

# Washed and Waiting

Sermon Series: Luke: All Things New



## Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



## Sermon Text

Luke 2:21-32

→ “Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him” (v. 25).



## Big Idea

We owe our lives to the death of Jesus Christ. We are washed by Him and waiting for Him.

### (1) The Life that Comes through Death (vv. 21-24)

There are at least three ceremonial elements highlighted in our text. And they appear in this order: (1) The circumcision of a male child (v. 21); (2) The purification of a woman after childbirth (vv. 22a, 24); and (3) The consecration of a firstborn male child to YHWH (vv. 22b-23). Upon investigation, we find that a single principle underlies them all: Life in a fallen world continues only through death.

And, of course, in our text is the One who has come to fulfill all these ceremonies and the one great principle that underlies them. As pictured in the circumcision custom: He would be the dead thing cut off from the land of the living...on that cross, so that in our hearts now there could be a new life principle. As pictured in the purification custom: He would be treated as the unclean thing in His flow of blood as He's groaning in childbirth...on that cross, so that we could be born again from above in purity and in holiness. As pictured in the consecration custom: He would be killed, the firstborn of God slain for us, like the Passover Lamb...on that cross, so that we could be redeemed. Our Exodus passage into life is only because of His deep dark passage into death.

O it is true that in the gospel God has rolled out for His children a red carpet upon which we now walk in freedom unto glory, coheirs with Christ of the world! But may we never forget why that carpet is red in the first place, it is red with the blood of the Lamb. We owe our lives now and forever to His death!

### (2) The Consolation that Comes through Waiting (vv. 25-27)

With the word “consolation” we are dropped into the flow of Isaiah's prophecies concerning the coming Messianic Servant (cf. Isa 40:1-2; 49:13; 51:3; 52:9-10). Comfort, consolation, salvation, life is going to come to Israel and the nations through this child who is the Christ, the Messianic Servant, even the Suffering Servant who will give Himself over to death for our sins!

But Simeon had to wait his whole life to see this.

We must confront ourselves with this question: Am I willing to wait for the consolation of God? Or am I too busy working for a consolation of my own?



## Critical Action

Are the customs that define our daily life self-centered or cross-centered? May we keep the cross before us so that we are always living in light of His death!

## Reflection Questions

- How does Jesus fulfill the Law for us? Why do we even need this in the first place? How would your upcoming week look if you were to live in the light of His death?
- Do you have self-centered or cross-centered customs? How do you try to stay centered on the cross of Christ throughout your day? Why is this even important?
- Read Isa 40 from start to finish. How does the announcement of comfort connect with the exhortation to wait? Describe a time you waited for the consolation of the Lord. Describe a time you worked for a consolation on your own. How does Isa 40 help you in the fight?

