

Christmas at the Movies

Christmas Confidence

Luke 2:25-35

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, & this man was righteous & devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, & the Holy Spirit was upon him. 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. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, & when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms & blessed God & said, ‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; for my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles & for glory to your people Israel.’ And his father & his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them & said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall & rising of many in Israel, & for a sign that is opposed (& a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.’” **Luke 2:25-35**

Main Idea: Christmas Confidence comes in a Christmas Centered on Christ!

Three Things in Which We Can Be Confident This Christmas Season!

I. Confidence in My Identity

“Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, & this man was righteous & devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, & the Holy Spirit was upon him.” **Luke 2:25**

True Identity is found in Two Universal Realities:

- **I am Made in the Image of God:** I was created by God to reflect His person, character & nature in everything I do.

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male & female he created them.” **Genesis 1:27**

- **I am Made to Worship God:** I am made to worship God with the praise of my lips, the attitudes of my heart & the works of my hands!

“Therefore God has highly exalted him & bestowed on him the name that is above every name, so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven & on earth & under the earth, & every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.” **Philippians 2:9-11**

II. Confidence in God’s Promises

“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. And he came in the Spirit into the temple, & when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, he took him up in his arms & blessed God & said, ‘Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word;’” **Luke 2:26-29**

“For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory. And it is God who establishes us

with you in Christ, & has anointed us, & who has also put his seal on us & given us his Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee.” **2 Corinthians 1:20-22**

III. Confidence for an Uncertain Future

“For my eyes have seen your salvation that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles & for glory to your people Israel.’ And his father & his mother marveled at what was said about him. And Simeon blessed them & said to Mary his mother, ‘Behold, this child is appointed for the fall & rising of many in Israel, & for a sign that is opposed (& a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed.’” **Luke 2:30-35**

“Jesus Christ is the same yesterday & today & forever.” **Hebrews 13:8**

We do not know much about Simeon, but we do know that he was confident in his identity, in God’s promises and even in an uncertain future. It is a powerful blueprint for all of us today.

Where is Your Confidence? On what are you placing your faith? Yourself? Family? Career? Health? Intellect? Friends? If your confidence is in anything other than Jesus Christ, his birth, life, death & resurrection, then it is misplaced & will let you down. However, Jesus will never let you down!

Sources and Further Reading Opportunities:

- *The Wiersbe Bible Commentary* – Warren Wiersbe (2007)
- *Word Pictures in the New Testament* – A.T. Robertson (1933)
- *Swindoll’s Ultimate Book of Illustrations & Quotes* – Charles R. Swindoll (1998)
- *NAC Series: Luke* – R.H. Stein (1992)
- *Daily Bible Study Series: Luke* – William Barclay (1975)
- *Expository Outlines in the NT* – Warren Wiersbe (1992)
- *Holman NT Commentary* – Trent C. Butler (2000)
- *Luke for Everyone* – N.T. Wright (2004)
- *Elf* – New Line Cinema (2003)