

I. Ceremonies at the Temple

- A. Remember: “Born of a woman, born under the Law” (Galatians 4:4)
- B. Purification with low-priced offering (Leviticus 12:6-8)
- C. Firstborn redemption (Exodus 13:13, Numbers 3:12)

II. Simeon and the Consolation of Israel

- A. Who is this?
- B. The consolation of Israel (Jeremiah 31:9-10)
- C. Peace comes from the certainty of victory

III. How the world thinks about death

- A. Terror and avoidance
- B. Resignation and “courage”

IV. The coming of Jesus Christ and the fear of death

- A. Simeon's (and Israel's) hope
- B. Simeon's hope is answered in Jesus
- C. Turning woe into joy
- D. Our hope beyond death
- E. No fear of failure (Nehemiah 13:31)
- F. No fear of humiliation

V. Birth and death; Christmas and the ending of the year.

- A. The first shot of the battle (Hebrews 12:2; Philippians 2:9-10; 1 Corinthians 15:55)
- B. Be strong in the Lord! (Ephesians 6:10)