

SERMON SUMMARY

Date: December 16, 2007	11:00 am Worship Service
Preacher: Rev. Donald Lawrence	Reference: Luke 2: 21-35
Topic: Grasping Our Lord's Desire... for the Incarnation and Peace	

What can we learn about peace from the story of the birth of the Prince of Peace? Luke in setting out his account of the birth of Jesus was here focusing on the events surrounding the presentation of Jesus in the temple. From this account we see:

- ▲ how Joseph and Mary unswervingly persisted in the way of faith;
- ▲ how Simeon experienced uncontainable pleasure in the way of faith;
- ▲ how Jesus is undoubtedly pivotal for those who go the way of faith as well as for those who refuse to do so.

In verses 21-24, Diligence is expressed through:

- ✦ Naming of Jesus (21)
- ✦ Normal rites for Jews
 - circumcision (21)
 - presentation of first born (22-23)
 - purification after childbirth (24)

This is a call to see that Peace is based on trust in God. This demands Noteworthy Surrender because we need to Accept the Savior.

Delight is seen in verses 25-28, through:

- ✦ focus (25)
- ✦ favor (26)
- ✦ fellowship (27)
- ✦ fulfillment (28)

This is a call to see that Peace is based on being in touch with God. Noteworthy Spirituality is demanded because the fact is we need to give Allowance to The Spirit.

Verses 29-35 speak of Disturbance, as seen in the:

- ✦ amazement (29-33)
- ✦ adjustment (34a)
- ✦ anger (34b)
- ✦ apocalypse (35a)
- ✦ anguish (35b)

This is a call to see that Peace is based on truth in God, which demands Noteworthy Sincerity. The fact is we need to Acknowledge our sins.

The appearance of the Prince of Peace produced at the same time surprise, solace and separation. Let us set our hearts to receive Christ fully, so that we fall on the positive side of the divide, in the walk with God.