

**Hebrews 7.11**

**Luke 2.21-38**

## **The Coming of Purpose**

There is, deep inside our souls a need for purpose. It is the aspiration of our eternal souls to long for meaning. The world seeks always to degrade and destroy this compass of our lives, for when we are adrift we are easier to control, easier to deceive and ultimately easier to destroy. Meaningless pastimes and activities pass for purpose and are accepted as true motivations for life, but they will always leave us adrift. Simeon and Anna show us that true purpose can sustain and empower a life for a lifetime... and there is much to learn here about what Christ brings us regarding our purpose in His bag of blessing!

### **I. FALSE PURPOSE**

- A. There are many opportunities for "purpose"
  - 1. Money

2. Family
3. Fame
4. Freedom
5. Pleasure
6. Importance

B. These are empty and will leave you hollow

1. Philosophy of men

### **Colossians 2.8-10**

- a. Empty deceit
- b. Man's traditions
- c. The world

2. Corruptible things

### **1Peter 1.17-21**

- a. Money
- b. Gold
- c. Silver
- d. Aimless conduct

- C. Even man driven religious purposes (which always look like legal lists) have no power to improve life, to draw us near to God, nor to give us any peace or lasting comfort

## **Colossians 2:20–23**

### **II. TRUE PURPOSE**

#### A. Simeon

1. Believed God
2. Was waiting for the promised redemption
3. Was waiting for the coming of Christ
4. This moment of vision was to him enough to define and complete his life...  
"now I may die in peace"
5. Understood something of what Messiah was coming to actually DO
  - a. Prepared for all peoples, not just Israel
  - b. A light for the revelation of truth to the Gentiles

- c. The display of the glory of Israel
- d. The truth of Jesus' disruptive impact on the people of Israel
- e. The pain that Mary would know... (the truth of her own need of a Savior, among other things)
- f. The revelation of the heart of man

B. Anna

1. Had lived her life waiting for this moment
2. She had lived her life serving the Lord God, and in obedience to Him she spoke truth, not seeking another "life"
3. Understood what she was seeing
4. Spoke truth of the coming redemption

C. Neither of them spoke things that would make people happy and make them feel comfortable

1. They spoke truth and were willing to be rejected by men for the privilege of serving God faithfully

### **III. FOCUSED PURPOSE**

- A. Purpose is always about aim and focus

**Philippians 4.6-9**

- B. We are made to pursue and to hit what we are looking at...

### **IV. ETERNAL PURPOSE**

- A. God calls us to join Him in His eternal purpose which He established in Christ before the foundation of the world

**Ephesians 1.7-13**