

Study Notes:

Are you a person who has a hard time waiting? If so, describe a time when this happened.

What kinds of situations seem to make the most impatient?

How have you been able to teach patience to others?

Thinking back to Sunday's service, what encouraged you, inspired you, challenged you, or changed your thinking?

Humans spending a lot of time looking forward in either dread or excited expectation. Give some examples of each.

Both children and adults look forward to Christmas. What are some of the reasons why people look forward to Christmas?

Consider Simeon in Luke 2. What must have been his feelings when Mary and Joseph brought Jesus to the temple?

How might two new parents like Mary and Joseph have struggled with the idea of caring for the Son of God?

Read **Isaiah 9:2-7**.

This passage is written as if these events have happened or are happening, yet we know they about the future coming of Jesus.

How would you explain this?

When someone promises us something, in what are we placing our confidence? (If you're struggling for an answer, look again at verse 7.)

Are you more hopeful about a promise if you have absolute certainty that it will come to pass?

The Bible promises that Jesus will return again one day. Read **Matthew 24:23-27**, **Acts 1:11**, **James 5:7**, and **Revelation 22:20**.

What is your level of expectation for Jesus' return?

Do you think our level of expectation varies? Why might that be?

What is one thing you can do that will increase your expectation of Christmas this year?

GRACE NOTES

Sunday, November 26, 2017

Series: Come Home for Christmas

Message: Come Home to Hope

Scripture: Luke 2:36-38

22 And when the time came for their purification according to the Law of Moses, they brought him up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord ²³ (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, "Every male who first opens the womb shall be called holy to the Lord") ²⁴ and to offer a sacrifice according to what is said in the Law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves, or two young pigeons."

25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. ²⁶ And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. ²⁷ And he came in the Spirit into the temple, and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the Law, ²⁸ he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said,

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."

33 And his father and his mother marveled at what was said about him. ³⁴ And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary his mother, "Behold, this child is appointed for the fall and rising of many in Israel, and for a sign that is opposed ³⁵ (and a sword will pierce through your own soul also), so that thoughts from many hearts may be revealed."

36 And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, ³⁷ and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshiping with fasting and prayer night and day. 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.

