

The Things We Most Surely Believe

Luke 1:1

As we begin our study of Luke's Gospel, I want to point out that Luke tells us precisely why he wrote his account of Jesus' life: *"to set forth in order a declaration of the things **accomplished** among us"* (v. 1). Notice the word translated **accomplished** (*peplerophoremenon*). It is used seven times in the N.T. and in the KJV this word is translated *"most surely believed."* In Romans 4:21 it is translated *"fully persuaded."* Did Luke write giving a record of the things *Jesus accomplished* or the things we Christians believe? Both.

I. Luke records historical *facts* that are the *foundation* for Christian *faith*.

If you call yourself a Christian you are acknowledging you believe specific things about Jesus Christ. These things Luke records; specific things that we are fully persuaded Christ fulfilled. For example:

- Luke writes that Jesus is the **Incarnate God** who has come to deliver sinners (Luke 1:35).
- Luke writes that Jesus accomplished this redemption of sinners by **His work** (Luke 1:68).
- Luke writes that there is **no deliverance apart from faith** in the Person of Christ (Luke 1:50).

II. Luke is one of *many* people who has recorded the foundational facts of our Christian faith.

*"Inasmuch as **many** have undertaken to compile an account of the things accomplished..."* (v. 1).

(A). Luke is one of four narratives of Christ in the canon of Scripture.

Matthew, Mark, Luke and John all wrote narrative accounts of the work of the Lord Jesus Christ. It could be argued that all four gospels give us the full view of who Jesus is and what He did. Matthew revealed Jesus as the Messiah, **the Redeemer-King** promised in the Old Testament. Mark was led by the Holy Spirit to reveal the Lord Jesus as **the righteous Servant** for mankind. John's gospel sets forth Jesus as **the eternal God**, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. Luke shows us that Jesus is the **Son of man**, living among us as our kinsman in order to redeem.

(B). There are other narratives of Christ with which Luke was familiar.

Most believe Luke's gospel account is the first one of the four gospels to be written, fifteen years after the resurrection of Jesus. If that is true, then the *many* are not Matthew, Mark and John. The many are followers of Jesus Christ who record what He has done and the impact it made on their lives. This is a good indication that discipleship within the Christian faith is often enhanced by writing for others; taking the time to write for others the impact Christ has made in your life.

III. Luke is a person whose writings we will take time to study because of Luke's distinctiveness.

If you are going to spend a couple of years studying this book, it would be good to know about Luke.

(A). Luke has a passion for the individual person - he dedicates it to "most excellent Theophilus."

We do not know who this man is, but he is a political official - His name means *loved by God*.

Acts is also dedicated to this man. Not everyone will reach thousands, but you can reach one.

(B). Luke was the companion of Paul on his journeys - Paul calls him, "Luke the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14). He accompanied Paul on his second missionary journey as far as Philippi. Luke stayed behind, probably to take care of and further instruct the new Christians at Philippi. He also accompanied Paul on his third missionary, stayed with him through his arrest, his journey across the Mediterranean, and in prison in Rome. "Only Luke is with me" (II Timothy 4:11).

(C). Luke writes for the person in need of deliverance - He writes good news for needy sinners.

Luke shows us the compassionate love of Christ in becoming man to save us. He traces our Lord's descent back to Adam, and shows him as the Son of man and the Son of God, the Savior of men. He is both the "Son of the Highest" and the Son of the lowest. We can all read Luke and live.