

“On Ending Well”

Simeon & Anna — Luke 2:22-38

Introductory Consideration: The unpleasant reality of endings.

- This time of year forces us to _____ with the reality that all things come to an end.
- As believers, we should be concerned with _____ we face the various endings of life.

*Knowing Jesus Christ should affect how we face the ultimate ending (_____),
but it should also change the way that we deal with life's various other 'endings.'*

Some Initial Observations About Simeon & Anna

1. Neither Simeon or Anna held any official position of _____ among God's people.

⇒ *They both seem to possess some kind of prophetic gift from the Holy Spirit.*

2. Both of them, however, saw that importance of _____ continually with God's people.

⇒ *They both sought to exercise their gifting for the glory of God and in the service of His people.*

Consider: *One of the ways that we can deal with the difficulty of endings is by gathering with God's people
in order to _____ together with them and to _____ to them.*

How Meeting Jesus Changed Simeon

Simeon Described

- * He was *righteous* and *devout*...waiting on the *consolation* of Israel →
- * The *work* of the Holy Spirit in His life is highlighted →

Luke 2:29-32 —²⁹ “Lord, now you are letting your servant depart in peace, according to your word; ³⁰ for my eyes have seen your salvation ³¹ that you have prepared in the presence of all peoples, ³² a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to your people Israel.”

1. Simeon could now face his death with a sense of _____.

ἀπολύω (apaloo-ō) — To free fully; to depart or release. Literally, to pardon, to put away, or set at liberty. Figuratively, to let die.

2. This peace was based on knowing God's _____ which had been provided for all through Jesus.

⇒ *Simeon was reminded of the _____ and _____ of Messiah's mission!*

Consider: *Recalling the fullness of our salvation and the grandeur of God's _____ and _____ enables us to trust Him as we face the various endings that occur throughout our lives.*

How Meeting Jesus Changed Anna

Anna Described

- * She had suffered great *loss* in her life →
- * Her worship of God was *personally* very active →

Luke 2:38—And coming up at that very hour she began to give thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.

1. She began to worship God by publically giving _____ to Him.

⇒ *Her gratefulness to God that she had long expressed privately now poured forth from her.*

2. She spoke of Jesus to others, specifically those who had been _____ by God to receive the good news.

⇒ *Although her praise and message were public, she had a discerning eye for those within whom God was working.*

Consider: *Knowing Jesus and the salvation that He provides should lead us to publically _____ about Him before others.*

How to Face the Various 'Endings' of Life

1.

Heb. 10:24-25—²⁴ And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, ²⁵ not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

2.

Gal. 4:4-5—⁴ But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law, ⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons.

3.

Rom. 10:14-15—¹⁴ How then will they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how are they to believe in him of whom they have never heard? And how are they to hear without someone preaching? ¹⁵ And how are they to preach unless they are sent? As it is written, "How beautiful are the feet of those who preach the good news!"