

Valuing the Best Things in Life

Luke 2:25-30

In this text we are introduced to a man named Simeon. He is called "*righteous and devout*" (v. 25). What do those words mean? **Righteous** in Greek (dikaios) means "*one who conforms to the standard.*" Whose standard is referenced? Well, it must be God's. Yet the Bible says, "*There is no one who is righteous (dikaios), no not one*" (Rom. 3:10). Wait a minute! Simeon is righteous. How? "God is righteous and makes righteous the one who believes in Jesus" (Rom. 3:26). Simeon was a person believing in, and expecting, the coming Deliverer (Jesus Christ). **Devout** (eulabes) means the ability to properly and rightfully estimate *intrinsic value*. These two things go together. When a person is made righteous by God's grace, he is able to properly place the right value on things. What is it that the righteous values?

I. A righteous and devout person values the person and work of Christ.

Remember that the name Jesus means "deliverer" and Christ means "anointed." A just and devout person is one whose eyes have been opened to the beauty of the person and work of Jesus Christ. A righteous person, like Simeon, has no fear proclaiming one's love for the anointed deliverer of God. However, "*The natural man does not accept the things of God; they are foolish to him*" (1 Cor. 2:14). The word "foolish" translates "moros" (tasteless) from which we get our word English word moron.

(A). The Holy Spirit brings a sinner to delight in Christ.

Just as the Spirit promised Simeon who would not die before he saw the Messiah, just as the Spirit led Simeon to the Temple on the day Jesus was brought by His parents, so too the Spirit of God must bring a sinner to see the glory and beauty of Jesus Christ. The Spirit magnifies Christ. "*The Spirit does not speak of anything He's done, but bids the enlightened sinner to seek deliverance in the Son.*" Joseph Hart. The evidence of the Spirit in your life is your love of Christ.

(B). The Holy Spirit always does more than you request.

Those who miss requesting a Spirit work are deficient of an understanding of true deliverance.

*A form of words, though ever so sound, can never save a soul;
The Holy Spirit must give the wound, and make the wounded whole*

II. A righteous and devout person values each present moment but is ready for eternity.

"Now Lord, you are releasing your bond-servant to depart in peace, according to your word."

(A). "Now Lord," speaks of life transformation. ("Mine eyes have seen your salvation!")

When you begin to understand the purpose of the first coming and work of Christ (He came to make His people 'righteous and devout'), then you are ready to live in the moment w/o regrets.

(B). Eternal life is now and death is simply a change of venue.

For those who always wish to question the existence of life after death, the ultimate argument is with Scripture (John 13:1; Phil. 1:23). Departure is a word used of ships moving from port to port.

(C). God alone holds the keys of *life* and *death*.

"Now Lord, you are releasing ..." To desire death to be rid of some trouble is a desire not from the Lord. But to desire death, submitting to God's will, is an incredible gift of God's grace.

III. A righteous and devout person departs values grace in life and in death.

"For my eyes have seen your salvation." The Messiah is called "Your (God's) salvation" by the Jews (Gen. 44:18). My eyes have seen your salvation for me. I take Christ as my own and become the recipient of "God's salvation (deliverance)" for me. I love like I've been loved. I forgive like I've been forgiven. I encourage like I've been encouraged. I accept like I've been accepted. I value God's grace.