

THE DOCTOR'S REPORT

Simeon – Peace, Heavenly Peace

TEXT: Luke 2:21-32

INTRODUCTION: Last night near the end of the Christmas Eve service we sang one of the world's favorite Christmas Carols, Silent Night. The end of the first verse says, "Sleep in heavenly peace." People around the world want many things: money, esteem, security. However, one desire that transcends borders and cultures is the desire for peace. Peace is more than just a cessation of conflict, a truce in the midst of war. Peace means an abiding absence of conflict, a security that comes not from superiority but from friendship and trust. Peace implies a level of satisfaction and contentment such that we not only want it on a national scale but on a personal one.

We have begun to study our way through the Gospel of Luke. Since Dr. Luke begins with the Christmas story, we have examined the message sent us by the Holy Spirit from each part of this glorious account from Zacharias to Mary to the shepherds. There is one final part to this Christmas story which we consider today. It centers around a man named Simeon and it brings us God's message about how to have peace in our daily lives and how to know for sure we will live in peace for eternity.

Luke 2:21-32 ²¹ And when eight days were completed for the circumcision of the Child, His name was called JESUS, the name given by the angel before He was conceived in the womb. ²² Now when the days of her purification according to the law of Moses were completed, they brought Him to Jerusalem to present *Him* to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "*Every male who opens the womb shall be called holy to the LORD*"), ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the law of the Lord, "*A pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons.*" ²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name *was* Simeon, and this man *was* just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, ²⁸ he took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said: ²⁹ " Lord, now You are letting Your servant depart in peace, According to Your word; ³⁰ For my eyes have seen Your salvation ³¹ Which You have prepared before the face of all peoples, ³² A light to *bring* revelation to the Gentiles, And the glory of Your people Israel."

One of the titles Isaiah declared for Jesus even before He was born was Prince of Peace. Simeon knew that peace from the Lord. He declared, [Luke 2:29a](#) Lord, now

You are letting Your servant depart in peace,... But the Holy Spirit wants more than just that we should know that Simeon found long sought after peace. He wants us to know how we can have that peace also.

May I pause to be especially candid for a Christmas morning. On Christmas morning we all look like we are living in the epitome of peace. But I know that is not true. Actually, times such as Christmas often reveal the lack of peace in our hearts and lives. In the years that our oldest son was living in rebellion against God and against us, Christmas was a very painful season. Jeremy's making peace with God through the blood of the cross multiplied the peace in the lives of all of those in the family.

Some of you know this pain or some other pain and you may be wondering why on Christmas morning do I mention this and threaten disruption to the façade of peace you wear today. The reason is that God wants to replace the façade with reality. He wants to remove the painted smile on your face and instead put real joy in your heart. He wants you, in spite of the circumstances of your life right now, to know real peace, ... genuine peace, eternal peace. And He shows us how in this very short account of Simeon.

I. ETERNAL PEACE, HEAVENLY PEACE COMES ONLY TO THOSE WHO RECEIVE THE CHRIST OF CHRISTMAS.

A. Simeon was saved.

Luke 2:25 And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him.

B. Just means righteous, in right standing with God.

1. The only way to righteousness is through faith in Christ.

2 Cor. 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

Rom. 10:9-10 ⁹ that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

C. Until you put your faith in the Lord Jesus, you remain at war with God.

Eph. 2:14-18 ¹⁴ For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, ¹⁵ having abolished in His flesh the enmity, *that is*, the law of commandments contained in ordinances, so as to

create in Himself one new man *from* the two, *thus* making peace, ¹⁶ and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. ¹⁷ And He came and preached peace to you who were afar off and to those who were near. ¹⁸ For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father.

II. ABIDING PEACE IN THIS WORLD COMES TO THOSE BELIEVERS WHO ARE LED BY THE HOLY SPIRIT.

A. Abiding – lasting

B. Led by the Spirit, not just indwelt by the Spirit.

Luke 2:25–27 ²⁵ And behold, there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the Consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ So he came by the Spirit into the temple. And when the parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law,

1. When you are led by the Spirit, three things happen:

- a. You are doing what God wants.
- b. You will be doing it with God's power.
- c. You will have a peace in the doing of it.

2. This is true even when dealing with difficult, painful problems.

INVITATION – Come receive eternal peace through faith in Christ. Come to the altar and yield control to the Holy Spirit and abide in peace.

III. ONE OF THE THINGS WE REMEMBER ABOUT JESUS WHEN WE TAKE THE LORD'S SUPPER IS THE ABIDING AND ETERNAL PEACE HE OFFERS TO US.

John 14:26-27 ²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you. ²⁷ Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid.

“This is My body which is broken for you. Do this in remembrance of Me.”

“This cup is the new covenant in My blood. This do, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of Me.”