

Scripture: Luke 2:21-38

Singing: 227 – 330: 2, 3 -- 149:1, 2, 5, 6 – 393 – 450

Intro: God's autobiographies and God's biographies all reveal Him and His glory

A. One short but notable biography: *Anna the prophetess*

1. One unique feature of the Bible: *it restores women to dignity*

GOD'S WORKER ANNA

I. Her training II. Her serving

I. Her life training as God's worker

A. The Holy Spirit's recorded her short biography

1. she is truly a *golden oldie* who weathered many storms (vs. 36-37a)
2. why are these details supplied by HS in her biography? (Romans 5:3-4)

B. Though her story is short, her journey was long!

1. God ploughed a deep and abiding furrow in her life
2. God's testimony calls our attention to a *greatly blessed woman*
 - a. the meaning of her name is the secret of her life
 - b. her life testimony is to be the prayer-point for young and old women
 - c. the testimony of the first Christian women in the world is inspiring

II. Her life of serving as God's worker

A. God trained her to be a prophetess despite sad family roots (vs. 36)

1. family roots: *tribe of Aser*
2. prophetess: *how to understand this?* (Ex. 15:20; Judges 4:4; 2 Kings 22:14)
3. her serving of God with fastings and prayers night and day (37b)
 - a. the main matter of her exercise: *the coming Messiah* (Dan. 9:24-27)
4. her worship of the LORD God for Jesus Christ (vs. 38)
 - a. the highest worship of God is thanksgiving **gift of His Son** (vs. 38)
 - b. how do I know the same Holy Spirit is within me?
 - by how you *sense the personal need* for redemption!
 - by your heart *longs for God's salvation* (Luke 2:30)
 - by your growing understanding of *glory of Jesus*
 - by your *thanksgiving* like Simeon for His salvation (28, 38)

5. her witness about Jesus Christ to all seekers for redemption (38b)

a. Anna knew *not everyone was interested* in her testimony

c. Anna received perhaps 'one glimpse' and it sufficed her heart!

Take-away: *Let our women aspire to be prophetesses & prayer-warriors!*

A. God has equipped women differently than men

B. Yet let not this gift degenerate into the sin Paul rebukes: 1 Tim. 5:13

1. Strive in prayer to have prayers like Anna

2. Strive in prayer to have tongues like Anna