

12/31/2017

“New Traffic Pattern”

Scripture: Luke 2:22-35

Sermon Series: “Signs of the Season”

*Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying: “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace. For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations: a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*  
(Luke 2:27-32)

---

Well, Christmas Day has passed this year, and soon the year itself will be over. What, if anything, were you waiting and hoping for this year, this Christmas? Did you receive it? Did you accomplish all that you had hoped or expected at this time last year?

I’m sure some of you have, at least in some ways; and should really feel good about that. And, perhaps like most of us, you didn’t get as far as you hoped.

What are you longing for, hoping for or setting your mind to in the year ahead? Many people seek a new destination, set new goals and start a new way of being and doing things. You may want to get out of a rut or set a different course without totally giving up or changing something you really find worthwhile, fulfilling or enjoyable.

Perhaps it’s a promotion or different job, a new or better relationship, better physical health, emotional well-being or spiritual growth.

And sometimes it takes changing our direction entirely. Of course, these are things we need to give some thought and prayer to. God is there for you. Hopefully, you have others who can help and support you, as well. Please let me know if I can be there for you or provide someone that can help.

Today, as we near our conclusion of this year’s series on “Signs of the Season”, we turn our attention to a “New Traffic Pattern.” Our gospel reading and monologue of Simeon help us to do that. With Simeon’s experience and witness, we learn further of God’s plan of salvation, bringing glory to God and his people, Israel, and the light of that salvation to all nations and people.

What is it about Simeon and his story that stands out to you the most; that you can perhaps relate to?

† **With the coming of Jesus, God's plan of righteousness and salvation takes on a “new pattern” or ways, which is based on grace, and open for all people**

The life of Jesus Christ sets up a new Way of salvation for all people. It's a way focused not on showy piety or self-righteous acts, but on a personal relationship with God, based on trust or faith.

† **In Christ, righteousness or a right relationship with God and others is based upon God's loving grace, which is available to all who believe in him**

In Simeon's monologue, it was expressed as "Finally having found the key to life," finding that something that was missing; finding that something in someone -- Jesus.

Have you "seen" or experienced the joy of God's loving, life-giving, saving grace in Jesus? If not, why not do so now?! If you have, stay on the new way of faith. Develop those ways that help you stay connected with Him who is the Way that gives abundant and eternal life. It may not always be easy, but follow the pattern that he has made known to all who believe in him. It will be worth it! And may your year ahead be better than ever expected!