



Home Worship Guide – Luke 2:9-32

Complement to sermon on December 23rd, 2012

MEMORIZE

Luke 2:30-32

“For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all people, a light for revelation to the Gentiles and the glory to your people Israel.”

READ

Read Luke 2:9-32

The angel proclaims peace to men on earth “on whom His favor rests” in 2:14. Then we see Simeon respond in verse 29 after seeing Jesus that he has been dismissed in peace. How could Simeon be so confident of this peace? How could he experience this peace?

It should also be noted that the peace referred to here is “shalom.” This is much deeper than simply being at peace with others or living in a peaceful time. We in America live in a peaceful society in that there are not wars going on in our back yards. However, many Americans do not experience shalom. This is a supernatural peace which refers to inner peace, peace for the soul. No worries, no fears, no doubts, no anxiety because God’s peace, His shalom reigns in your heart.

Let’s begin by digesting the phrase “on whom His favor rests.” What is the angel referring to here? Does the angel mean that all men now have God’s favor? Or does the angel mean that only those who are elect have God’s favor? Perhaps asking these two questions lead us off a bunny trail. I would suggest that Luke recorded this phrase to keep us reading his narrative. As with the writers of the other gospel accounts, Luke is an intentional writer. I believe the answer is alluded to even in these passages but is made more clear a chapter later.

3:21 is Luke’s account of Jesus’ baptism. Here he records the words of God as Jesus gets baptized. God says, “You are my Son, whom I love; with you I am well pleased” (3:22). This is a direct connection back to what the angel proclaims in 2:14. God’s favor rests on Jesus! In order to know God’s favor, to know God’s peace, one must trust in Christ because Jesus, and Jesus alone, has God’s favor. Keep reading Simeon’s response. In verse 30 he sings, “For my eyes have seen your salvation.”

Jesus is eight days old here and this devout and righteous man trusts in Him for his salvation. Simeon is able to say that he departs in peace because he has accepted Jesus. This is why he can know peace. As if this isn’t enough, Simeon continues and says this salvation is not only for me, a devout and righteous Jew, but for the entire world!

Discussion: (Use these questions as guidelines for discussion with your family. Share your experiences as they relate to the question and then ask the question to the rest of the family.)

1. Talk about a time when you felt completely at peace.
2. Is this peace experienced daily? Weekly? Monthly? How can we experience this peace more?
3. If the key to peace is being “in Christ,” what are practical ways we can be in Christ daily?

Bottom Line: No Jesus, no peace. Know Jesus, know peace.

SING

Joy to the World (<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bqjzpWYFJfc>)



SUGGESTIONS

These suggestions were created for specific age ranges as a way to help parents better communicate the biblical truths discussed in the Family Worship Guide. These suggestions are intended to help parents facilitate God-centered discussions with their children. Parents should prayerfully use these suggestions, and any other means necessary, to help their children discover the truths of God's word and worship Him together.

All ages

- Identify habits or gestures that you and your children both do. It may be a phrase that you say or the way you sneeze. Parents, share things your children do that remind you of your own parents
- Talk about why this happens. (answer: when we live with others and spend a lot of time with them, we begin to imitate, many times without even realizing it)
- What does this mean to Christians? If we want to be like Christ, what does that mean? How can we be more like Christ? Do you think there is a relationship between pray and bible study with how much we live like Jesus?
- If we do not reflect Jesus, what might that be telling us? How can you/your family help and encourage each other to walk with Christ more?

PRAY

Lord Jesus, we pray for your peace to consume us! Give us a desire and a thirst to be with you, to spend time with you in prayer, to read your Good Book. And as we spend time in prayer and reading your Bible, we pray that you would transform us more and more into your likeness.