



HIS UNBLEMISHED LIFE

Preaching and Teaching Resources

ADRIAN ROGERS





His Unblemished Life

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His Unblemished Life

SERMON REFERENCE: Luke 2:25-35

LWF SERMON NUMBER: #2376

Luke 2:25 tells the story of a man named Simeon, a just man, right with God. He was saved, surrendered, spiritual and sensitive to the Holy Spirit. Through his faith, it was revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And ultimately, Simeon was greatly anticipating the coming of Jesus Christ into this world.

Old Simeon was waiting for the Messiah his whole life. And in Luke 2, Simeon is led by the Holy Spirit into the temple, where Mary and Joseph had come for certain purification rites as was their custom. They brought with them their son, Jesus.

Simeon finally laid eyes on the awaited Savior of the World. He took the baby Jesus in his arms, and finally, he was satisfied—for he held Immanuel, God with us, just as He was promised.

Who is this baby held in Simeon's arms?

- He is the One who brings deliverance.
- He is the One who dispels darkness.
- He is the One who determines destiny.
- He is the One who provokes derision.
- He is the One who causes division.
- He is the One who reveals decisions.

As Adrian Rogers says, "What Jesus does with you depends upon what you will do with Him. You can accept Him or you can reject Him. You can crown Him or you can crucify Him. But you cannot ignore Him."

There were many who missed the first coming of Jesus that first Christmas morning—because they either did not understand or they did not believe the biblical prophecies of His first coming into the world. Though it was clearly and plainly stated in Scripture, they missed it, either through ignorance or unbelief.

And the same Scriptures that clearly prophesied His First Coming have clearly prophesied His Second Coming. He will come again. We must be ready.

LIFE APPLICATION

As we reflect on the story of the First Coming of Christ, ask yourself: Are you saved? Surrendered to God? Spiritual in your faith? Sensitive to the Holy Spirit? Only then can you be satisfied in Christ and ready for His Second Coming.



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1) INTRODUCTION

- a) Simeon was waiting for and anticipating Christmas, the very first Christmas.
 - i) He was looking for and anticipating the coming of Jesus Christ into the world.
- b) Luke 2:25-35
- c) There were many who missed the coming of Jesus that first Christmas morning because they did not understand or believe the clear Bible prophecies of His first coming into the world.
 - i) It was there in the Word of God, clearly and plainly, and yet they missed it.
 - (1) They missed it either through ignorance or unbelief.
- d) Jesus Christ, who came before, is coming again.
 - i) We need to be careful not to miss, either through ignorance or unbelief, the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - ii) The same Scriptures that prophesied Jesus' first coming also prophesy His second coming.
 - (1) His first coming was literally fulfilled.
 - (2) His second coming will be literally fulfilled.
- e) We need to be ready for Christmas by being ready for the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) If we are not ready for His second coming, then His first coming will be our condemnation.
- f) We need to check ourselves to make sure we are ready for Christmas and the second coming of our Lord.
 - i) The following items were true of Simeon and ought to be true of us.
 - (1) Are you saved?
 - (a) This is not asking if you're Baptist, Methodist or a nice person.
 - (b) Matthew 1:21
 - (c) Luke 2:25
 - (i) Simeon was right with God.
 - (ii) We are justified by faith.
 - (iii) The Old Testament saints were saved by looking forward to Jesus.
 1. John 8:56
 - (d) If we aren't ready for Heaven before we die, then we won't be ready for Heaven when we die.
 - (e) If you do not receive the Lord Jesus as your personal Lord and Savior, then you're not ready for Christmas or the second coming.
 - (2) Are you surrendered?
 - (a) Luke 2:25



- (i) Simeon was devout.
- (b) Do you have a burning, passionate love in your heart for the Lord Jesus Christ?
- (c) The mark that we are really ready for Jesus to come again is that we're devout.
- (d) 1 John 3:3
 - (i) If we are dabbling in the world and living carelessly in sin, then we are not ready for either the first coming or the second coming of Jesus.
 - (ii) Blessed hope leads to blessed holiness.
- (e) What is the passion of your life?
 - (i) It should be the Lord Jesus Christ.
- (3) Are you spiritual?
 - (a) Luke 2:25
 - (b) Are you filled with the Spirit of God?
 - (i) When you are saved, you have the Holy Spirit; but does the Holy Spirit have you?
 - (ii) Does He have all of you?
- (4) Are you sensitive?
 - (a) Luke 2:26
 - (b) The name Simeon means "one who hears" and "listening one."
 - (i) Simeon was in contact with God, and God could lead Him.
 - (c) The same Holy Spirit that led Simeon is the One who wants to guide us.
 - (i) Romans 8:14
 - (d) The same Holy Spirit that revealed to Simeon the first coming of Jesus is the same Holy Spirit who wants to reveal to us the second coming of the Lord Jesus.
 - (e) Can God speak to you?
 - (i) So often in our prayer life we are just simply telling God things.
 1. We say, "Listen, Lord, Your servant speaks."
 2. We ought to say, "Speak, Lord, Your servant listens."
- (5) Are you satisfied?
 - (a) Luke 2:28-29
 - (i) We have in this passage the Word of God, the Spirit of God and the Son of God coming together to bring the peace of God in a heart.
 - (b) Do you have peace?
 - (i) If not, then you're not ready for Christmas.
 - (c) Are you ready to die?
 - (i) If not, then you're not ready for the second coming.
 - (ii) We are not ready to live until we are ready to die.
 - (iii) Psalm 116:15
- g) We are ready for Christmas and the second coming of Jesus Christ if we meet the qualifications that were in the life of Simeon.
- h) In today's Scripture, Simeon mentions six things about the Lord Jesus, about the baby he held in his arms.



- 2) HE IS THE ONE WHO BRINGS DELIVERANCE (Luke 2:30-31)
 - a) Jesus Christ is the one who brings our deliverance.
 - i) Jesus came to deliver us.
 - (1) This is a sin-bound world that needs a Savior.
 - b) Jesus was born of a virgin that we might be born again.
 - i) Jesus Christ came as a Savior to save us from our sins.
 - c) We need to move away from the sentimentality about a baby being born at Christmas and understand that this baby is the Savior of the world.

- 3) HE IS THE ONE WHO DISPELS DARKNESS (Luke 2:32-33)
 - a) Jesus Christ is the light.
 - i) There is no reason for us to stumble in darkness when we can walk in the light.
 - b) We will never understand the meaning of life until we know the Light of the world, Jesus Christ.
 - i) There are some people who are afraid of Jesus.
 - (1) More absurd than children being afraid of the dark are adults being afraid of the light.
 - (2) Men will not come to the light because their deeds are evil.
 - (a) John 3:19
 - c) There is no greater joy than to know the Lord Jesus.
 - d) If you are stumbling in darkness and want to know the way, He is the way.
 - i) If you need light, He is the light.
 - ii) If you seek understanding, He is the truth.

 - 4) HE IS THE ONE WHO DETERMINES DESTINY (Luke 2:34)
 - a) In this passage, Simeon spoke to Mary, His mother; Simeon did not address Joseph as Jesus' father.
 - i) Jesus was the earthly child of a heavenly Father and the heavenly child of an earthly mother.
 - b) Jesus is the Christ of destiny.
 - i) Jesus will be to us either a stepping stone or a stumbling block.
 - ii) Our destiny is determined by what we do with the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - c) 1 Peter 2:6-8
 - i) Jesus Christ is the solid rock and the foundation stone.
 - ii) We can either build upon Him or stumble over Him, but we cannot go around the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (1) Either Jesus Christ will be our Savior, or He will be our judge.
 - (2) Jesus will either be a stepping stone or a stumbling stone, but we each have an appointment with Jesus Christ.
 - d) Jesus Christ is inescapable, inevitable and unavoidable.
 - e) John 3:36
 - i) For those who are not believers in Jesus Christ, the wrath of God is abiding upon them right now.



- 5) HE IS THE ONE WHO PROVOKES DERISION (Luke 2:34)
- a) Jesus faced derision, mockery and blasphemy.
 - i) When Jesus was on Earth, some said He was crazy.
 - ii) Others said He had a demon.
 - iii) Still others said that He was a “wine bibber” and a glutton.
 - iv) The Pharisees inferred that He was born out of fornication.
 - (1) John 8:41
 - b) Jesus was spoken against.
 - i) If Jesus is not spoken against, then the Gospel is not being preached.
 - (1) To preach without derision today would be to preach a Jesus that is not virgin born, not sinless, not deity, the only way to Heaven.
 - (a) It is politically incorrect in our society today to say that Jesus is the only way to Heaven and that not all religions are equal.
 - (i) Acts 4:12
 - (b) If Jesus is not the only way, then He is none of the ways.
 - (i) John 14:6
 - (c) We cannot just tip the hat to Jesus; we must bow the knee to Jesus.
 - (d) The early Christians could have escaped martyrdom had they been willing to say that Caesar and Christ were both Lord.
 - (i) But they maintained that only Christ is Lord.
 - c) Matthew 9:24
 - i) People today are still laughing Him to scorn.
 - d) This world hates Jesus.
 - i) They use His name in vain.
 - ii) They mock Jesus.
 - e) If we are His disciples, then we will also be spoken against.
 - i) Luke 6:26
 - ii) Matthew 5:11-12
 - f) It is time we stop trying to win popularity contests and start preaching and sharing Jesus Christ.
 - i) He may be the Christ of derision, but He is the only Savior of the world.
- 6) HE IS THE ONE WHO CAUSES DIVISION (Luke 2:35)
- a) Jesus Christ is the most divisive force that has ever come into the world.
 - b) Jesus divides human hearts; He divides the individual.
 - i) Hebrews 4:12
 - ii) In Luke 2:35, Simeon warned Mary that there would be a conflict between her natural emotions as a mother and the spiritual life.
 - (1) Each of us who have received Jesus as our Lord have experienced the pull of the old life and the desire of the new life.
 - (2) If we do not feel any conflict with the devil, it is because we and the devil are going in the same direction.
 - (3) If we are born again, we will experience division in our lives between the old nature



and our new nature.

- c) Jesus divides families.
 - i) Jesus Christ is the unifier of families and of those who believe in Him.
 - (1) Amos 3:3
 - ii) Matthew 10:34-39
 - (1) Jesus does not mean in this passage that we are not to love our families.
 - (2) We are not to love anyone more than we love Jesus.
 - (a) If Jesus is number one in our lives, we are then able to love our families even more than we could if they were number one.
 - iii) Some families disavow their loved ones who follow Jesus.
- d) Jesus may divide a church.
 - i) Not all church members are believers and saved.
 - (1) Not all “professors” are “possessors.”
 - (a) Matthew 7:22-23
- e) At the judgment, Jesus will divide between the sheep and the goats, the saved and the lost.
- f) As humans, we divide people by stratus: upper class, lower class, etc. But God divides by saved or lost.

7) HE IS THE ONE WHO REVEALS DECISIONS (Luke 2:35)

- a) The preaching of God’s Word reveals our thoughts and what is in our hearts
- b) The Gospel of Christ is a sword of life unto life or death unto death.
- c) What makes the difference in individuals is not education or environment.
 - i) Cain and Abel had basically the same environment.
 - ii) Luke 23:39-43
- d) What is really inside of us is determined by how our hearts resonate to the preaching of Jesus.
 - i) Luke 2:35
- e) What we do with Jesus will determine what Jesus does with us.

8) CONCLUSION

- a) Just as Simeon embraced the holy baby, we can embrace Jesus with the arms of faith.
- b) The Jesus who came the first time in literal fulfillment of Scripture is coming again. Are you ready?
- c) You have a choice today to either accept Jesus or reject Him, but you cannot ignore Him.
- d) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- e) Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16



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Would you find in the Gospel according to Luke, the second chapter. You know that Luke chapter 1 and 2 is the Christmas story. Today we're talking about our Lord Jesus Christ and, "His Unblemished Life."

Do you remember when you were a child and it was near Christmas? Perhaps the Christmas tree was in the family room and it was decorated. Maybe your family hung stockings by the chimney. There were presents under the tree, and you could hardly wait till Christmas morning. Well, I'm going to give you a story today about a man who was anticipating Christmas. He was waiting for Christmas, the very first Christmas; the very best Christmas ever. His name was Simeon. He was looking, he was waiting, he was longing, he was anticipating the coming of Jesus Christ into this world.

Now let's look if we will in Luke chapter 2 verse 25 through 35, "And, behold," do you know what that means, behold? It means pay attention, listen, "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; the same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel," that's just another way of saying waiting for the Messiah, "and the Holy Ghost was upon him. And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord's Christ," literally, before he had seen Messiah. "And he came by the Spirit into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for Him after the custom of the law. Then took he Him up in his arms and blessed God, and said, 'Lord, now lettest Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy Word; For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou has prepared before the face of all people; A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people, Israel.' And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him. And Simeon blessed them, and said unto Mary, His mother, 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel; and for a sign which shall be spoken against. Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.'"

Now let me tell you something. There were many who missed the first coming of Jesus, that first Christmas morning, because they did not understand or they did not believe the clear Bible prophecies of His first coming into the world. It was clear. It was plain. It was there in the Word of God! And yet they missed it, either through ignorance or unbelief.

Now that Jesus who came before is coming again, right? He is. You need to be careful lest you miss the Second Coming of Jesus Christ by ignorance or unbelief, because the same Scriptures that clearly prophesied His first coming, those same Scriptures have prophesied His Second Coming. And as His first coming was literally fulfilled, friend, His Second Coming will be literally fulfilled.

You need to be ready for Christmas by being ready for the Second Coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. And if you're not ready for His Second Coming, His first coming certainly is going to be your condemnation. So I want us to think about how to be ready for Christmas, how to be ready for the coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Now let's just check up right now and see if you're ready. You want to make a list? You ready



for a checklist? Nod your head. Okay. I want to mention some things that were true about Simeon that surely ought to be true about every man, woman, boy and girl in this place today if you're ready for Christmas.

First of all, may I ask you this question; are you saved? Now, I didn't ask if you were Baptist, Methodist, or a nice person. I didn't ask do you give to the Red Cross? I didn't ask are you generous, kind, and compassionate? I said, are you S-A-V-E-D, saved? You know, Jesus came to save His people, "Thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sin." Matthew 1 verse 21.

Look now in Luke chapter 2 and verse 25, "And, behold, there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon; the same man was just." He was just. That means he was right with God. We are justified by faith. You say, "Now, wait a minute. How could Simeon be saved if Jesus had not yet died on the cross? If Jesus is just a little baby, how could this man be a saved man?" The Old Testament saints were saved by looking forward to the coming of Jesus. The Bible teaches in John chapter 8 and verse 56 that Abraham was justified by faith. Jesus said, "Abraham saw My day and was glad."

We, in this dispensation and time, are saved by looking backward to the death of Christ. But all are looking, whether forward or backward, we're all looking upward to the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you saved? Are you, listen, are you absolutely certain, beyond the shadow of any doubt or peradventure, that if Jesus Christ, who came the first time, were to come again this time, are you absolutely certain that you're saved? Now, my friend, if you don't go to Heaven before you die, you're not gonna go there after you die. If you don't receive Christ as your personal Savior and Lord, you're not ready for Christmas nor are you ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ. All right; first question; are you saved?

Second question; are you surrendered? Because this same verse says this man was devout, devout. That's an adjective we don't use a whole lot these days. Are you devout? That means do you have a burning, passionate love in your heart for the Lord Jesus Christ? He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and that's why he was devout. You know, the mark that you're really ready for Jesus to come again is that you're devout. The apostle John says in First John 3 verse 3, "When we have this hope in us, we're going to purify ourselves." Now if you're dabbling in the world, living in sin carelessly, recklessly, you're not ready for the first coming or the Second Coming. You're not ready for Christmas. You're not ready for Jesus Christ to come again. Blessed hope leads to blessed holiness. Would you agree with that? Are you devout? Are you holy? What is the passion of your life? Answer that question; what is the passion of your life? It ought to be the Lord Jesus Christ. Are you saved? Are you surrendered?

Now let me ask you another question; are you spiritual? The Bible says there in Luke 2:25, "And the Holy Ghost was upon him." Is the Holy Ghost upon you? I mean, is your life imbued with the Spirit of Almighty God? Are you filled with the Spirit of God? Now if you're saved, you have the Spirit, but does He have you? Can you say that your body is a surrendered vessel? Does He have all of you? That, my friend, is the difference between sagging or soaring. Here was a man who was spiritual. He was filled with the Holy Spirit of God.

Next question; are you sensitive? I ask, are you saved, are you surrendered, are you spiritual, are you sensitive? Do you know what the name Simeon means? It means, "One who hears." It means,



“Listening one.” Look in verse 26 of Luke chapter 2, “And it was revealed unto him by the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Lord’s Christ.” Here was a man who was in contact with God, and God could lead him, and the Lord spoke to Simeon specially and said, “Simeon, Simeon, listen! You’re not going to die until you see Messiah.” Now here was a man who was hard-wired to God through the Holy Spirit of God.

Did you know that the same Spirit that led Simeon to the temple so long ago to meet the Lord Jesus and hold Jesus in his arms is the same Holy Spirit who wants to guide you? Romans 8:14 reads, “As many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” And the same Holy Spirit that revealed to Simeon the first coming of Jesus is the Holy Spirit that wants to reveal to you the Second Coming of the Lord Jesus Christ? Are you sensitive? Can God speak to you? How about your prayer life? So often in our prayer life, we’re telling God these things. We think God’s some sort of heavenly Santa Claus, and we come with a shopping list of the things we want, and we say, “Now, listen, Lord, your servant speaks,” when we ought to say, “Speak, Lord, I’m listening. I am the listening one.” Now here was a man, listen, he was getting ready for Christmas. He was saved. He was surrendered. Friend, he was a man who was spiritual. He was a man who was sensitive. And he was a man who was satisfied.

Look now in Luke chapter 2 verses 28 and 29, “Then took he Him up in his arms.” That is, Simeon takes the baby Jesus up in his arms, because Mary and Joseph had come for certain purification rites to the temple. Old Simeon has been waiting for Messiah. Simeon is led by the Holy Spirit into the temple. He sees the Lord Jesus Christ. The Holy Spirit of God says to Simeon, “That’s the One. That’s the baby.” And Simeon takes this baby in his arms, holds this baby to his chest, and says, “Now, Lord, now I’m ready. Let me depart in peace because, Father, You have spoken to me.” Look if you will again in verses 28 and 29, “Then took he Him up in his arms, and blessed God, and said, ‘Lord, now lettest Thy servant depart in peace,’” now listen to this, “according to Thy Word.”

Now this is just so wonderful. Here we have the Word of God and the Spirit of God and the Son of God coming together that brings the peace of God in a heart.

Do you have peace? If you don’t have peace, you’re not ready for Christmas. Are you ready to die? If you’re not ready to die, you’re not ready for Jesus to come. You’re not ready to live until you’re ready to die. Here’s a man that says, “Lord, just take me on home. Take me home. I am ready to depart in peace. Psalm 116 verse 15, “Blessed in the sight of the Lord is the death of His saints.” No man, no woman is ready to live until they’re no longer afraid to die.

Now, thank God that the Second Coming of Jesus Christ may deliver us from death, but we may die before He comes. But one thing we know that we know that we know; we’re ready for Christmas and we’re ready for the Second Coming of Jesus Christ if we meet these qualifications that were in the life of this man Simeon.

Now having said all of that, that’s just the front porch. Let’s go in the house, okay? That’s just an introduction to the message. Now, here’s the message.

We’re talking about Jesus Christ, His incomparable life. And Simeon says six things about the Lord Jesus Christ. He says these by divine prophecy. He says these because he’s a man anointed and filled with the Holy Ghost of God, and there’re things that I want you to learn about our dear Savior



who stepped out of Heaven and came to earth. Who is this baby that Simeon held in his arms?

Number one; He is the one who brings deliverance. He is the one who will bring your deliverance. Luke chapter 2, look in verses 30 and 31. He says, "I'm ready to go. I'm ready to go to Heaven." "For mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared before the face of all people." Why did Jesus come? To deliver us. The baby that Mary delivered was the one who would deliver us. As the song says, "He is our Deliverer." This is a hell-bound world. This is a sin-bound world. This is a world that needs a Savior, and that's the reason that Jesus came to earth. He was born of a virgin that we might be born again.

Now, you know, there're a lot of people who get all excited about a baby. The merchants get excited about babies this time of the year, and the Christ child and the manger scenes. Why? Because the jingle bells to them are the bells of the cash register. Right now for you it's Jingle Bells. In a little while it will be juggle bills. But they're all excited about a baby. Well, anybody can look around and dance around a crib like that. But these people don't understand that Jesus Christ is come as a Savior to save them from their sins. That same giddy crowd that is dancing around the manger, give them one week and they'll be in a drunken stupor singing, "Auld Lange Syne." Same crowd. Listen, friend, get away from this sentimentality about a baby being born and understand that that baby is the Savior of the world. When Simeon held Him in his arms, he said, "I've seen Your salvation." He is the Christ of deliverance.

Number two; He is the one who dispels darkness. Not only does He bring deliverance, He dispels darkness. Look if you will now in Luke chapter 2 verses 32 and 33. Simeon said He is, "A light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of Thy people, Israel." And Joseph and His mother marveled at those things which were spoken of Him." Jesus is the light. There's no reason for you to stumble in darkness when you can walk in the light. You will never understand the meaning of life until you know the light of the world, whose name is the Lord Jesus Christ. And you know, there's some people who're afraid of Jesus. We laugh at children being afraid of the dark. I think more ridiculous than that is an adult afraid of the light. Men hate the light and they will not come to the light because their deeds are evil. But He is the light and He is a delight, and there's no greater joy than to know the Lord Jesus Christ. He is the one who dispels darkness. If you're stumbling in darkness, if you want to know the way, He is the Way. If you need light, He is the Light. If you're seeking for understanding, He is the Truth.

*"Friends all around me are trying to find,
What the world yearns for, by sin undermined;
I have the secret; I know where 'tis found,
Only true pleasures in Jesus abound."
Friend, Jesus is all this world needs today.
"Blindly they strive, for sin darkens their way,
Oh, to pull back the grim curtains of night;
One look at Jesus and all will be light."*



He is the one who dispels darkness.

Number three; He, Jesus, is the one who determines destiny. Look again if you will in verse 34 of Luke 2, "And Simeon blessed them," that is, Mary and Joseph, "and said unto Mary His mother," notice he doesn't say "and to Joseph, His father." Mary, His mother, he blessed them, but he didn't say, "Father and mother," because Jesus was the earthly child of a heavenly Father and the heavenly child of an earthly mother. And, "He blessed them, and said unto Mary His mother, 'This child is set for the fall and the rising again of many in Israel.'" I'm gonna stop reading right there.

He's the Christ of destiny. Listen. You will fall or rise on Jesus. Jesus will be to you a stepping-stone or He will be a stumbling block. But your destiny is determined by what you will do with the Lord Jesus Christ.

When I was studying this passage, a Scripture came to my mind, First Peter 2 verses 6 through 8. Put it down. Peter says, "Wherefore also it is contained in the Scripture, 'Behold, I lay in Zion a chief cornerstone, elect, precious; and he that believeth on Him shall not be confounded.'" That is, shall not be put to shame. "For unto you therefore which believe He is precious; but unto them which be disobedient, the stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner and a stone of stumbling and a rock of offense, even to them which stumble at the word, being disobedient; whereunto also they were appointed."

What does that mean? Christ is the solid rock. Christ is the foundation stone. Christ is the corner stone. And He's before you today. You can build on Him or stumble over Him, but you cannot go around the Lord Jesus Christ. Christ is the one who determines destiny. Either Jesus Christ will be your Savior, or Jesus Christ will be your Judge. He will be a stepping stone or a stumbling stone, but you have an appointment with Jesus Christ. He is inescapable. He is inevitable. He is unavoidable. You have a date with Jesus. You're going to meet Him as Savior or Judge. But I'm telling you with all the emphasis, function, unction, and emotion of my soul, please listen to me. This baby that Simeon held in his hands is the Christ of your destiny, one way or the other. He is either the door that lets you in or the door that keeps you out, but you have a date with the Lord Jesus Christ. And what Jesus Christ will do with you is determined by what you will do with the Lord Jesus Christ.

Let me give it to you very clearly and very plainly. John chapter 3 verse 36, "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abideth on him." If you today are not a believer, if you have never received the Lord Jesus Christ, it's not one day that you're going to face the wrath of God; the wrath of God is abiding on you right now. This baby, this baby is the one who determines destiny.

Now, next, I want you to see; He is the one who provokes derision. He is the one who provokes derision. Look if you will again in Luke 2 verse 34, "And Simeon said unto them, and unto Mary His mother, 'Behold, this child is set for the fall and rising again of many in Israel,'" that, friend, is destiny. And listen to this, "and for a sign which shall be spoken against." Jesus, this baby, is going to face derision. He's going to face mockery. He's going to face blasphemy. When the Lord Jesus Christ was here on earth, some said, "You're mad!" Others said, "He has a demon!" Others said, "He's a wine bibber and a glutton." Others inferred that He was born out of fornication when the Pharisees said in the



Gospel of John chapter 8 and verse 41, “We be not born of fornication. We know who our father is.” Do you get the sly putdown, the slur that they put upon the Lord Jesus Christ? He is, “A sign that will be spoken against.” If He is not spoken against, you can be sure the Gospel is not being preached.

Now I know how to preach, if I wanted to, without any derision from the worldly crowd. Just preach a Jesus, not virgin born, not sinless, no deity, no demand for the new birth, no standard of right and wrong, no judgment, no discipleship, and especially this; no only way to Heaven. Just preach that. Now, today, we’re all un-American if we don’t put our arms around everybody else and say, “Your faith is just as good as ours.” That is not so. That is a lie out of Hell. Acts chapter 4 verse 12 says, “Neither is there salvation in any other. There is no other name under Heaven given among men whereby we must be saved,” than the name of Jesus. None! You see, if Jesus is not the only way, He can’t be any of the ways. If Jesus is not the only way, He’s a liar, for in John 14 verse 6 He said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life, and no man cometh unto the Father but by Me.” Either that’s true or it’s not true. Now if it is true, He’s the only way. If it is not true, He is a liar and He is none of the ways. You can’t just tip the hat to Jesus; you must bow the knee to Jesus.

The early Christians could have escaped martyrdom had they offered a pinch of incense to Caesar and said, “Caesar is Lord and Christ is Lord,” but they said, “No! Kristos Kurios. He is the Lord. He is the only one.” You see, this is the Christ of derision. He is the One who is spoken against. The Bible says at one time, one occasion in the Bible, “They laughed Him to scorn.” Find that in Matthew chapter 9 verse 24. Can you imagine them holding their sides? And, ha, ha, ha, ha, ha, pointing to Jesus, laughing Him to scorn. More of that is happening in the world today. Jesus is the one who is derided. He’s the one who’s spoken against.

Have you ever thought about how this world hates Jesus Christ? They use His name in vain. You ever heard a person curse and say, “Oh, Buddha!” Or, “Oh, Confucius!” Or, “Oh, Mohammed!” No, they say, “Oh, Jesus! Oh, Christ!” They take the name of our Lord and Savior, and mix it in the muck and mire and slime of their profanity, and take that holy name upon their lips. There’re people who mock Jesus, and they mock Him more and more, for He is a sign that is spoken against.

Now, I want to tell you something. If you are His disciple, you also will be spoken against. In Luke chapter 6 and verse 26 the Bible said, “Beware when all men speak well of you.” And contrariwise, Jesus said in Matthew 5 verses 11 and 12, “Blessed are ye when men shall persecute you and revile you and say all manner of evil against you falsely for My sake. Rejoice and be exceeding glad.” And it is time that preachers in America stop trying to win popularity contests and preach Jesus Christ, who may be the Christ of derision, but He’s the only Savior of the world, the only Savior of the world, the only one. He is the Christ of derision.

Now number five; He is the one who causes division. You say, “Pastor Rogers, you’re dividing folks.” That’s true, that’s true. Look again in chapter 2 verse 35, “Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also.” Now he’s speaking to Mary. He’s saying, “Mary, a sword is going to pierce through your own soul also, “That the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed.” Jesus is the most divisive force that has ever come into this world. Jesus divides human hearts. Let me give you an ancillary Scripture here. Put in your margin Hebrews 4 verse 12, “For the Word of God is quick and powerful,



sharper than a two-edged sword, dividing asunder of soul and spirit and of the joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart.”

Simeon said, “Mary, this baby is going to be like a sword in your heart. It’s going to divide between your natural emotions as a mother and your desire for the will of God. And you’re going to find this conflict between natural emotions and the spiritual life, between your soul and the Spirit.” All of us, all of us who have received the Lord Jesus Christ as our personal Savior and Lord feel that sword on the inside, do we not? The pull of the old life and the desire of the new life.

Do you ever feel that conflict? You say, “Pastor Rogers, I don’t have any conflict. I’m just doing just fine.” You’re not doing as fine as you think you’re doing. If you and the devil, if you’ve never met the devil, it’s because you and the devil been going in the same direction. You turn around, you give your heart to Jesus Christ, you become twice-born, you let the Spirit of God come into you, and you’re going to find that old nature and that new nature, there’s going to be a division in your life. The Lord Jesus divides an individual.

I’ll tell you what else He does. He divides families. You say, “Oh, oh, no, no. Jesus unites families.” Well, why don’t you get your Bible and read it? Let me give you a verse, Matthew 10, beginning in verse 34 on through verse 39, “Think not that I am come to send peace on earth; I came not to send peace, but a sword.” Who said that? Jesus. Well, hold on now. Buckle your pew belt. “For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man’s foes shall be they of his own household.” Now listen to this, folks. You want to be a disciple of Jesus Christ? “He that loveth father or mother more than Me, is not worthy of Me; and he that loveth son or daughter more than Me, is not worthy of Me. And he that taketh not his cross and followeth after Me, is not worthy of Me. He that findeth his life shall lose it; and he that loseth his life for My sake shall find it.”

Now, Jesus is the unifier of families that are built on Him. Jesus is the unifier of those who believe in Him. How sweet it is to have this fellowship, because we are one in the bond of love. But Amos 3:3 asks this question, “Can two walk together except there be, except they be agreed?”

Now, when Jesus said that, “If we love father or mother, children, or anyone else more than He, we’re not worthy of Him,” that doesn’t mean that we’re not to love our families. I’m married to a lady that I would lay down my life for. She’s absolutely, indescribably precious. But she knows she’s not number one. She knows that. She knows she’s number two. She knows that I love Jesus more than I love her, and she knows because I love Jesus more than I love her, I love her more than I could without Jesus. She knows that. So she doesn’t mind being number two to Jesus Christ, nor should you. But there can be no one other who is number one, other than Jesus Christ, and Jesus Christ can divide families.

And there may be some of you whose parents don’t want you to come to Jesus. There may be some of you who would say, “I would have to disallow the tradition of my family if I come to Jesus.” There’re some of you who would say, “My parents would not like it if I came to Jesus.” Come anyway. Come anyway. Give your heart to Jesus Christ. He is the Christ who divides the human spirit. He is Christ who divides families.



He is Christ who may divide a church. Now you all, you look so beautiful this morning. Every one of you look so holy. But you're not all holy. You say, "Pastor, you don't know who's who." You're right, but God does. And I've been preaching long enough to know in a crowd like this not everybody's saved, not everybody who has their name on the church roll is saved.

Now there are husbands and wives sitting here together, but there is a division between husbands and wives as far as east is from the west, as far as Heaven is from hell, because one is saved and the other is left. And you may be touching one another right now, but should the rapture come or should you die, you would be separated for all eternity.

The Lord divides churches. The Lord looks at this church this morning and the Lord sees the choir sing. The Lord knows how many of those choir members understand and believe what they're singing, and those who may not. The Lord sees when the offering is taken and you put your money in. But the Lord knows who are, is giving this morning instead of himself rather than himself. The Lord knows when a preacher is preaching, whether that preacher is preaching the Word of God out of a heart that is pure and clean, or whether that man is just mouthing something, whether he's a hireling. The Lord knows all of that. The Lord knows when the congregation sings, "Oh, How I Love Jesus," whether they love Jesus or not! And I'm telling you that the Lord Jesus Christ is the one who divides the professing church. He is the great divider. Not all professors are possessors. Jesus said in Matthew chapter 7 verses 22 and 23, "At the judgment many shall say to Me in that day, 'Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Thy name and in Thy name cast out devils, and in Thy name done many wonderful works?' And then will I profess unto them, 'Depart from Me, ye that work iniquity. I never knew you.'" What a sad division there will be when Jesus, therefore, comes again.

Jesus is dividing, and He will divide for all eternity. At the judgment He will divide between the sheep and the goats, the saved and the lost. And when He looks, His decision is not going to be on the bankbook of finance, or the blue book of society, but the Lamb's Book of Life. We divide people in strata's. We say upper class, middle class, and lower class. But God divides right and left: saved or lost. He is the Christ with the sword in His hand. I'm talking about serious business now. You get past this sentimentality about a little baby. Here Simeon is holding this baby in his arms.

Now here's the sixth thing and the final thing I want to say about this baby; He is the one who reveals decisions. Look again if you will in verse 35 in Luke chapter 2, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thy own soul also," now watch this, "that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed." Do you know what the preaching of this Word is doing today? It's revealing your thoughts. It's exposing you to yourself and to God. He's the one who is revealing decisions. You see, the Gospel is a savor of life unto life or death unto death.

When I'm preaching, you may say, "I don't agree with that. I will not accept that. I refuse that. I repudiate that. I will not yield to that." He's revealing your heart. There are others who say, "That is true. What he says is true. I need a Savior. I need to be saved. I need to love Him, know Him, and follow Him." His Word is revealing your heart.

You see, what makes the difference in individuals? It's not education. It's not social status. It is not environment. Children can be raised in the same family; one child love God and the other child not



love God. Cain and Abel had basically the same environment. You know the story of the two thieves on the cross, one crucified on Jesus' right hand, one on the other. One of those thieves cursed and blasphemed and spit blasphemies in the face of Jesus; another one of those dying thieves said, "Lord, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." Find that in Luke chapter 23 verse 39 to verse 43.

I'll preach this morning and some will say, "Yes," to Jesus and some will say, "No," to Him, and the preaching of Him will decide and determine and reveal what's in your heart, the same preaching. It's a savor, it's a sword that cuts life unto life or death unto death. The same sun that melts ice hardens clay. The same sermon that brings people to Jesus can harden people and turn them away from Jesus. But it's not the sermon that really does it. The sermon only reveals the heart. What is really in you is determined by how your heart resonates to the preaching of Jesus. Look at the verse again, Luke 2 verse 35, "Yea, a sword shall pierce through thine own soul also, that the thoughts of many hearts shall be revealed." Now, what you do with Jesus is going to determine what Jesus does with you.

Do you know what Simeon did? Simeon took this baby, held Him in his arms, brought Him to his breast and said, "Lord God, I'm ready to go. Let me depart in peace! I have seen Your salvation." Today, you can embrace Jesus with the arms of faith. Today, you can receive Him as your Lord and Savior, the Jesus who came the first time in literal fulfillment of Scripture is coming again. Amen?

A man told a story, I read, I can hardly ever forget it. He said he went down to the train station and people were getting off the train and meeting loved ones. And there was embracing and kissing. This man said there at the train station, he saw some men walk up, and they had a man with them, and that man had handcuffs on and they were leading him away on that train. Evidently, he was going to the penitentiary. And his children were there. And his wife was there. And they were weeping and wailing as this man was being led away. And then that man said, "You know," he said, "that's so much like the coming of Jesus. What joy it will be to those of us who know Him. What joy it will be when we have that grand reunion, when we meet our loved ones, when Jesus comes. But how sad it will be for some, who'll be bound and cast into outer darkness."

What Jesus does with you depends upon what you will do with Him. You can accept Him or you can reject Him. You can crown Him or you can crucify Him. But you cannot ignore Him. He is the Christ of destiny.

Bow your heads in prayer. If you're not certain that you're saved, I want you to get it certain, right now. If you would like to be saved, He's knocking at your heart's door. He brought you here to be saved, and you can embrace Him with the arms of faith. Would you pray a prayer like this, "Dear God, I know that You love me. I know that You want to save me. Jesus, You died to save me. You promised to save me if I would trust You. I do trust You, Jesus. I believe You're the Son of God. I welcome You into my life. I receive You now by faith as my Lord and Savior. Thank You that You died on that cross and shed Your blood for me. Thank You that You paid my sin debt with Your blood. And now, by faith, I thank You for my salvation. I don't look for a feeling, I don't ask for a sign. I just stand on Your Word. You cannot lie. Now, Lord Jesus, I'm very weak, so begin now to make me the person You want me to be. And, Jesus, help me never to be ashamed of You. In Your name I pray, Amen."



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