

Heaven came Down

Celebration 8:45
Pastor David Mitchell
December 14, 2008

A Heart Prepared For Christ

Luke 2:21-32

Christmas preparation by God for man. Luke 2:21-24

- The position of Christ: He was fully man. Luke 2:21
And when eight days had passed, before His circumcision...
Leviticus 12:13; Exodus 13:2; Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9; 7:25
- The divine purpose of Christ: He is God our Savior. Luke 2:
His name was then called Jesus...
Matthew 1:21; Philippians 2:5-7

Christmas preparation by man for God. Luke 25-30

- Simeon's position: He was righteous and devout. Luke 2:25

Is your position one of righteous devotion to Christ?

- Simeon's purpose: looking for Christ. Luke 2:25
...looking for the consolation of Israel...

What are you looking for in life? (see Digging Deeper)

- Simeon's power: the Spirit of God enables him. Luke 2:25-27
the Holy Spirit was upon him... revealed to him by the Holy Spirit... he came in the Spirit...

Are you working by your own strength or empowered by the Spirit of God?

- Simeon's peace: With Christ, his life is at peace, ready for death. Luke 2:29
he took Him into his arms, and blessed God ...depart in peace, according to Your word For my eyes have seen Your salvation,

Are you ready to die in peace?

Have you seen the salvation of Christ?

Have you personally received Christ into your life?

Digging Deeper in Luke 2:21-32

Simeon was prepared to receive Christ as his Messiah because he was “looking for” Him. Scripture has much to teach us on what we should be “looking for” today. Review the following scriptures and evaluate which you are now looking for and which you need to be looking for.

Mark 3:5 Looking at the spiritual needs of people.

5 After looking around at them with anger, grieved at their hardness of heart, He *said to the man, “Stretch out your hand.” And he stretched it out, and his hand was restored.

Luke 22:61, 62 Looking in love and concern at those who hurt or betrayed me.

61 The Lord turned and looked at Peter. And Peter remembered the word of the Lord, how He had told him, “Before a rooster crows today, you will deny Me three times.” 62 And he went out and wept bitterly.

Hebrews 12:1-3 Looking at Jesus to persevere through life.

1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance and the sin which so easily entangles us, and let us run with endurance the race that is set before us, 2 fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. 3 For consider Him who has endured such hostility by sinners against Himself, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.

II Corinthians 4:17, 18 Looking at the eternal world of God rather than the temporary things of life.

17 For momentary, light affliction is producing for us an eternal weight of glory far beyond all comparison, 18 while we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Philippians 2:4 Looking for the interests of others.

4 do not merely look out for your own personal interests, but also for the interests of others.

John 4:35 Looking for witness opportunities.

35 “Do you not say, ‘There are yet four months, and then comes the harvest’? Behold, I say to you, lift up your eyes and look on the fields, that they are white for harvest.”

Hebrews 11:24-26 Looking for our rewards for faithfully serving our Lord.

24 By faith Moses, when he had grown up, refused to be called the son of Pharaoh’s daughter, 25 choosing rather to endure ill-treatment with the people of God than to enjoy the passing pleasures of sin, 26 considering the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures of Egypt; for he was looking to the reward.

II Peter 3:10-14 Looking for Christ’s new heaven and earth.

11 Since all these things are to be destroyed in this way, what sort of people ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, 12 looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be destroyed by burning, and the elements will melt with intense heat! 13 But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which righteousness dwells. 14 Therefore, beloved, since you look for these things, be diligent to be found by Him in peace, spotless and blameless.

Acts 7:55 Looking for heaven.

55 But being full of the Holy Spirit, he gazed intently into heaven and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing at the right hand of God; 56 and he said, “Behold, I see the heavens opened up and the Son of Man standing at the right hand of God.”

I John 3:2, 3; II Timothy 4:7, 8 Looking for the return of Christ.

2 Beloved, now we are children of God, and it has not appeared as yet what we will be. We know that when He appears, we will be like Him, because we will see Him just as He is. 3 And everyone who has this hope fixed on Him purifies himself, just as He is pure.



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