**Wednesday Night Bible Study**

**Wednesday 9 February 2022**

**Queens Chapel UMC \* 7410 Muirkirk Road \* Beltsville, MD 20705**

**Instructor: Rev. Dr. Will Butler**

~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~~

**The Gospel of Luke**

**Key Verse**: **Luke 1:4**

“So that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.

**Luke 2:21-52**

**Luke 2:21-24 “Jesus Christ is Circumcised”**

 21 On the eighth day, when it was time to circumcise the child, he was named Jesus, the name the angel had given him before he was conceived

 22 When the time came for the purification rites required by the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took him to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord

 23 (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, “Every firstborn male is to be consecrated to the Lord”,

 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

* Jesus was a Jew; therefore, he was circumcised on the 8th day of His life

**Genesis 17**

 11 "and you shall be circumcised in the flesh of your foreskins, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between Me and you.

 12 "He who is eight days old among you shall be circumcised, every male child in your generations, he who is born in your house or bought with money from any foreigner who is not your descendant.

**Leviticus 12:1-3**

 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

 2 "Speak to the children of Israel, saying: 'If a woman has conceived, and borne a male child, then she shall be unclean seven days; as in the days of her customary impurity she shall be unclean.

 3 And on the eighth day the flesh of his foreskin shall be circumcised.

* Circumcision
* The cutting away of the male foreskin—this was confirmation that Jesus was fully man and God
* Circumcision identified one as belonging to the physical lineage of Abraham—**Genesis 12:2-3; Matthew 1:17**
* Circumcision was a health benefit—human diseases could be kept in the foreskin. Removing it prevented the spread of communal diseases
* Jewish women, doing this time of history, had the lowest rate of cervical cancer.
* The Symbolism of Circumcision
* The need to cut away sin and be cleansed
* It was the male organ that demonstrated depravity because it provided the seed that produced depraved sinners.
* When a male was circumcised, it symbolized cleansing to reverse human depravity
* However, physical circumcision could not spiritually transform one’s heart
* Gentiles [non-Jew] are spiritually circumcised through their relationship with Jesus Christ

**Romans 2:25-29 (NLT)**

 25 The Jewish ceremony of circumcision has value only if you obey God’s law. But if you don’t obey God’s law, you are no better off than an uncircumcised Gentile.

 26 And if the Gentiles obey God’s law, won’t God declare them to be his own people?

 27 In fact, uncircumcised Gentiles who keep God’s law will condemn you Jews who are circumcised and possess God’s law but don’t obey it.

 28 For you are not a true Jew just because you were born of Jewish parents or because you have gone through the ceremony of circumcision.

 29 No, a true Jew is one whose heart is right with God. And true circumcision is not merely obeying the letter of the law; rather, it is a change of heart produced by the Spirit. And a person with a changed heart seeks praise from God, not from people.

**Colossians 2:11-12**

 11 When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.

 12 For you were buried with Christ when you were baptized. And with him you were raised to new life because you trusted the mighty power of God, who raised Christ from the dead.

* Joseph and Mary presented Jesus to God—**Exodus 13:1-2**

 1 Then the LORD spoke to Moses, saying,

 2 "Consecrate to Me all the firstborn, whatever opens

 the womb among the children of Israel, both of man

 and beast; it is Mine."

* The first born of Israel (both man and animal) were untouched by the tenth plague God sent to Egypt.
* Therefore, God commanded Israel to set aside the first born because God said “it is Mine”
* Jesus Christ was referred to as Mary’s first-born
* Mary offered a sacrifice for herself—**Leviticus 12:6-8**

 6 'When the days of her purification are fulfilled, whether for a son or a daughter, she shall bring to the priest a lamb of the first year as a burnt offering, and a young pigeon or a turtledove as a sin offering, to the door of the tabernacle of meeting.

 7 'Then he shall offer it before the LORD, and make atonement for her. And she shall be clean from the flow of her blood. This is the law for her who has borne a male or a female.

 8 'And if she is not able to bring a lamb, then she may bring two turtledoves or two young pigeons-one as a burnt offering and the other as a sin offering. So the priest shall make atonement for her, and she will be clean.'"

* Mary and Joseph’s economic status was clarified in **Luke 2:24**

 24 and to offer a sacrifice in keeping with what is said in the Law of the Lord: “a pair of doves or two young pigeons.”

**Luke 2:25-32 “Simeon Prophecy”**

 25 Now there was a man in Jerusalem called Simeon, who was righteous and devout. He was waiting for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was on him.

 26 It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not die before he had seen the Lord’s Messiah.

 27 Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple courts. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for him what the custom of the Law required,

 28 Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying:

 29 “Sovereign Lord, as you have promised, you may now dismiss your servant in peace.
 30 For my eyes have seen your salvation,
 31 which you have prepared in the sight of all nations:
 32 a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people Israel.”

* This is the first time Simeon is mentioned in Scripture
* He was righteous and devout—he devoted his life to worship and service to God
* The Holy Spirit was upon Him, enabling him to wait for the consolation of Israel
* Simeon was fulfilling **Isaiah 25:9**

 “And it will be said in that day: "Behold, this is our God; We have waited for Him, and He will save us. This is the LORD; We have waited for Him; We will be glad and rejoice in His salvation."

**Luke 2:33-35**

 33 The child’s father and mother marveled at what was said about him.

 34 Then Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: “This child is destined to cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against,

 35 so that the thoughts of many hearts will be revealed. And a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

* Jesus Christ will “cause the falling and rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be spoken against”
* The falling and rising of many in Israel means:
* **1)** Those who reject Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior of the world.

**John 1:11-12**

 11 He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

 12 But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name

**John 3:18-19**

 18 "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

 19 "And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil.

* **2)** Jesus is a stone of stumbling to many—1 Peter 2:7-8

 7 Therefore, to you who believe, He is precious; but to those who are disobedient, "The stone which the builders rejected Has become the chief cornerstone,"

 8 and "A stone of stumbling And a rock of offense." They stumble, being disobedient to the word, to which they also were appointed.

* 3) Those who receive Christ as Lord and Savior will be raised up—**Ephesians 2:4-6**

 4 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us,

 5 even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved),

 6 and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus,

* The words “raised” and “made” are immediate and direct results of salvation
* The believer is dead to sin and alive to righteousness through the resurrection of Jesus Christ
* The believer is sitting “together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus.”
* This is the supernatural realm where God the Father reigns
* This spiritual realm is where believers’ blessings are

**Ephesians 1:3**

 “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ”

* This is where believers enjoy fellowship with the Lord in spirit and in truth
* This is where all divine revelation comes from
* This is where all the prayers from believers go
* This is also the supernatural sphere where Satan dwell—spiritual warfare
* This is also the realm where Satan temporarily rules

Q = Have you been spiritually circumcised?

Q = How were you spiritually circumcised?

Q = Do you have the power to spiritually circumcise yourself?

Q = What is an outward sign of spiritual circumcision?