



**SHELLEM CLINE
CONCERT**

*Great Swamp Baptist Church
February 25, 2024*

Great Swamp Baptist Church

Sunday Morning Worship

10:30 AM

Announcements

Pastor Ralph Lee

Call to Worship

Invocation

Keith Gamo

Praise & Worship

Pastoral and Offertory Prayer
Worship by Giving
Offertory Special

Pastor Ralph Lee

Message

Concert

Invitation

Benediction Prayer

Sunday Mornings
Following The Song Service:



Nursery



Teacher:
Olivia Stanley

DEACON OF THE WEEK:

Keith Gamo



Phone: 843-986-8525

*From
Pastor
Ralph's
Desk:*



Rebuilding Walls and Restoring Lives, Part 5 **(Nehemiah 6:15-7:5, 7:73-8:1)**

Introduction:

We've looked at a number of things in this rebuilding walls and restoring lives series. We've looked at why the walls came down. What we discovered was that Israel's rebellion against God brought the walls down, and it's our own rebellion that caused our walls of protection and security to crumble down as well.

Second, we looked at how it's possible for our broken walls and our broken lives to be put back together. What we discovered is that the restoring of our lives is God's business. He made a promise to Israel to restore them. He had plans to bring His promise to pass and He has the power to back it all up. It's the same for us. He has made promises and put those promises into action with the plans He had from the foundation of the earth. Because He's God those plans have been carried out through Christ Jesus our lord. Therefore, it's now possible to experience that restoration.

Third, we've examined when is the right time to experience that building and restoring of our lives. The answer that God's Word gives us is now and there's an urgency to do it now because time is hastening now.

With this message I want us to examine what thing took place once the rebuilding of the walls in Jerusalem were completed. For there are many correlations between what things happened to the Jews once the walls were completed and what happens to our lives once we allow our blessed Lord Jesus Christ to restore them.

I. First, what took place when the walls were completed was that our God was exalted while the foes were deflated (vs 6:15, 16).

Israel's foes used every strategy in the book to prevent the Jews from getting the walls rebuilt. Their foes had been entranced in this area longer than those Jews who had returned to the promised land over 70 years earlier. They also had more resources and persons available to oppose the work. Yet in spite of all this, they could not stop the work from getting done. When the walls were completed in 52 days, the enemy was astonished, surprised, angry, but mostly defeated and deflated. For in these two verses, for this point, Nehemiah tells us that when the work was completed, their foes were both afraid and lost their-self confidence.

Now it wasn't because of the Jews themselves that caused the foes to be afraid and lose their self-confidence. Rather, it was the fact as Nehemiah said, ". . .because they realized that this work had been done with the help of our God." (vs 16). So both the Jews themselves, who rebuilt the walls, and the foes who opposed the work acknowledge that the work was accomplished solely because of the help of Almighty God. Without His help, the work would have never gotten completed.

When we turn to our Blessed Lord and allow him to restore our lives, which can never happen without His help, then we ourselves who have experienced the restoration will stand up and give all honor and glory to our Blessed Lord Jesus Christ. Also, however, not only will we give our Lord the credit, so will those who are our foes and those who are still outside the walls will, too, understand and know that apart from God, our lives would have never been restored and rebuilt. This can give them hope for their lives while deflating and discouraging our enemies.

II. Second, what took place when the walls were completed was that fear was relieved (vs 7:1-5).

Now it was not like all of a sudden, they felt total and complete relief. For we are told in these verses for this point that Nehemiah placed guards at all the gates and at first only allowed the gates to be open for a short period of the day. Nehemiah understood that though the enemy may be deflated for a time, he never completely goes away. So we have to always have a watchful eye and be ever alert.

However, we clearly see that there is much more relief once the walls are completed because Nehemiah and the people began making plans for getting things up and going within the city that had not been taking place while the walls were down. These plans were to repopulate the town within the walls because very few refused to live there while the walls were down, but now they need not be afraid.

Just as these walls offer protection and security for the Jews, so when we allow Lord Jesus Christ restore our lives and put back together then our lives become more secure than we can ever imagine. For just as the walls surrounded the people of this city with security and protection, so we are surrounded with the love, mercy, grace, and power of our blessed Lord, as He now holds us in fold of his glorious hand.

Jesus said, "My sheep listen to my voice; I know them, and they follow me. I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; no one will snatch them out of my hand. My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all; no one can snatch them out of my Father's hand. I and the Father are one." (John 10:27-30).

So if you want to conquer your fears, so you can live for Jesus then you must allow him to restore you.

III. Third, what took place when the walls were completed was that their focus was changed (vs 7:1-5).

Now while the walls have been down the city was open to the enemies of their faith. As a matter of fact, many of them were themselves working with the enemy. They were working with the enemy either because they were afraid of what the enemy would do to them if they did not work with them or because they liked the enemy and wanted to work with them.

Now, however, that the walls were up, they didn't have to either be afraid of the foe or they didn't have to choose to go along with him because they were now safe within their walls. Now they could have a new focus. One that now zeroed in on the things of God. They could now focus on being the community of God's people doing His will and His way. They could also focus upon helping one another.

So it is that when we allow our blessed Lord to restore our lives and rebuild them, then we will be able to change the focus of our lives in the direction of the things that please our Lord and truly benefit our lives and the lives of others around us in a far more positive manner and a far more joyous spirit. There's no doubt that many whose walls have crumbled they are clearly saying that they wish the direction of their lives could change. Well, our blessed Lord can do that very thing. 'He can make all things work together for our good and His glory.' (Rom 8:28).

IV. Fourth, what took place when the walls were completed was it evangelism became a priority (vs 7:1-5)

Once the walls were completed, one of the things that Nehemiah felt led to do was to get the city repopulated. Because the walls were down, no one hardly wanted to live there, but now that it was safe because the walls had been rebuilt, it was time to get the people to come back and live there. So Nehemiah went to work to get people to refill the city.

In a sense, Nehemiah was doing work similar to evangelism. For he was compelling people to leave wherever they were at in order to move into the city so he could fill it up.

In like manner, when God calls us and restores our lives then one of the priorities we will experience is the desire to get others to experience the same grace that He showed us. We will want to fill up the house, so to speak, by compelling others to come to Christ. "And the Lord said unto the servant, 'Go out into the highways and hedges and compel them to come in, that my home may be filled.'" (Luke 14:23)

V. Fifth, what took place when the walls were completed was that God's word took precedent (vs 7:73-8:1).

Shortly after the walls were rebuilt the people within the city called Ezra the teacher of the law to come and read and give understanding of God's Holy Word. They understood that now that God had led them to rebuild the walls and restored them that they were responsible to live out their lives in the manner that God desired them to. They also understood that the only way they could do that was to receive God's word because that is how God leads us into the things he wants us to do. It's all right there in the pages of God's Holy Word.

It alone is the authority for our lives because it is God's word. Therefore, it must take precedent over all other authorities.

The Apostle Paul said it this way, "All scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting, and training us in righteousness, so that the servant of God may be thoroughly equipped for every good work." (2 Tim 3:16,17).

Conclusion:

With the walls of Jerusalem rebuilt the city was a much better place to be. It was a total different environment, different spirit, and different feel, but all in a very good way. Once again, people wanted to be there and indeed and fact moved there. Inside those walls they became a community of believers seeking God's will and helping and supporting each other.

So when we allow Christ Jesus our Lord to restore and rebuild our lives we then will feel much better and our lives will be much better, safe in the arms of Jesus.

Jesus Loves You,

Ralph Lee

VBS Supply Needs!

We are kicking off our VBS Supply Needs with SAND!!! Preferably beach sand or play sand. We need quite a bit and thus, it would be quite costly to purchase play sand. So if you go to the beach or somewhere with good sand, if you could just fill up a bag with sand and bring it to the church, that would be awesome!

There are several other things we will need for VBS as well, but we have not nailed everything down just yet. VBS is only four months away and it'll be here in the blink of an eye! So please keep an eye on the bulletins, the back wall, and FaceBook as we will be announcing other needed items very soon. More importantly, please continue to pray for the children who will be attending our VBS program as well as all of the wonderful people who will be volunteering to help with VBS. Together we will have another great and successful year of VBS!

NARROWAY DINNER & SHOW

The Dinner Show Theatre on March 30th is full.
We will meet at the church on March 30th at 8:00
a.m. Transportation information to follow soon.

****The full payment is due TODAY,**
February 25th**

If payment is not received by this date, your name
will be removed from the list.

Ticket Prices:

0-18 = \$22.95

19-54 = \$42.95

55+ = \$40.95



The Grandmother's Group and the Gleaner's Sunday School Class have placed the beautiful flowers in the sanctuary in honor of Kim Malphrus for all the hard work and time she dedicates to WMU, Swamp Kids, and as Great Swamp's church clerk. Kim wears many hats around here and is always willing to wear more if needed. Swamp Kids wouldn't be what it is today without Kim. So today we recognize her for the many great things she does and is doing here at Great Swamp. Kim, we appreciate you more than you know. Thank you for what you do!



Operation Christmas Child



It's that time again -- time to start our year 'round collection! We've had two months off for the holidays, but now onward to the rest of this year. 600 boxes are anticipated to be packed this year, possibly more if more donations come in. The OCC account is \$0 but good thing we have items left over from last year to get us started! You can donate the items each month from the list or give a monetary donation if you don't want to shop. Let us do the shopping for you!

Here is the list for the month of February:

- Washcloths
- Stuffed Animals
- Toothbrushes
- Barbies
- Tennis Balls
- Combs/Brushes - both boys and girls

Thank you for your donations.
-Dorthie



Baby Bottle Drive Bottles DUE back Sunday, March 3rd



Please help us fill up these baby bottles!! You can fill them up with change or cash or even put a check in it! Every little bit helps!



WMU Association-Wide



Help Re-stock our Association Churches' Food Pantries!

Please collect food pantry items during the month of February through your church and bring them to either: (1) Beth Bonds, 5942 Pleasant Farm Drive, Beaufort, SC, OR (2) The SRBA Office on Bees Creek Road in Ridgeland. They will be distributed from there to our associational churches with food pantries.

MOVIE NIGHT!!

Showing: TBD

Sunday, March 17th

Concessions at 6:00 p.m.

Movie starts at 6:30 p.m.



Please bring finger foods for your family and more to share with all!
Tea and Popcorn provided.

Come watch an amazing movie with us!



**STEP OF FAITH
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY
BLOOD DRIVE
MONDAY, MARCH 4
12:30PM – 6:30PM @MULTI-PURPOSE
9009 TARBORO RD RIDGELAND SC 29936**



Schedule your appointment by scanning the QR code or online @ www.Redcrossblood.org
then type sponsor code: **SFCA** or call **1-800-733-2767**

Donors will get a \$10 e-gift card to a pet supply merchant of choice
Plus, be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$3,000 gift card –
There will be five lucky winners!



Friday, March 1st
Richard Waitt

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 - Greg Mariocourt

SOJOURNERS CLASS - Room 417 - Mack Pope

YOUTH - Youth Annex Leader - Amanda Hodges

BLUE ANGELS - 1ST & 2ND GRADES - Room 417 -

Nicole Mauriocourt

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

Kelly Scherger

Wednesday Night Services

@ 7:00 pm

WORSHIP SERVICE *Multi-Purpose Building*

Leader-Pastor Ralph Lee, Jr.

YOUTH GROUP *Youth Annex*

Leader-Michelle Waitt

SWAMP KIDS *Nursery Hall*

Leader - Kim Malphrus



Wednesday Night Supper

Meals served from 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.
every Wednesday night.

**Team Timmy will be cooking Wednesday, February 28th.
MENU: BREAKFAST!!!!**

\$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family of four or more.

No meal deliveries.



Sunday Morning Breakfast

Breakfast will be served
from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00
a.m.

\$5.00 per person or
\$15.00 per family of
four or more.

GSBC Prayer Page

Church Leadership

Sunday School
SFCA-Donna Carter
Child Development
Ministries
Ralph Lee, Jr. - Pastor
Richard Waitt- Music Director
Deacons
Church Finances

Leadership

President / Vice President of
the United States of America

Bereavement

Unspoken

Hospitals

Allen Tindal, Junior

Surgery/Recovery

Cancer/Treatments

Revel Crosby - 4 years old
(Leukemia)
Morgan Warren
Ken Lawler
Tex Lowther

Nursing Centers

Byron Vaigneur - Legacy at South Pointe
Tommy & Erma Cooler - Ridgeland Nursing Home
David Sauls - Morrell Nursing Center
Doby Cleland - Life Care Center of HHI

Other Health Needs

Mary Kay Cade
Julia Rushing
Pinky Rushing
Amy Hannah
Kathy Breland
Grace Hetrick
Arlette Jones
Jennifer Wall
Arthur Pearson
Pete Williamson
Mike Davis
Dwight Malphrus
Latrelle Steedly
Sarah Sanders
Rodney Malphrus, Jr.
Mark Mingledorff
Bill Carter
Donna Carter

Please Continue To Remember

Homebound

Shirley Malphrus *Tom Hinely*
Rose Boyles *Ann Blocker*
Judy Smith *Red & Helen Malphrus*
Vera Floyd *Marie Malphrus*
Barbara Mills *Diane Hannah*
Kenny Smith *Ann Long*

Pray For Our Military

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

Church Staff

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

Music Director: **Richard Waitt**

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@sfcaweb.org

Stewardship

Tithes	This Week	Weekly Budget	Surplus/Deficit + / -
	\$3,839.00	\$4,923.33	\$-1,084.33
<i>Online Offerings</i>	\$285.00		
Designated Funds			Acct. Balances
<i>SMB</i>	\$78.00	*****	\$875.55
<i>WNS</i>	\$171.00	*****	\$-127.69
<i>Operation Christmas Child</i>	\$26.00	*****	\$51.00
<i>Annie Armstrong</i>	\$35.00	*****	\$35.00
<i>Seniors Group</i>	\$142.85	*****	\$142.85



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