




For God 
SO LOVED THE WORLD
THAT HE GAVE HIS
ONLY
BEGOTTEN
SON SO   
THAT WHOEVER
BELIEVES
IN HIM SHALL
HAVE EVERLASTING
Life 

Great Swamp Baptist Church

February 12, 2023

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

Call to Worship

Invocation

Freddie Malphrus

Praise & Worship

Richard Waitt

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special by Mended

Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

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:

Freddie Malphrus: 843-726-3905

Next Week:

Bjo Mills: 843-726-4344



*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



The Priorities of Jesus **(John 4:27-42)**

Introduction:

For three weeks now on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights we've examined topics that should be the priorities of our church. The two main priorities we've looked at are witnessing and the sharing of our faith plus the role that prayer plays in getting us through our overwhelming battles. These two priorities of witnessing and praying should never be sidetracked for less important matters that often take up our time and energy. As a matter of fact, whenever we begin focusing upon these important priorities we can be guaranteed that Satan will do everything he can to either try and get us to zero in on the less important matters or more so get us into disputes with one another on the less important matters.

So to encourage us to stay the course on the priorities that we've been examining, I want us to look at a familiar event in the life of Jesus in which He revealed to His disciples what His own priorities were as He walked in our midst.

I. First, I want us to look at the priorities of the other persons involved in this event that happened in Jesus' life.

Besides Jesus there were three other persons or groups of persons that were a part of this event. There was the Samaritan woman who came to the well where Jews had sat down to rest from their long journey, the second ones involved were the disciples of Jesus, and finally the third group involved were all of the town's people from where the woman at the well came from.

So we will begin with the woman who came to the well, and on this particular occasion it's obvious what her priority was. Her priority was water, for she came to the well to draw water.

Now let's consider what was the priority of the disciples on this occasion. When they came to the well, they left Jesus there to rest while they went into town to get something to eat for them and for Jesus. When they returned to the well, they appeared to have one goal which was to get Jesus to eat the food they picked up. So as we look at the woman who came to the well and the disciples, we discover on this occasion that both of them are focused upon the physical aspects of their lives. Their priority was food and water for their bodies.

Now it's true that we must all place a priority on food and water because we need them to survive, however, we are so much more than just a physical being. We also are made up with a soul and a spirit. And Jesus told us on another occasion that, "Man does not live on bread alone but by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God." (Matthew 4:4)

Jesus also told us, "Do not be afraid of those who kill the body but cannot kill the soul. Rather be afraid of the one who can destroy both soul and body in hell." (Matthew 10:28)

Thus, we learn from these two verses that our main priority should be more focused upon the spiritual aspect of our lives and the lives of others than upon the physical.

As we move into the next point we will discover that often necessary priorities can distract us from the more necessary priorities. So let's be asking ourselves on a continuous basis: What is it that's distracting us from the more important priorities Jesus has called us to?

II. Second, I want us to notice the priorities that Jesus displayed on this occasion.

There are two priorities that we will primarily focus on in these verses that Jesus was fleshing out.

A. The first priority Jesus focused on was to take advantage of the opportunities that were at hand.

While the disciples were away getting food a fresh opportunity presented itself to Jesus as He sat by the well. Of course, that opportunity was the Samaritan woman who came to draw water from the well. Jesus used this opportunity at hand to lead this woman to trust in Him as the Messiah and as her Savior.

Jesus had become so focused upon the immediate opportunity as well as where this opportunity may lead down the road that when His disciples returned with the food they could not get Him to eat any of the food. For the spiritual needs of the woman, and the others who would come out from the town, took precedent over His physical need.

We need to start praying for and looking for the opportunities that God puts before us and use those opportunities to introduce people to Jesus. Sadly, most of the time we are so selfishly focused upon our own needs (usually physical ones) that we don't recognize the opportunities that present themselves to us.

Another side to this is that we are missing out on opportunities that present themselves to us because of our prejudices and our hang ups that we carry with us. Even as the disciples in their hearts and minds basically objected to the fact that Jesus was talking to a Samaritan woman who had very loose morals in her life. If it had been left up to them, they would have completely ignored this woman altogether.

I heard this illustration where a church put a committee together to discuss evangelism in their church. The committee went to a restaurant to discuss this matter over supper. The pastor's daughter headed up the committee and she asked her dad to come along to discuss the matter with the committee. After the waiter got everyone's order, they then began to discuss the matter of evangelism in their church.

However, there was one person not participating in the conversation with the committee. It was the pastor because he saw an opportunity to be a witness to the waiter. His daughter became upset with him because he was talking to the waiter and not to them about evangelism. He was actually fulfilling evangelism instead of merely discussing it. Like this pastor, we need to take advantage of the opportunities in front of us.

B. The second priority that Jesus carried out on this occasion was to fulfill the will of God.

Now the truth is that this really was the primary priority that He carried out on this occasion and every occasion. As a matter of fact, the only reason why Jesus took advantage of the opportunity at hand was because it was God's will for Him to do so. As we saw in our message from the Book of Ezekiel, God does not rejoice in the death of the wicked but rather desires that they get saved. "The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance." (2 Peter 3:9)

So we must get it in our heart, soul, and mind that it's God's will that we be involved in witnessing and sharing the Gospel with our lost and dying world and make it our priority.

III. Third, let's notice that Jesus reveals His priorities to His disciples on this occasion as well.

Jesus said to His disciples, 'aren't you saying right now that there are four more months before harvest time can happen?' But then He said to them, 'look, the harvest is now.' So what did He mean by that? Well, even as He was speaking to them about the harvest the town's people were all on their way out to meet Him. They were coming because of the woman's testimony.

So I believe that Jesus was pointing His finger at the approaching crowd and was saying to His disciples, 'here is a spiritual harvest that you can reap right now without waiting.'

What Jesus reveals to His disciples is that the work of witnessing was a divine work, a necessary work, an immediate work, and a rewarding work.

Conclusion:

May it be said of us and of our church that the priorities we focus on are the ones Jesus focused on.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

SFCA Drama Department Presents.....

NIGHT AT THE
WAX MUSEUM

THE MUSICAL

Friday, March 24th @ 7:00 p.m.

Saturday, March 25th @ 7:00 p.m.

SFCA Gymnasium
9009 Tarboro Road
Ridgeland, SC 29936

Ticket Prices:

Student - \$8.00

Senior - \$8.00

Adults - \$12.00

Concession stand will be open.



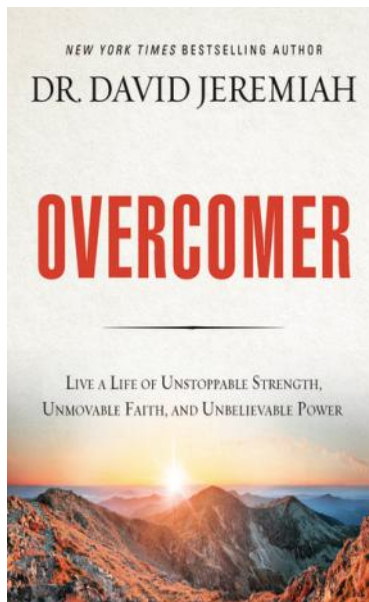
SFCA Blood Drive
Thursday, March 2nd
GSBC Multi-Purpose Building
12:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Sign up online now to reserve a spot!
Walk-ins are welcome as well!



Visionaries Sunday School Class

**Let's
overcome
our
difficulties
together
with God!**



**More
Info to
Follow
Soon!**

We will be starting a new Bible study called “Overcomer” by Dr. David Jeremiah. This is an amazing Bible study from a trusted pastor. We all face difficulties today such as anxiety, fear, temptation, confusion, etc. and we have to choose how we respond to those. This Bible study will help teach you how to overcome them all. Who is to say you won’t learn new ways to handle life through this Bible study? You won’t know until you come join us and participate in the Bible study.

So stay tuned for more information on when the study will begin and let’s work together to overcome the difficulties in life!

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

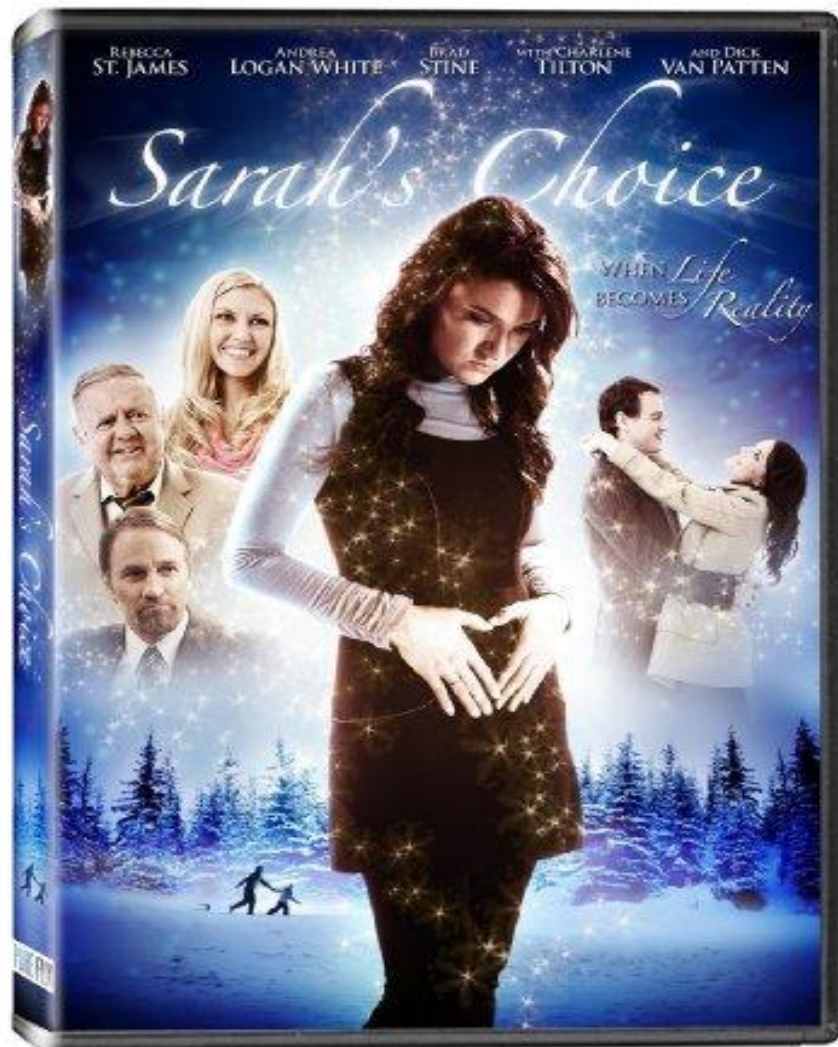
@ 7:00 pm

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



MOVIE NIGHT!

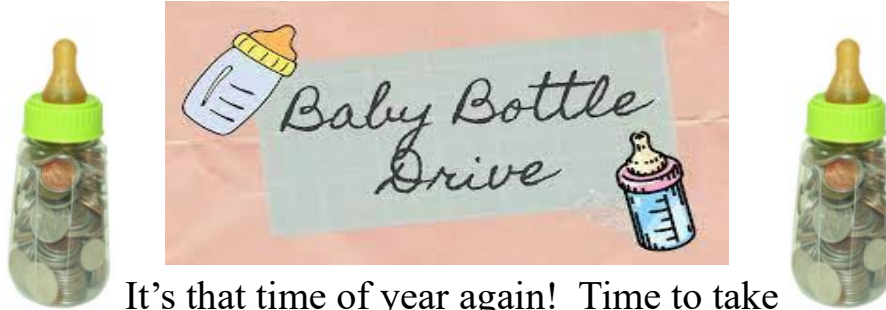
Sunday night, February 19th

Concessions start 6:00 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.

Popcorn and Tea Provided.

Come see an amazing movie!!!



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



Operation Christmas Child



Time to start gearing up for another year of Operation Christmas Child! We will start this year off collecting hygiene items for boys and girls. The more you can donate, the more boxes we can fill, hence the more children receive boxes. So let's all bring in some hygiene items!



February:

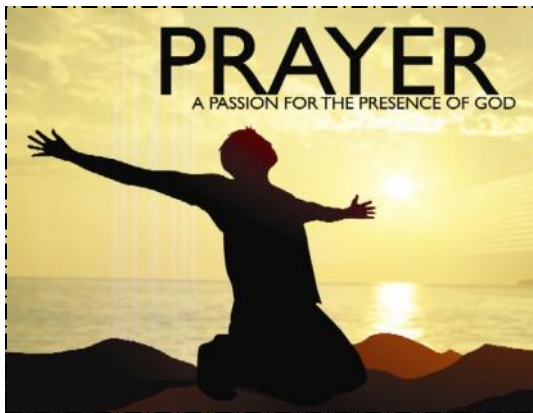
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|-----------------------------|----------------|
| Soap | Wash Clothes |
| Comb/Brushes (Boys & Girls) | |
| Pony tail holders | Head bands |
| Toothbrushes | Hair Barrettes |



Business Meeting
Wednesday, March 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.
Ends at 9:00 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

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

Surgery/Recovery

Steve Jones

Nursing Centers

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

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

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
Gerald Morgan
Stephanie Crowe
Saylor Olivas
Dorthie Armstrong*

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, 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*



Please note the church office will be closed Monday, February 20th in observance of the federal holiday,

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$5,793.00	\$ 5,012.49	+\$830.51
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$50.00		
Designated Funds	This Week	*****	Acct. Balances
<i>Office Supplies</i>	\$165.00	*****	\$252.00
<i>Sunday Morning Breakfast</i>	\$108.00	*****	\$598.19
<i>Wednesday Night Supper</i>	\$210.00	*****	\$334.32
<i>Dot Lee Scholarship</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$1,349.70
<i>Gleaner's SS Class</i>	\$45.00	*****	\$865.06
<i>Senior Trip 2023</i>	\$115.00	*****	\$199.22
<i>Kitchen Supplies</i>	\$100.00	*****	\$402.45



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