

Jesus Is Worthy of Our Best (Luke 1:1-4)

(1) Inasmuch as many have undertaken to compile a narrative of the things that have been accomplished among us, (2) just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word have delivered them to us, (3) it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, (4) that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught.

(1) In the first book, O Theophilus, I have dealt with all that Jesus began to do and teach, (Acts 1:1)

(14) Luke the beloved physician... (Col 4:14)

(15) An intelligent heart acquires knowledge, and the ear of the wise seeks knowledge. (Pro 18:15)

(30) ...you shall love the Lord your God with... all your mind... (Mar 12:30)

(10) ...Demas, in love with this present world, has deserted me and gone to Thessalonica... (11) Luke alone is with me... (2Tim 4:10-11)

(24) ...Luke, my fellow worker... (Phm 1:24)

(10) Whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might,... (Ecc 9:10)

(17) And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him. ...

(23) Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men, (24) knowing that from the Lord you will receive the inheritance as your reward. You are serving the Lord Christ. (Col 3:17, 23-24)

(12) Keep your conduct among the Gentiles honorable, so that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation. (1Pet 2:12)

(11) whoever speaks, as one who speaks oracles of God; whoever serves, as one who serves by the strength that God supplies--in order that in everything God may be glorified through Jesus Christ. To him belong glory and dominion forever and ever. Amen. (1Pet 4:11)

(7) And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem,... (Acts 6:7)

1. The 3rd Gospel writer, Luke, was a doctor, historian, theologian, missionary, and pastor. Luke was a real people person. Do you appreciate education, vocational expertise and calling, theology as the “queen of the sciences,” getting the gospel to others, and caring for God’s people both physically and spiritually?
2. Luke probably wrote his gospel sometime during the 60’s (AD). Luke shows how God fulfills Old Testament promises. Are you seeking to grow as a writer and communicator so that you can better share the good news of God? Are you trusting in God’s promises found in His Word?
3. Many had written about Jesus Christ by the time Luke wrote his gospel. Mark and Matthew had already written God inspired authoritative works, while many others had written works to pass on what they remembered seeing and hearing about Jesus. All of these writings were intended to teach others about what Jesus did, His words and His works. As followers of Jesus we to should pass on what we have learned and know about Jesus. We should pass on the words and works of Jesus to others. As followers of Jesus we should be living out what we learn as we seek to obey/do/accomplish the works and share the words that God wants us to share and show (vs. 1).
4. Some people had personally witnessed Jesus’ life and teaching from very early on. There were many eyewitnesses to what Jesus did and to what He said. The eyewitnesses were of course the original 12 apostles, other disciples like Mary (the mother of Jesus), Mary Magdalene, Salome, and others (1 Cor. 15:3-8). Many of these first eyewitnesses passed on Jesus’ words and works to others both orally and in writings. Some of those writings were the Word of God (Mark & Matthew). We too ought to be servants of the Word, the gospel, that is servants of Christ. We too should be passing on what we know to others in informal and formal ways. Have you ever thought about the ways that God’s Word has been passed down to you personally (vs. 2)?
5. Luke wrote as He was carried along by the Holy Spirit (2 Pet. 1:19-21) what seemed good to him, and what was inspired by the Holy Spirit (2 Tim. 3:16-17). Luke was a follower of Jesus who was also a careful scientific observer and historian. He took his time and paid careful attention to what he was doing and writing. This was a thorough research, reflection, and writing process. Luke wrote a narrative/story that was ordered, structured, verifiable, purposeful, intentional, and 100% accurate. Do you seek to be led by the Holy Spirit in all you do? Do you seek to do things well and with excellence for God’s glory? Are you looking for ways to do good in service to God and people? Are you characterized as an orderly person? Do you live purposefully, intentionally, and carefully? Are you a careful researcher and observer of God and people? Do you appreciate history? Do you appreciate science? Do you appreciate writing? Are you a disciplined learner? Are you rushed and hurried or methodical and process oriented? Are you a careful accountant of more than just money (vs. 3)?
6. Luke wrote to someone who was probably a Roman governmental official of that time. The name Theophilus means “lover of God” or “friend of God.” Theophilus was probably a well educated, wealthy, and prominent person who was as the top of the societal class of the first century. We will learn in this gospel that God loves both the rich and the poor, the prominent and the ordinary, the successful and the failures. Jesus can redeem and transform all of us into who He wants us to be, and will use the gifts, skills, opportunities, position, education, and anything else we are and have for His glory, His purposes, His kingdom, and His fame. The good Doctor Luke is a great example of this. Luke was a well educated medical doctor who wrote with great literary skill. The first four verses of this book are one sentence that is written in a very polished form of Greek. Do you love the rich and prominent along with the poor and ordinary? Are you a

lover of God? Is your relationship with God characterized by friendship? Do you love Jesus more than you love anyone else, even your best friends and family members? Do you seek to do things with excellence for God's glory? Do you do very personal ministry like we see Luke doing toward Theophilus and toward Paul (vs. 3)?

7. God wants us to not only experience Him, but also to know as much as we can about Him, according to what He has revealed to us. There is both subjective experience and objective facts that contribute to our faith. We do not just have to take a blind leap into the dark when it comes to following Jesus. God wants us to be able to grow into having a certainty about the things He has revealed in His Word concerning the person and work of His Son Jesus. There is truth, and we can know it. God is truth, and we can know Him. Have you embraced the lie that there is no absolute truth? Are you seeking to learn the truth in every area of knowledge, especially related to the knowledge of God? Are you teaching others the truth? Are you learning and teaching the truth purposefully like Dr. Luke?