

Intro:

Luke 2:22-24: Mary makes this offering after she birthed the Savior. SHE needed cleansing/atonement!

Main Point of Text: The ceremonial cleansing laws after childbirth reminds the Church of original sin and redemption.

Sermon Point: *Remember You Were Redeemed.*

Move 1: Remember that Christ has made you clean.

Purifying/atonement/cleansing is available for those God has redeemed: vss. 4, 5b, 6a, 7, 8c. This cleansing ceremony reflects a redeemed community. Purpose is to purify those who have been made pure. Vs. 3, circumcision already the sign of the Covenant of Grace in Gen. 17. Symbol on male organ of reproduction: the shedding of blood there represents God's making a pure people that will produce holy covenant children. An assurance is given to the woman regarding her part in producing children "on the other side". God also made her clean/cleanses her/her offspring: 1 Tim. 2:14-15; 1 Cor. 7:14. Baptism replaces circumcision because Jesus shed His blood once for all. Rom. 15:8; Phil. 3:3. Remember you all are part of a redeemed community.

Move 2: But remember you needed Christ because you were unclean.

Unclean is the context: vss. 2, 5a. Women/childbirth not more defiling. Ex. 1:15ff. Not sexist: 1 Cor. 11:12; Gal. 3:28; Rev. 12; John 16:21. Women/girls not inferior: vss. 2/5, more time unclean re: boy's circumcision (vs. 3); vss. 4/5, double purification time likely practical. Special care for recovery. Yet there is a connection to a defiled bloodline: vs. 2c w/ Lev. 15:19. Vs. 3: Gen. 17: circumcised male organ of reproduction represents begetting of sinful people. This ceremony also is a reminder of original sin passed on to every person through the woman. Sin is present in begetting and in birthing. Reminder of Gen. 3:16. All a reminder of original sin and its curse (death) passed on to all humans. Even if we are born inside the Church, we all personally need Jesus. Ps. 51:5; Rom. 5:19; Gal. 4:4-5.

Move 3: Remember these things so that you remember your Redeemer.

They are God's chosen people/peculiar treasure. Must not forget they are also a redeemed people. Deut. 8:11-14. No child is born holy. All must be born again. Isa. 64:6; Deut. 9:5-7; Titus 3:5-6; Ps. 77:11, 15. All Christians and the Church must remember God makes them who and what they are, not themselves.

Conclusion:

Remember You Were Redeemed.