

IN REMEMBRANCE

(A Doctor's 'Check-up' of Jesus Christ)

Exposition of Luke's Gospel

Introducing the Human Author

Some things are worth remembering; some things are hard to forget. And there are other things that you never knew but will do anything to learn and remember forever. The third gospel of the New Testament is by a brilliant man who wanted to know Jesus many years after He had come and gone from the earthly scene. Two Jewish disciples, Matthew and Mark, had already written two synoptic accounts of the life of Jesus in the early 50's AD. Luke authors another gospel account about 10 years later that is supplemental to those and is written from a non-Jewish point of view. Being the only Gentile (non-Jewish) writer of the New Testament, Luke's account shows Jesus through the eyes of someone who has come to know Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord without ever encountering Him as the other gospel authors. He has come to know Jesus purely by faith, just like all Christians after the Lord's return to heaven. Luke's is a very erudite record about Christ. Luke's advanced education (a Greek physician) and his reputation as a respected historian, enabled him to record information gathered from eye-witnesses (**Luke 1:2**). This, in part, explains why certain portions of Matthew and Mark are not repeated since some of the people were unavailable for interview due to either relocation or death. Even so, Luke had no desire for redundancy through rewriting information already published. He includes valuable supplemental information previously unknown, in addition to in-depth specifics of Jesus' teachings not probed by either of the other synoptic writers. From his Gentile (Greek) point of view, it is more important to know what Jesus thought and felt and said than to simply believe the things He did. Luke helps the 'seeker' (an unbeliever who seriously wants to understand and know the Savior) and aids believers in understanding the heart and mind of the Lord Jesus Christ. Luke enables sincere seekers to make an informed and thoughtful decision about putting their faith in Christ. He helps true believers understand and appreciate the awesome heart and mind of Jesus the Son of God. About 30 years later (AD 90±), apostle John wrote the final gospel profile of Jesus from a heavenly vantage point, showing Him to be God the Son. But thanks to Luke, all believers were at no disadvantage during that interim generation; the gospel 'check-up' of Doctor Luke beautifully portrays the genius, the majesty and the divine character of the Lord Jesus Christ. All sinners are wise to take seriously the good doctor's diagnosis and spiritual prescription '**Jesus has come to seek and save that which is lost**' (**Luke 19:10**). Receiving Christ by faith continues to be good medicine for sin-sick souls desiring a new lease on life now and eternal life, forever.

Acknowledgements to the Divine Co-Author

"All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work." **2 Timothy 3:16-17**

"...knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke as they were moved by the Holy Spirit." **2 Peter 1:20-21**

"For the Word of God is living and powerful, and sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing even to the division of soul and spirit, and joints and marrow, and is a discerner of the thoughts and intents of the heart." **Hebrews 4:12**

Luke and all authors of the Bible were chosen by God and filled with His Holy Spirit to guide them in their compositions. Although their personalities were quite different, God's Spirit used those differences to convey His message in special ways to mankind. He sovereignly guided their thoughts and feelings as they sensed His holy will in choosing the right words and grammar as they wrote. Thus, Christians believe the Bible to be the only inerrant, infallible and authoritative communication from God to humanity. As we study Luke's gospel we need to always remember that he was chosen, filled and miraculously led by God to write exactly what he did, in the way he did, to help us grow in our personal, intimate relationship to the Lord Jesus Christ, our Savior.

Background Facts:

The author Luke: A Gentile Christian who wrote the Gospel of Luke and the Book of Acts
Possibly a Greek citizen from the Macedonian city of Philippi (**Acts 16**)
Wrote his gospel from 'eye-witness' interviews (**Luke 1:2**)
The gospel seems to have been written about AD 60-61 (**Acts/ AD 62-63**)
Luke was a physician friend of the apostle Paul (**Colossians 4:14, 2 Timothy 4:11**)

The book of Luke: Luke emphasizes Christ's love for Gentiles, women, kids and outcast sinners
Luke emphasizes the Great Physician, Jesus' miraculous healing of the needy
Luke's quotations of the Old Testament are usually from the Septuagint
Luke's love for Gentiles was apparently kindled by his affiliation with Paul

The purpose of Luke: *'The mission of Jesus was to show His great love for us by going to the cross for us, dying there and rising from the dead victoriously to be the Savior of ALL (Gentiles, too) who come to Him' (**Luke 19:10**)*

'To Theophilus – In Remembrance of The Savior' ***(‘Theos/God’ ‘Phileo/Love’ = Lover of God or Loved by God)***

That You, My Friend, May Know Him

*“Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word, delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you **an orderly account most excellent Theophilus, that you may know** the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.”*

Luke 1:1-4

That You, My Friend, May Remember Him

*“When the hour had come, He (Jesus) sat down, and the twelve apostles with Him. Then He said to them, “With fervent desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer; for I say to you, I will no longer eat of it until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God...And He took bread, gave thanks and broke it, and gave it to them, saying, “This is My body which is given for you; **do this in remembrance of Me.** Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, ‘This cup is **the new covenant** in My blood, which is shed for you.””*

Luke 22:14-20

That You, My Friend, May Love & Follow Him

*“The former account I made, O **Theophilus,** of all that Jesus began to do and teach, until the day in which He was taken up, after He **through the Holy Spirit** had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, to whom He also **presented Himself alive** after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the **things pertaining to the kingdom of God.**”*

Acts 1:1-3

Living in Remembrance of Him This Week

- Monday:** Just yesterday you partook of communion saying to Jesus, ‘I love You for what you did for me.’ Take a few minutes, read **Luke 22:14-20** and remember His cross-work for you. When you’re tempted today, remember Him and call upon Him for help; He will help you overcome the world, the flesh and the devil every time you call upon Him.
- Tuesday:** Remember Luke’s letter to his friend Theophilus? Read **Acts 1:1-3**. Who are some of your friends, relatives and acquaintances who need the Savior? If you’re a Christian, you have Jesus in your heart and are the closest thing to an eye-witness your friend will meet. Take time to pray for an opportunity to clearly explain the gospel to one of them today.
- Wednesday:** Luke wrote 52 chapters of the New Testament (the gospel & Acts). This large portion of scripture is entirely addressed to his friend, Theophilus. How much effort have you put into reaching a friend for Christ? Read **Acts 1:1-3**. Apparently Theophilus was not convinced with Luke’s first 24 chapters, but Luke didn’t give up trying to lovingly share the gospel. Don’t give up on that friend! Give them a tract. Tell them again. Don’t quit!
- Thursday:** Read ahead to the passage we will study Sunday – **Luke 1:5-12**. Zacharias and Elizabeth were very faithful, godly people who served God despite disappointment in their hearts. They had a prayer request that God had not answered and they thought it was too late for it to happen. Do you have unanswered prayers and disappointment about it? Even with ache in your heart stay faithful to God and His ministry. One of these days your dream (prayer) may come true as you worship. Go ahead and pray again for something you do constantly think about, but assume it will never happen... pray and hope again. As long you’re alive and faithful to God, it’s never too late.
- Friday:** Do you believe in angels? Read Sunday’s passage again – **Luke 1:5-12**. Angels are from God to help believers externally while the Holy Spirit aids them internally (**Hebrews 1:14**). As you plan for your weekend ministry be assured that God will aid you as He did with Zacharias. His Spirit will guide your heart and mind; His angels will control the things going on around you behind the scenes. Pray for God to use His Spirit and His angels in the lives of those you have invited to church this Sunday. Also pray like that for those on your prayer list and for the CBF pastor and teachers. Have a great weekend and an awesome Lord’s Day of worship and fellowship Sunday! See you in church!
- Saturday:** Read the passage being taught in church tomorrow (**Luke 1:5-12**). Pray for God’s best blessings to happen in church. And, oh yeah, don’t stay up too late tonight. Be rested and ready for spiritual refreshment tomorrow. Thanks!

~Pastor Tom