

BCC Service January 10th, 2021

Welcome & call to worship

Ian

Worship I see the king of glory / Here
for you Ruth

Notices and Prayer for Offering

Kids Talk
Ian

Sermon

Ian

'The Word For The week – Assurance'

Luke 25-35 p830 (Colossians 1v23&27 p962; 1 Thessalonians 1v5 p964)

Simeon - The Measure of the man

Simeon embodied 3 characteristics of the OT piety – **justice** (righteousness) that is faithful in relation to the old covenant, **fear of God** (devout reverence, godliness), **longing expectancy**. Simeon would have been an older man, those dedicating their sons would look for an older rabbi to bless the child.

Simeon - The Motivation of the man

Assurance - Simeon had received assurance from the Holy Spirit, this was linked to his character, rather in the same way Joseph was righteous Matthew 1v19, so he waited in anticipation, with expectation and determination to receive and welcome the Messiah (Christ), his sensitivity to the Holy Spirit led him to the temple on that day at that time – Do you prayerfully pay attention to the prompting of the Holy Spirit?

'**Consolation of Israel**' v25 (in many versions) There was a traditional Jewish prayer '*may I see the consolation of Israel*' meaning to receive encouragement and comfort. (Similar is the early Christian prayer 'Maranatha – Come Lord Jesus' 1 Corinthians 16v32) Simeon lived to see that prayer answered.

Simeon – Ready to depart in peace

Simeon could never have waited as long as he did and as faithfully as he did without the Holy Spirit's power and wisdom (v. 26). Expectant hope, after all, is not natural but supernatural! As you seek to cultivate godly waiting throughout your own life or in a current tough situation, pray for the Spirit's power and wisdom to fill you for this challenge.

Living with assurance - Colossians 1v23 & 27 p962

'But you must continue to believe this truth and stand firmly in it. Don't drift away from the assurance you received when you heard the Good News. The Good News has been preached all over the world, and I, Paul, have been appointed as God's servant to proclaim it'.

'For God wanted them to know that the riches and glory of Christ are for you Gentiles, too. And this is the secret: Christ lives in you. This gives you assurance of sharing his glory'.

1 Thessalonians 1v5 p964

'For when we brought you the Good News, it was not only with words but also with power, for the Holy Spirit gave you full assurance that what we said was true. And you know of our concern for you from the way we lived when we were with you'.

Only when we have seen the Messiah, the Christ, when we have acknowledged Jesus for who He is and bowed in worship—will we be ready to meet our Creator. There is only one way to stand before God unafraid, and that is clothed in the perfect righteousness of Christ. If we have repented and believed on His name, we have nothing to fear in life or death. Have you seen Jesus by faith? Have you come to trust Him at His word? Are you telling others that only He can save?

Learn from Simeon and be like him by following the Lord's teaching

*'Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously,
and he will give you everything you need'*
Matthew 6v33 p784

Worship songs and open time for prayer / responses Ruth

Tuhia
There's nothing worth more
The splendour of the king

The Blessing (Aaronic blessing)