

June 24, 2012

"About Jesus"

Luke 1:1-4

^{NKJ} Luke 1:1 Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, ² just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, ³ 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, ⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed. (Luke 1:1-4 NKJ)

1. *As friends of God we should be excited about Jesus and any information we might have or attain about Him, we also should share this -*

Theophilus - *The name "Theophilus" means friend of or Lover of God -*

1. *We are commanded to be such -*
"Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one!"⁵ "You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. (Deuteronomy 6:4-5 NKJ)
2. *We are cursed if we are not such -*
²² If anyone does not love the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be accursed. O Lord, come! (1Co 16:22 NKJ)
3. *If we are "friends of God" we should delight to be better / closer friends of God, we should delight to know HIM better -*
⁴ that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.
4. *We should as "friends of God" do those things which help other "friends of God" to know Him better -*
 - A. *Luke did it by writing this Gospel*
 - B. *Knowing what Luke teaches would help us in this task. We should be like Cupids for Christ, doing whatever we could to encourage others to love Christ, whether they already know Him or do not -*

⁴² "And whoever gives one of these little ones only a cup of cold water in the name of a disciple, assuredly, I say to you, he shall by no means lose his reward." (Mat 10:42 NKJ)

- II. *As friends of God, we should appreciate an accurate account and understanding of Jesus; His History, etc... -*

1. *Many ...*

"Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us" Luke 1:1

- A. *Matthew, Mark & John wrote inspired accounts of Jesus' life, Luke, if these were written before Luke's Gospel; Luke would want to compliment what they wrote*

We see this happening two ways:

- (1) *Luke confirms what the other Gospels say when a particular account is repeated by him; for instance the account of the feeding of the five thousand is included in all four gospels: Matthew 14:13-21; Mark 6:32-44; Luke 9:10-17 and John 6:1-15, the same is obviously true of Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead -*

- (2) *Luke also compliments the other Gospels by providing accounts which the other inspired evangelists leave out, as John said -*

²⁵ **And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen. (John 21:25 NKJ) -** *These accounts included by Luke are not mentioned by the other writers: The histories of Zacharias & Elizabeth, the Angel's announcement to Mary, the conversions of Zacchaeus and the thief on the cross, and the parables of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector, the Rich Man and Lazarus and the Prodigal Son!*

- B. *There were other writings, uninspired, as there are today written by both well-meaning and ill-intending people that are just not accurate --- Luke's Gospel would also contradict error!*

2. *Eye witnesses -*

² **just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us,**

3. *Perfect (God given) Understanding -*

, ³ **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**

The words translated "from the very first" in Greek also mean "from Above" meaning from God, from Heaven –

509 ἀνωθεν anōthen {an'-o-then} Meaning: 1) from above, from a higher place 1a) of things which come from heaven or God 2) from the first, from the beginning, from the very first 3) anew, over again

Why is a perfect, God-given history of Christ valuable to us?

A. It is important we have a complete and accurate knowledge of Who He is and what He did for us, as looking to Him is our salvation –

"Look to Me, and be saved, All you ends of the earth! For I *am* God, and there is no other. (Isaiah 45:22 NKJ)

Jesus said to him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. (John 14:6 NKJ)

B. We are desirous to be "like Him" in order to be "like Him" we need to know Him correctly

² Beloved, now we are children of God; and it has not yet been revealed what we shall be, but we know that when He is revealed, we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. ³ And everyone who has this hope in Him purifies himself, just as He is pure. (1 John 3:2-3 NKJ)

4. We need an accurate picture of Christ today because:

A. The world gives us many false pictures of Jesus: a feminist; a good man but not God, a prophet but not the Son of God, etc...

B. Even in our own minds we might sinfully manipulate His image – So His visage was marred more than any man, And His form more than the sons of men; (Isaiah 52:14 NKJ)

III. As friends of God, see Jesus as the One Who "fulfilled" those things which were spoken in the Old Testament - :2

⁴⁴ Then He said to them, "These are the words which I spoke to you while I was still with you, that all things must be fulfilled which were written in the Law of Moses and the Prophets and the Psalms concerning Me." (Luke 24:44 NKJ)

1. Jesus teaches continuity between the Old and New Testaments, Jesus is the fulfillment of many Old Testament prophecies and types! Luke 24:13-35

2. What the Old Testament teaches about Jesus shows us the BUD, the New Testament, including the Book of Luke, show us in full BLOOM!

²⁵ Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! ²⁶ "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" ²⁷ And beginning at Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself. (Luke 24:25-27 NKJ)

IV. As friends of God, we should appreciate and imitate how Luke ministered with what he had -

1. Notice "ministers of the word" are called ministers –

5257 ὑπηρέτης huperetes {hoop-ay-ret'-ace}

Meaning: 1) servant 1a) an underrower, subordinate rower 1b) anyone who serves with hands: a servant 1b1) in the NT of the officers and attendants of magistrates as -- of the officer who executes penalties 1b2) of the attendants of a king, servants, retinue, the soldiers of a king, of the attendant of a synagogue 1b3) of any one ministering or rendering service 1c) anyone who aids another in any work 1c1) an assistant 1c2) of the preacher of the gospel

Luke was given a "perfect understanding" "from above" this was to be used to minister to others ...

2. All gifts are to be used for the Glory of God and the welfare / service and building up of Christ's Church –

³ For I say, through the grace given to me, to everyone who is among you, not to think of himself more highly than he ought to think, but to think soberly, as God has dealt to each one a measure of faith. ⁴ For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function,

⁵ so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. ⁶ Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them: if prophecy, let us prophesy in proportion to our faith;

⁷ or ministry, let us use it in our ministering; he who teaches, in teaching; ⁸ he who exhorts, in exhortation; he who gives, with liberality; he who leads, with diligence; he who shows mercy, with cheerfulness. ⁹ Let love be without hypocrisy. Abhor what is evil. Cling to what is good. ¹⁰ Be kindly affectionate to one another with brotherly love, in honor giving preference to one another;

¹¹ not lagging in diligence, fervent in spirit, serving the Lord; ¹² rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing steadfastly in prayer; ¹³ distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality. (Rom 12:3-13 NKJ)

Arnold A. Brevick