

*“Though your **sins are as scarlet,**
they will be as white as snow;
though they are
red like crimson
they will be like wool.”*

Colossians 3:14

Great Swamp Baptist Church

January 8, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Call to Worship

Invocation

Freddie Malphrus

Selections of Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Message

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery
Help Needed



Helpers:
Mason Losgar
Emily Johnson



DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Today:

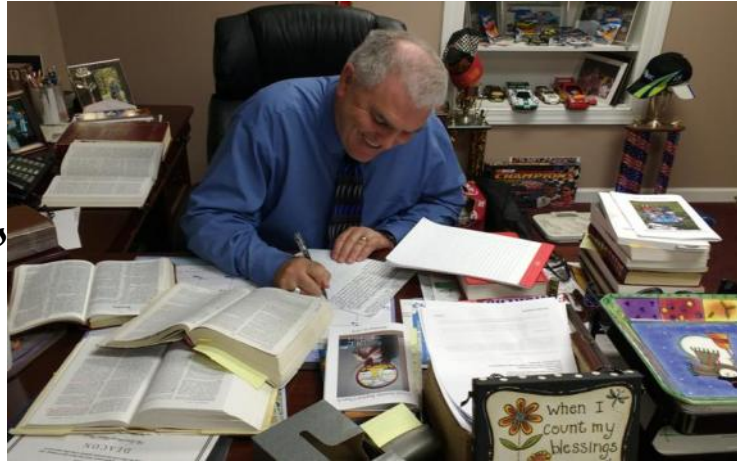
Freddie Malphrus: 843-726-3905

Next Week:

Bjo Mills: 843-726-4344



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Out with the Old and In with the New **(Matt 9:14-17)**

Introduction:

John's disciples came to ask Jesus why His disciples didn't fast like they did, and like the Pharisee's did? Jesus answer to that question reveals that He came not to focus on the old traditions of the time but rather to bring in something radically new, and it's this newness that we should be focusing upon for the new year.

I've entitled my message out with the old and in with the new. This title adequately describes what Jesus is referring to in these set of verses. We've got to stop making the old that's being referred to in these verses the focus of our faith. Rather the newness must be the continual drive of our faith. So let's get beyond the old and move on forward toward the new.

I. First, let's notice that out with the old and in with the new means that our focus will not be about man-made religion.

As this set of verses gets underway we discover that John the Baptist disciples identify themselves as followers of John, and then they refer to another religious sect which was the Pharisees. So what the disciples of John have done is on this occasion is to say that they are one religious sect and the Pharisees are another and then there is Jesus and His disciples. So the question is which of these groups is the group recognized by God and the appropriate one to follow?

Well, we can easily answer that question a number of ways. First, John's disciples focused upon John while the Pharisees' focused upon their man-made traditions that they had developed over many years, while of course Jesus' disciples focused upon Jesus.

Now if John's disciples had remembered what their now imprisoned leader had said about Jesus then they would have called themselves no longer John's disciples but rather Jesus' disciples. For John had said on different occasions that he was not the Christ. On one occasion He told his disciples that, "He must become greater; I must become less." (John 3:30) John meant that Jesus was the one who must become greater and that he himself had to become less. So John was telling them to not focus on him but to focus on the one he came to lead the way for which was Jesus Christ.

As a matter of fact some of Jesus' disciples were first followers of John and the reason why they began to follow Jesus was because of the words and actions of John. For one day in the recent past John saw Jesus, and he knew that He was the Messiah because God had revealed that to him, and he pointed his finger at Him in the presence of his disciples and said, "Look, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world." (John 1:29). And again the next day he saw Jesus and said again, "Look, the Lamb of God!" (John 1:36).

These words and actions of John caused at least two of his disciples to leave him and follow Jesus. One of those two was Andrew who went and found his brother Simon Peter and brought him to Jesus so that he, too, could become a follower of Jesus.

So from this we learn that we are not called to attach ourselves to men, or as in the case of the Pharisee's man-made traditions but rather we are called to follow Jesus Christ who is not merely a man but the God-man, human and divine.

In heaven there will not be different areas for all the different religious sects that made it there. No, the only people that will be there will be the followers of Jesus Christ. So this new year let your faith be a faith that focuses upon following Jesus Christ our Lord and Redeemer.

II. Second, let's notice that out with the old and in with the new means that our focus will not be about man-made rituals and routines.

So the questions of John's disciples was all about rituals and routines. The specific one mentioned on this occasion was fasting. At the time of this occasion the Jewish religious practices every week were to pray certain prayers daily, give alms Weekly, and fast twice a week. Now in reality the Old Testament only required that the Jews fast once a year on the day of atonement. But over time the Jews developed rituals and routines that went beyond or changed from what the scriptures said.

Then what happened over time was that your faith became acquainted with simply keeping and doing these rituals and routines. It was such that as long as you carried out these rituals and routines you were automatically right with God.

The problems with this is that it placed man's redemption in man's own ability, skills, and habits. But because we are all born with a sinful nature, mankind lacks the ability to make himself right with God. No matter how many rituals and routines they perform they would still be a sinner in God's sight. Redemption is God's work and only He alone is capable of fulfilling it because He is not a sinner.

So it is today people believe that just because they attend church, go to Sunday school, give money, pray at times, and do good things for people and many other rituals and routines that they've got to be right with God. They equate their relationship with God to be keeping certain rituals and routines.

Now let me say that there's nothing wrong with these rituals and routines that we've mentioned. What's wrong is looking at them as the means of your salvation. They should rather be the results of your salvation, and then you will see these things as tools to help you in your walk with God.

Also it should be noted that even those of us who are genuinely saved can get to the place where we are equating our walk with the Lord with merely doing the rituals and routines ourselves. When that happens our Christian growth becomes stunted and our serviced powerless.

So let us all learn that just keeping rituals and routines in and of themselves aren't meant to be the ends and means our faith, but rather the tools that help us to embrace Jesus Christ our Lord who is the ends and means of our faith.

III. Third, let's notice that out with the old and in with the new means that our focus must be all about relationships.

Of course the relationship that I am referring to is our relationship with Jesus Christ our Lord. Jesus' answer begins with a wedding illustration. He said that the guest of the bridegroom are not going to be in a state of mourning, and therefore require fasting to deal with their sorrow while they are with the bridegroom.

Of course, Jesus is equating himself to being the Bridegroom and His disciple being His guest and groomsman. So He was saying that while we are together, and with one another it's not a time of mourning but a time of joy and celebration. So Jesus is saying that the focus must be not upon the rituals and routines, but rather upon the relationship between the bridegroom and his guest. Thus our focus must always be upon our walk with Jesus. He must be the one that we zero in on and from that we will find joy unspeakable and full of glory.

Our Lord then gives two more illustrations that really reveals that our faith is not about continuously doing it the old way meaning just fulfilling certain rituals and routines, but rather doing it in a new way, God's way, the way of Christ Jesus our Lord.

He says that you don't put a new patch of cloth on a tear on old clothing because the new patch will shrink and make the tear worse than it already was.

The second illustration was that you don't put new wine in an old wine skin bottle because the new wine is still fermenting. This fermenting process will cause the wine skin to expand, and because old wine skin becomes brittle when this expansion began to take place they will crack and spill out the new wine. Rather you must always put new wine into new wine skin because they can handle the expansion of the fermentation process.

So what Jesus is telling us is that since the focus of our faith is a personal relationship with Him as our Bridegroom, our Lord and Savior, and our Redeemer then He must be the focus of our very being. For this to happen we must get beyond just keeping rituals and having a religion. Rather with the newness of a transformed life that only Jesus can provide when we trust Him as Lord and Savior will we be able to truly inwardly worship Him, magnifying Him, and walking with Him.

Conclusion:

So this new year let us focus on the person of Christ Jesus our Lord and not on the process. If we get this right, then the process will take place but in a way that the process is not the end but rather the means to help us focus on the person.

It's a good time to really focus on our relationship with the Lord. Is it genuine and real, or is it merely forms, rituals, and routines? If you are uncertain, then make certain by calling upon Him and submitting to Him as Lord and Savior.

Jesus Loves You,
Ralph Lee

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-Carol Davis/Diane Thames



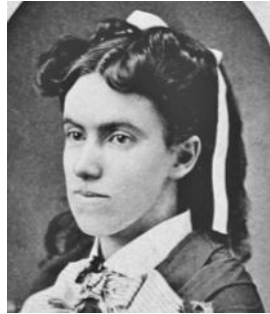
<i>Sunday</i>	<i>8th</i>	<i>Matthew Scott</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Sadie O'Connor</i>
<i>Tuesday</i>	<i>10th</i>	<i>Colleen Standard</i>
<i>Thursday</i>	<i>12th</i>	<i>Sherri Scott</i>

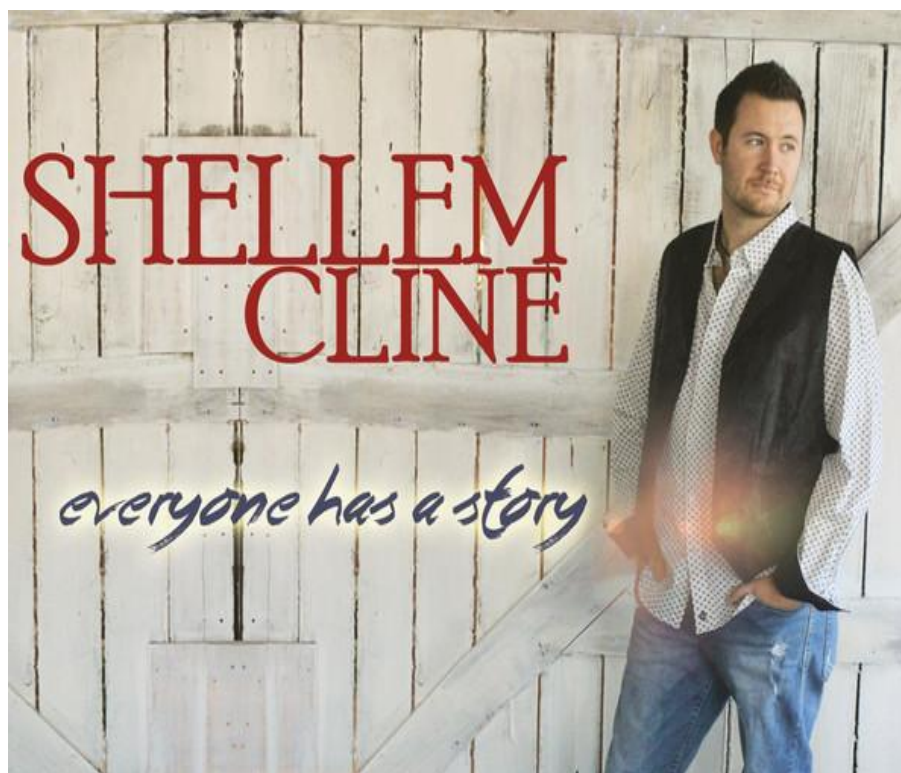


	<p><u>Sunday, January 8th:</u> Tony & Colleen Standard</p> <p><u>Saturday, January 14th:</u> Ralph & Tammy Lee</p>
--	--



Goal for 2022: \$3,000
Received to Date: \$1,533



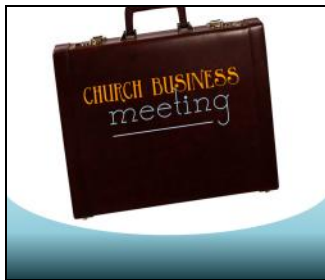


Shellem Cline Concert

January 22, 2023

During morning church service
at 10:30 a.m.

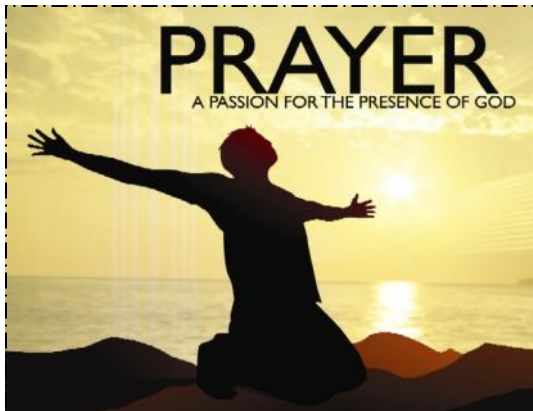
Bring your family and friends and
come listen to a fantastic concert!



Business Meeting
Wednesday, January 11th
at 7:00 p.m.



Deacons' Meeting
Monday, January 9th
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 Keith 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*

Hospitals

Surgery/Recovery

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>Lisa Chandler</i>
<i>Diane Hannah</i>	<i>Lloyd Freeman</i>
	<i>Sherry Toland</i>

Church Needs

*Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries*

Unspoken

Cancer/Treatments

*Regina Bouye
Kaiaya Alston
Pat Headley
Leigh Laycock*

*Ministries
Outreach Ministry
In reach Ministry*

Bereavement

*Donald Pinckney
Brett Badgett
Joseph Walters, III
Joseph Steedly*

Other Health Needs

*Pinky Rushing
Sara Davis
Bob Cramer
Marie Malphrus
Mary Kay Cade
Ellen Nettles
Donna Roberts
Jennifer Pitts Key
Tim Roberts
Chris Blanchard
Jane Himes' Nephew
Keith Gamo
Doug & Melanie Hamm
Rose Sheehan
Steve Bailey
Kenny Hay
Stan Stones
Mel Toland
Silas Carter*

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, Jr**jehu27@gmail.com

Music Director: **Richard Waitt**waittfamily83@gmail.com

Sunday School Director: **Mike Davis**

Pianist: **Michelle Waitt** waittfamily83@gmail.com

Administrative Assistant: **Jennifer Meador**greatswampbaptist@hargray.com
843-726-3631

School Administrator: **Donna Carter**dcarter@hargray.com

Landscaper: **Wallace Malphrus**Josie6@embarqmail.com

Finance Director: **Timmy Sauls**greatswampbaptist@hargray.com

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,414.00	\$ 5,012.49	-\$1,549.29
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$49.20		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Gleaners Group</i>	\$40.00	*****	\$786.65
<i>Lottie Moon</i>	\$20.00	*****	\$1,533.00
<i>Church Repairs</i>	\$60.00	*****	\$23.42
<i>Sunday Breakfast</i>	\$71.00	*****	\$176.76



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