**Jesus is Worth Knowing (Luke 2:25-32)**

 You will find the thing of greatest value in your life to be your personal knowledge of Jesus. Christ is born and revealed! Good News to you and to us! As we celebrate the birth of the Son of God and His revelation as God (in His Baptismal Epiphany) today, we pray that this holiday will be an opportunity for each of us to think and meditate on our faith.

 A question: What thing or idea, or what person can make our lives worth living? Today’s passage shows us that even in extremely dark political and spiritual problems, the Holy Spirit kept and prepared people through whom the arrival of the Savior would be announced. Simeon would be one such herald. Today we’re going to examine his sayings and wonder especially at his brave and bold words. The goal of today’s message is to self-examine, so that our greatest, most valuable reality – the one that makes life worth living is knowing Jesus our Savior. Once again, I believe the Bible says to us today, “You will find the thing of greatest value in your life when you know Jesus personally.” (Let’s speak, then, about this goal…)

 The greatest deed you can accomplish in your life is to know Jesus deeply.

 We don’t know much about Simeon. We know that he was just, or in other words a moral and good man. He was also devout – probably meaning “extra careful to follow the laws of God”. Just like many, he was waiting for God’s Savior, God’s Consolation to arrive on the scene. The fact that he received a message from the Holy Spirit and then to have the Holy Spirit remain upon him for a long period of time says a lot about his worthiness to carry such a promise. We know this because in those days, the Holy Spirit would come upon people for specific works and then remove himself from the picture once God’s work was done through the person. In Simeon’s case, God had prepared him to see the Lord’s Anointed One. And God accomplished His word, bringing the Christ-child exactly in front of Simeon. However, he had to wait patiently until that moment. Simeon could not be careless in following the directions of the Holy Spirit. Rather, he trained himself to obey the voice of the Spirit. If he had not done so, his level of obedience would not have reached the needed point to be able to move in response to the Spirit’s prompting and go and meet Mary and Joseph and Jesus. Notice that his first deed upon seeing Jesus was to praise God. But it is after the initial blessing of God that He said the most powerful and moving words:

“*Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.*

 *For my eyes have seen your salvation, which you have prepared in the sight of all nations;*

 *a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”*

 In other words, he was saying, “*Now I can die”.* Now, his life had found its meaning. Now, he had had his fill of life. Now, Simeon could rest, even if that rest came through death. Now, the value of his life was completed. Now, he had finally seen Life Himself in front of his own eyes.

 This is a little bit like when someone reaches their desired job position. They haven’t a care in the world, they don’t desire any higher thing, and they are satisfied with their life. Oh, would that they knew how empty their dreams were compared to the real picture we are painting today…

 Today, I ask you: have you seen Jesus as the Savior - the one who makes your life worth living? Let’s put ourselves in Simeon’s shoes for a minute and think: what is it that fulfills us? As Christians, the answer is already on our titles – we are called Christians. In other words, we are Christ-bearers. Come and let us rejoice like Simeon because we have recognized and known our Savior. If you have, you are blessed – for you realized that all your goods, your riches and family members put together do not compare with the value of Your Savior, who keeps you and I in salvation.

 Today the Scriptures invite you to make the knowledge of Jesus as Savior as your primary reason for satisfaction in life. If you know the Lord, then you (already) have a blessed life. If, however, you are undecided about Jesus, then ask for The Truth, and be ready to listen and to obey the revelation that comes from the Bible. Our whole life becomes worth living in and because of the knowledge of our Savior Jesus. The greatest deed you can accomplish in your life is to know Jesus deeply. You will find the thing of greatest value in your life to be your personal knowledge of Jesus. Therefore, know the Lord like Simeon; rejoice in the deeds of the Savior; and be led by the Holy Spirit. Christ is born and revealed – but what is your answer to this invitation? The Lord Bless You. Amen.