

# “Christianity Without Cost?”

New Hope Community Church  
December 30th, 2018 / Luke 2:21-24

1. **The custom of male circumcision** (21)
  - The requirement of circumcision
    - (1) Command given to **Abraham** for all his offspring (Gn 17:10)
    - (2) Command given to **Moses** for all the nation (Lv 12:3)
    - (3) Command reinstated by **Joshua** (Josh 5:1-9)
  - The purpose of circumcision
    - (1) Sign of God’s **covenant** with Jewish people
    - (2) Cutting away of the **flesh** symbolized God’s people were —
      - To place no confidence in human **merit**
      - To **separate** themselves in full devotion to God
      - To permanently bear the mark of devotion in the place that is essential for leading to reproduction of human **offspring**
2. **The giving of the name** (21)
  - The name of a Jewish boy was given at his circumcision
  - Both Mary & Joseph had received from the **angel** the name Jesus
  - The name Jesus is the Greek form for the Hebrew name Joshua which means, ‘the Lord is **salvation**’
3. **The purification of Mary** (22)
  - Following childbirth a woman must go through a process of purification to be considered **clean** before the Lord
    - (1) Though childbirth is a blessing, it was a reminder of bringing a **sinful** being into the world
    - (2) Coming again into God’s presence required purification and **consecration**
  - The Law continually reminds us that God is **infinitely** holy
  - Though Mary did not give birth to a sinner, she herself was a sinner, and must fulfill the Law to be in **legal** standing
4. **The presenting of the firstborn male child to God** (22a,23)
  - God required the firstborn son to be **consecrated** to Him (Ex 13:1,2)
    - (1) God redeemed the first born on the night of **Passover** (Ex 13:15)
      - They were to be devoted from each family to **serve** God
      - Here we see another example of offering the **firstfruits**
    - (2) God took the **Levites** in place of each firstborn son (Nu 8:17-19)
      - After this each firstborn was redeemed with 5 shekels
      - To fulfill the Law, Joseph redeemed Jesus
  - God gave His **Firstborn** Son
5. **The presenting of sacrifice by Mary** (24)
  - **Two** offerings were to be presented (Lv 12:6-8)
    - (1) One as a burnt offering — atonement for sin and **worship**
    - (2) One as a sin offering — atonement for **unintentional** sins
  - Two birds rather than a sheep & a bird indicated they were **poor**

# Life Group Meeting

Luke 2:21-24

## QUESTIONS

- 1) Read Luke 2:21-24
- 2) Was there any particular truth from this week’s message that stuck with you?
- 3) Circumcision was to be a sign of God’s covenant with Abraham and with his offspring, the Jewish nation. Why do you think God chose this unlikely sign?
- 4) The Law made it very clear that man was not in favor with God, nor could he be by His own merit. So in light of this, why is the name “Jesus” so very precious to us (consider its meaning).
- 5) The Law was so very detailed and cumbersome in all of its requirements for washings, purifications, and sacrifices. Why do you think God prescribed all of this?
- 6) As with sons and harvest (income), God required the firstfruits to be given to Him. Why is this important, and how does this relate to us today?
- 7) Why do you think Mary, just like all other Jewish women, had to bring two sacrifices following childbirth — one a burnt offering, and one a sin offering?
- 8) Romans 12:1 says, “I urge you, brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies a living and holy sacrifice, acceptable to God, which is your spiritual service of worship.” Is this more or less than was demanded in the Law of Moses? Why?
- 9) Take time to pray for each other’s spiritual growth as we enter into the year 2019.