort is obvious and greatly appreciated. The visiting team and the church and school leadership were treated to a delicious dinner served in a lovely setting on Monday evening. Students presented a short program that highlighted the school's fine arts department. The visiting team was composed of a school administrator, a pastor, a principal, a former classroom teacher and the SCACS Executive Director. They spent three days on our campus verifying 12 standards of operation, studying and authenticating the school's manuals, handbooks, finances, records, and policies, inspecting the campus, and the status of our legal documents, observing classrooms, and interviewing faculty, parents and students. The team recommended that Step of Faith Christian Academy receive **FULL ACCREDITATION** valid until 2029. We were given an exemplary rating for the standard "Governance and Leadership," a very high rating that the team said was rarely awarded. Exemplary means other schools should "come see how we do it and do it this way." Thank you Great Swamp Baptist Church Family, Pastor, Deacons, Child Development Ministries Committee Members and Step of Faith Christian Academy teachers and staff for choosing to serve the Lord Jesus through Christian Education with excellence. We are making a difference in our community for eternity!

I personally would like to dedicate this accreditation cycle to the memory of Mrs. Carol Bradham. Mrs. Bradham was a founding member and legendary teacher at SFCA, Abundant Life Academy and at Calvary Christian School. She was my first spiritual mentor and many of us grew in our walk with the Lord and in our knowledge and skill in teaching in the Christian classroom under her love and guidance. Jeremiah 33:3 *"Call unto me and I will answer thee and show thee great and mighty things which thou knowest not."* To God be the Glory, great things he has done!

Your Partner in Christian Education,

Donna Carter

Sunday School Classes

@ 9:15am

CAMO CLASS - Room 406 - Bobby Smith
.....

GLEANERS CLASS - Room 401 - Darlene Bollack
.....

VISIONARIES CLASS - Building 3, Old Social Hall
Leader - Diane Thames/Greg Mariocourt
.....

SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope
.....

YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges
.....

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 415 -
April Malphrus

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE *Multi-Purpose Building*
Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

YOUTH GROUP *Youth Annex*
Leader-Michelle Waitt

R.A.'S (Royal Ambassadors) *Room 417*
Leader-Pat Mason

G.A.'S (GIRLS IN ACTION) *Room 415*
Leader-Diane Thames



**Grandma's Group
Valentine Luncheon!**

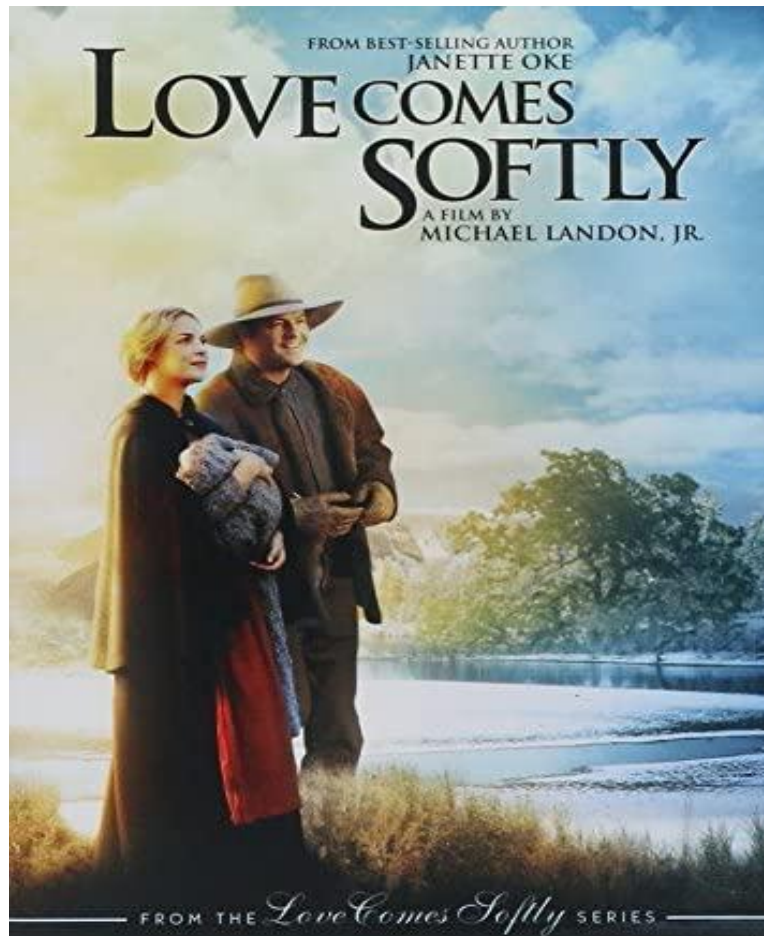
Ladies, come join us for our
Valentine swap!

Monday, February 6th
at 11:30 a.m.

Bring your Valentine!!

Please bring a dish
and/or a dessert. Beverages
provided.

Hope to see you there!



Movie Night!

Tonight, January 29th
Concessions at 6:00 p.m.
Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Popcorn and Tea Provided
Please Bring Finger Foods to Share!



It's that time of year again! Time to take all of your spare change and fill up baby bottles to support the Radiance Women's Center!



Please sign up in the front foyer, take a baby bottle or two, fill it up with money (coins or bills or even checks), and bring it back.

Due Date: February 15th



Note: Cassandra Deans from Radiance will be coming to speak to the church on January 29th about the baby bottle drive.





<i>Sunday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>Rodney Malphrus, Jr.</i>
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>29th</i>	<i>Keith Gamo</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>31st</i>	<i>Sawyer Smoak</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>1st</i>	<i>Gary Way</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>2nd</i>	<i>Rinely Dennen</i>
<i>Saturday</i>	<i>4th</i>	<i>Emma Scott</i>

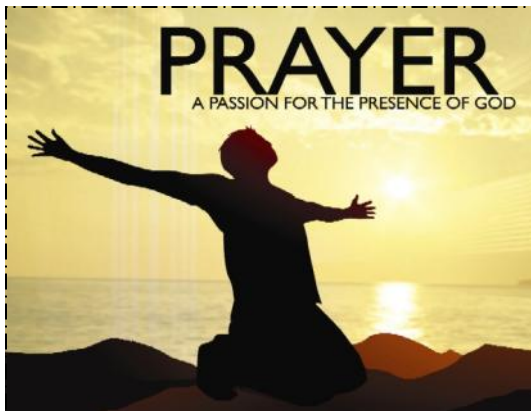




Business Meeting
Wednesday, February 8th
at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons' Meeting
Monday, February 13th
at 6:00 p.m.



Prayer Group
Tuesday
Mornings @
9:00am



**Beginning at 6:00 p.m.
Service to follow at 7:00 p.m.**

**Team Timmy will be cooking!
Come out and have dinner
and fellowship with us!**

\$5.00 each or \$15.00 for a family of 4 or more



**Sunday Morning
Breakfast**

**Begins at 8:00 a.m.
\$5.00 each or \$15.00
for a family of 4
or more**

GSBC Prayer Page

*Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons*

Leadership

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

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

*Saylor and Nathan Olivas'
Family*

Unspoken

Hospitals

*Jane Garbade—MUSC
Julia Rushing—Beaufort
Memorial PCU
Louis Hughes—MUSC*

Surgery/Recovery

Steve Jones

Cancer/Treatments

*Regina Bouye
Kaiaya Alston
Pat Headley
Leigh Laycock*

Other Health Needs

*Pinky Rushing
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Mary Kay Cade
Ellen Nettles
Jennifer Pitts Key
Chris Blanchard
Keith Gamo
Doug & Melanie Hamm
Rose Sheehan
Steve Bailey
Kayla Malphrus
Nadine Smoak*

Nursing Centers

*Elaine Degler - RNC
Bobby Mohn - Indigo Pines HHI
Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Dot Nettles - NHC*

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

<i>Shirley Malphrus</i>	<i>Tom Hinely</i>
<i>Rose Boyles</i>	<i>Ann Blocker</i>
<i>Judy Smith</i>	<i>Doby Cleland</i>
<i>Vera Floyd</i>	<i>Lucille & Ron Degler</i>
<i>Barbara Mills</i>	<i>Red & Helen Malphrus</i>
<i>Alice & Gary Way</i>	<i>Thomas & Erma Cooler</i>
<i>Kenny Smith</i>	<i>Marie Malphrus</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Margaret Nelson</i>
	<i>Melanie Williams</i>

Pray For Our Military

*Sgt. Jared Blanton-Deployed
Matthew Mills-US Marines
Jericho Malphrus-Sp. Agent/Air Force
Washington, D.C.
Michael Sottile - Ret.
Tristan Blanton-San Diego/SWCC
Andrea C. Daring-Charleston, SC*

Church Staff

Pastor: Pastor Ralph Lee, Jrjehu27@gmail.com

Music Director: Richard Waittwaittfamily83@gmail.com

Sunday School Director: Mike Davis

Pianist: Michelle Waitt waittfamily83@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: Jennifer Meadorgreatswampbaptist@hargray.com
843-726-3631

School Administrator: Donna Carterdcarter@hargray.com

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,372.00	\$ 5,012.49	-\$1,490.49
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$150.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	\$20.00	*****	\$1,894.00
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$85.00	*****	\$440.44
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$176.00	*****	\$75.91



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