

★ PEACE ★

What is it? Why is it important? How do we get it?

Saturday, 2/1 at 4:00 | Sunday, 2/2 at 9:00

The Purification of Mary and the Presentation of Our Lord – 2020

Introduction: Dear friends in Christ: Today's topic is PEACE; when many hear that word, they may think of *the absence of war* or *a state of calmness*. How does the Bible use the word PEACE?

- ✓ A greeting: "Shalom" (Hebrew); on Easter Sunday Jesus appeared and said, "**Peace to you!**" (Lk 24:36 ESV).
- ✓ Freedom from anxiety: Paul wrote, "...let your requests be made known to God. And the **peace** of God... shall guard your hearts and your minds..." (Phil. 4:6-7 NAS).
- ✓ Agreement between people: Moses said to the people, "**When you draw near to a city to fight against it, offer terms of peace to it**" (Deut. 20:10 ESV).
- ✓ Reconciliation with God: Paul wrote, "...since we have been justified by faith, we have **peace** with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Romans 5:1 ESV).

The final meaning, **reconciliation with God**, is our focus today – on this special feast regarding Mary's purification and Jesus' presentation, *which is only celebrated when February 2 falls on a Sunday*. First, we will consider the Bible account of Joseph, Mary, and Jesus at the temple when Jesus was 40 days old; second, we will focus on three questions related to the topic of peace.

1. Jesus' Amazing Day at the Temple When He Was 40 Days

Old: Let's go to [Luke chapter 2...](#)

a. Purification and Presentation: ²² **And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they [Joseph & Mary] brought him [Jesus] up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first 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."** // Since Luke mentioned purification and presentation, *let's sort them out:*

- i. Purification: According to the Law given by God to Moses, *purification was required for a woman 40 days after she gave birth to a son.* The normal sacrifice was a lamb; *Mary gave the sacrifice of someone who is poor: two turtledoves or two young pigeons (since the wise men had not yet visited); see [Leviticus 12](#) for all the details!*
- ii. Presentation: Again, *according to the Law given by God to Moses*, all firstborn children belonged to the LORD and were to be redeemed – *bought back* – after they were at least a month old. Therefore, *after Mary's 40 days of waiting*, Joseph, Mary, and Jesus traveled the short distance of 6 miles from Bethlehem to Jerusalem. Mary was purified with the sacrifice noted above; Jesus was presented, *and then redeemed with a payment of 5 shekels of silver*, as God had instructed; see [Exodus 13:1-16](#) and [Numbers 18:15-16](#) for all the details!

- b. Simeon had been chosen: ²⁵ **Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous** [*trusting in the Promised Messiah*] **and devout** [*carefully observing God's laws*], **waiting for the consolation** [*comfort*] **of Israel** [*to be accomplished by the Messiah*], **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.** // Think about this: The Messiah had been promised 4,000 years earlier – *so a long time had passed*, yet the Holy Spirit told Simeon that he would actually SEE THE CHRIST before he died! *So he was waiting and excited!!!*
- c. Simeon spoke about Jesus: ²⁷ **And he** [*Simeon*] **came in the Spirit** [*thus, led 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** [*to present Him and to pay the silver*], 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 **that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,** ³² **a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”**
- i. Those famous words: You know them as the words to the liturgical hymn, the *Nunc Dimittis*, which is Latin for *Now You Dismiss*.
 - ii. The meaning: Simeon had God-given faith in the Promised Messiah. However, upon actually SEEING and HOLDING Jesus, **he was even more sure of God's forgiveness,** **he confessed that Jesus came**

for everyone, and **◆** he was ready to be dismissed in peace from his earthly life!

iii. Dr. Luther – regarding peace through Jesus:

“Whosoever has this Savior... may have a peaceful, quiet heart. For though death be as terrible, the sin as mighty, the devil as evil..., **yet** we have the Savior of God, that is, an almighty, eternal Savior; He is strong enough to move us out of death into life, out of sin into righteousness” (Kretzmann).

2. **Peace:** *Thus reconciliation with God!*

- a. What is peace? It is being in a relationship with God, *so that He is our heavenly Father and we are His holy children!*
- b. Why is peace important? That relationship of peace is *essential* for us to have God’s gifts of forgiveness, spiritual life, and eternal salvation!
- c. How do we get peace? God gives the gift of faith to trust in Jesus; God does that work by the Spirit through baptism, absolution, and the Bible!

This Week’s Challenge: *Imagine your life without God’s peace; then give thanks to God for the peace He has given to you through Jesus!*

Let Us Pray: Dear Father, *TY for membership in Your family;* please keep us **◆**in Christ, **◆**in Your Word, and **◆**close to You!

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