

As we enter 2022...I believe God wants us to refocus on the foundation of our faith...Jesus...there is so much going on in the world and in our lives, it is vital to remember the **Lord is near!** The Lord has a plan and we have a purpose!

*PHP 4:4 Rejoice in the Lord always. I will say it again: Rejoice!* <sup>5</sup> *Let your gentleness be evident to all. The Lord is near.* <sup>6</sup> *Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.* <sup>7</sup> *And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*

- **The reason to rejoice is the Lord is near...The reason to be gentle is the Lord is near....The reason to not be anxious is the lord is near....The reason to pray and present or requests to God with thanksgiving is because the Lord is near....The reason the peace of God which transcends our understanding and guards our hearts and minds...is because the Lord is near! He has neither abandoned his people, nor his Sovereignty!**
- **So if the Lord is near how we do life ought be demonstrably different than those who do not claim relationship with Jesus!!**

*The Gospels give us Jesus...so we will be examining the Gospel of Luke to that end... You always need to remember that the people in scripture are people like you and I ... it was Luke's purpose in writing these two books to assure his friend that... Jesus is true and that he wants a relationship with you.....God did not give us the Gospel so we would build bomb shelters in the backyard. He gave us this books we would build bigger tables so we could invite people to dine with us and meet Jesus!*

*In Fact that is what Luke's desire was in researching and writing His Gospel, which he did specifically for a dear friend of His. A man he cared so deeply for and about his salvation and growth...that at great cost to himself he*

*researched the truth about Jesus, and explained it so his Roman friend would be able to fully place his trust in Jesus.*

*Luke did this all for one man! Luke's whole ministry was done in the background...he never mentions himself by name!*

AS Luke starts both his letters giving his purpose for writing...

*LK 1:1 Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, <sup>2</sup> just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. <sup>3</sup> Therefore, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, it seemed good also to me to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, <sup>4</sup> so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught.*

**But wait there is more...He meticulously researched the Gospel...but in his second book...He lived it! There is a difference between reaching and application! Luke had both**

The Book of Acts opens the rest of the New Testament and starts where the Gospels leave off...Jesus bodily ascension into Heaven...where he reigns right now...and the establishing of his continuing work on earth...the first thirty years of the church

*AC 1:1 In my former book, Theophilus, I wrote about all that Jesus began to do and to teach <sup>2</sup> until the day he was taken up to heaven, after giving instructions through the Holy Spirit to the apostles he had chosen.*

- ***Jesus will be revealed in his writings as the object of the Christian's faith***  
**Unbeknownst to Luke his work while done in obscurity, never mentioning himself by name, his heart was for and goal to help one man's faith...ended up becoming 26% of the whole New Testament**

...incredible...never underestimate what helping one person means in the big picture of God's work!

**So before we get into the Gospel ...what is Luke's and Theophilus story?**  
**For everyone who comes to Jesus has a story of that journey too him and then the journey with Him... for God uses a human life to touch another human life... love always comes with skin on it...**

And

**first a little about *Theophilus*... The name "Theophilus" literally means "loved by God," but carries the idea of "friend of God.** How wonderful that you and I can say we are loved by God.. Apparenty Theophilus had already received the basics of the Christian doctrine but had not as yet been completely grounded in them.

- Luke's desire was to prove to Theophilus the truth of Jesus the Messiah's life, death and resurrection.
- Theophilus was of high social standing as Luke addresses Theophilus as "most excellent", which is a Roman title of respect and possibly of official importance. He was most likely a gentile was wealthy and influential man in the city of Antioch. There are second-century references to a man named Theophilus who was "a great lord" and a leader in the city of Antioch during the time of Luke.
- Theophilus was a Roman acquaintance of Luke's with a strong interest in the new Christian religion. He appears to have made a decision to follow the Lord, but seemed to be questioning the authenticity or real historicity of this faith...
- Is this a new man-made religion... Or he could be questioning ... whether or not he is accepted and fits in...is he really a part of the community of God?
- Does God really accept a pagan Roman Gentile into His family?
- You see times and technology changes...but people's fears and insecurities remain the same...is this for real...does God Love me...will people accept me....is this the truth?

- **He was passionate for the truth...And Luke was passionate to help him...He had questions Luke would get him answers...for God uses a human life to touch another human life... love always comes with skin on it...**
- **Luke committed to help him.....You see when you help others for the sake of Christ ...you never know how far reaching that help will extend too...2 millennia later we are being blessed by the due diligence of a man name Luke...**

Lets look at Luke Scholars have noted that Luke had an outstanding command of the Greek language, obviously well-educated, Luke's God given nature for details was key in his training as a medical doctor, his accuracy historically and his familiarity with sailing and his google map attention to geography. All these character traits equipped Luke to be an observant, and careful writer. He most likely converted to Christianity through Paul

- He probably studied to be a physician in Antioch, in Syria. In the ancient world, Egyptians were the most skilled in medicine, having taken centuries to perfect their art. First century doctors like Luke would perform surgery, treat wounds, and administer herbal remedies
- One of the essential qualities of a good doctor is compassion. People need to know that their doctor cares. Doctor Luke was a person of compassion. **In his Gospel, he emphasizes Jesus Christ's compassion. Luke also highlighted the relationships Jesus had with women very anti-cultural**
- He had an extensive traveling medical practice as Paul's companion. Since the gospel was often welcomed with whips and stones, the doctor was undoubtedly seldom without patients.
- It is even possible that Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was some kind of physical ailment that needed Luke's regular attention. Paul deeply appreciated Luke's skills and faithfulness.

## Luke would become Paul's companion the rest of Paul's life...

- **His diagnosis: The Good News of Jesus Christ is true and for everyone!**
- Because the Good News is founded on historical truth, our spiritual growth must involve careful, disciplined, and thorough investigation of God's Word so that we can understand how God has acted in history he acts similarly in our History.
- We was the only Gentile to write any part of the New Testament, he was the first historian of the early church
- In Paul's letter to the Colossians which he wrote while in prison in Rome.... and in it he draws a distinction between Luke and the other Jewish colleagues ...after naming them he says  
*Colossians 4:<sup>11</sup> Jesus (the one we call Justus) also sends his greetings. These are the only Jewish believers among my co-workers; they are working with me here for the Kingdom of God. And what a comfort they have been!*

### B. then in verse 14 he names Luke...obviously a gentile

*Colossians 4:14* Luke, the beloved doctor, sends his greetings, and so does Demas.

- It is during this same time period that Luke wrote his Gospel around 61-63 AD which is during the time that the Apostle Paul was a prisoner in Rome and Luke was with him.

### C. Paul also refers to Luke as a "co-worker" along side him

*Philemon 1:23* Epaphras, my fellow prisoner in Christ Jesus, sends you his greetings. <sup>24</sup> So do Mark, Aristarchus, Demas, and Luke, my co-workers.

- Luke joined Paul during Paul's second missionary journey ...and I want to share a couple instances where Luke was eye witness to what Paul was doing ...but does not mention himself...there are many more

*Acts 16:11* **We** boarded a boat at Troas ..... <sup>12</sup> From there **we** reached Philippi, a major city of that district of Macedonia and a Roman colony. And we stayed there several days. <sup>13</sup> On the Sabbath we went a little way outside the city to a riverbank, where we thought people would be meeting for prayer, and we sat down to speak with some women who had gathered there. <sup>14</sup> One of them was

Lydia from Thyatira, a merchant of expensive purple cloth, who worshiped God. **As she listened to us**, the Lord opened her heart, and she accepted what Paul was saying.

**16** One day as we were going down to the place of prayer, we met a slave girl who had a spirit that enabled her to tell the future. She earned a lot of money for her masters by telling fortunes. **17** She followed Paul and the rest **of us**, shouting, “These men are servants of the Most High God, and they have come to tell you how to be saved.” **18** This went on day after day until Paul got so exasperated that he turned and said to the demon within her, “I command you in the name of Jesus Christ to come out of her.” And instantly it left her.

**19** Her masters’ hopes of wealth were now shattered, so they grabbed Paul and Silas and dragged them before the authorities at the marketplace. **20** “The whole city is in an uproar because of these Jews!” they shouted to the city officials. **21** “They are teaching customs that are illegal for us Romans to practice.” **22** A mob quickly formed against Paul and Silas, and the city officials **ordered them stripped and beaten with wooden rods.** **23** **They were severely beaten**, and then they were thrown into prison. The jailer was ordered to make sure they didn’t escape. ...

- **Luke was there for the miraculous opening of the jail doors, the salvation of the Jailer and his family**
- **Luke was left in Philippi during the second missionary journey and picked up again to travel with Paul in the third journey**

Acts 20: **6** After the Passover ended, we boarded a ship at Philippi in Macedonia and five days later joined them in Troas, where we stayed a week **7** On the first day of the week, we gathered with the local believers to share in the Lord’s Supper. Paul was preaching to them, and since he was leaving the next day, he kept talking until midnight. **8** The upstairs room where we met was lighted with many flickering lamps. **9** As Paul spoke on and on, a young man named Eutychus, sitting on the windowsill, became very drowsy. Finally, he fell sound asleep and dropped three stories **to his death below.** **10** Paul went down, bent over him, and took him into his arms. “Don’t worry,” he said, **“he’s alive!”**

- **He was with Paul when they went immediately to Miletus and met with the Elders of Ephesus...ie Timothy**

*Acts 20:17* But when we landed at Miletus, he sent a message to the elders of the church at Ephesus, asking them to come and meet him.

**Later According to Acts 24:27, Paul was imprisoned in Caesarea for at least two years before being brought before Festus for trial. He was then sent by ship to Rome, where he spent two years under house arrest.**

**Luke's vivid description of his travels with Paul in toward his last and final imprisonment [Acts 27](#)**

*Acts 27:1* When the time came, we set sail for Italy. Paul and several other prisoners were placed in the custody of a Roman officer named Julius, a captain of the Imperial Regiment.

- **14 nights of storm later...an angel appers...Tells Paul it will work out, though the ship will wreck...**

<sup>23</sup> Last night an angel of the God to whom I belong and whom I serve stood beside me <sup>24</sup> and said, 'Do not be afraid, Paul. You must stand trial before Caesar; and God has graciously given you the lives of all who sail with you.' <sup>25</sup> So keep up your courage, men, for I have faith in God that it will happen just as he told me. <sup>26</sup> Nevertheless, we must run aground on some island."

<sup>37</sup> Altogether there were 276 of us on board. <sup>38</sup> When they had eaten as much as they wanted, they lightened the ship by throwing the grain into the sea.

<sup>41</sup> But the ship struck a sandbar and ran aground. The bow stuck fast and would not move, and the stern was broken to pieces by the pounding of the surf. <sup>42</sup> The soldiers planned to kill the prisoners to prevent any of them from swimming away and escaping. <sup>43</sup> But the centurion wanted to spare Paul's life and kept them from carrying out their plan. He ordered those who could swim to jump overboard first and get to land. <sup>44</sup> The rest

were to get there on planks or on other pieces of the ship. In this way everyone reached land safely.

28 Once safely on shore, we found out that the island was called Malta. <sup>2</sup> The islanders showed us unusual kindness. They built a fire and welcomed us all because it was raining and cold. <sup>3</sup> Paul gathered a pile of brushwood and, as he put it on the fire, a viper, driven out by the heat, fastened itself on his hand. <sup>4</sup> When the islanders saw the snake hanging from his hand, they said to each other, “This man must be a murderer; for though he escaped from the sea, the goddess Justice has not allowed him to live.” <sup>5</sup> But Paul shook the snake off into the fire and suffered no ill effects. <sup>6</sup> The people expected him to swell up or suddenly fall dead; but after waiting a long time and seeing nothing unusual happen to him, they changed their minds and said he was a god.

<sup>7</sup> There was an estate nearby that belonged to Publius, the chief official of the island. He welcomed us to his home and showed us generous hospitality for three days. <sup>8</sup> His father was sick in bed, suffering from fever and dysentery. Paul went in to see him and, after prayer, placed his hands on him and healed him. <sup>9</sup> When this had happened, the rest of the sick on the island came and were cured. <sup>10</sup> They honored us in many ways; and when we were ready to sail, they furnished us with the supplies we needed. **yet they eventually arrive in Rome over three months later...Luke was there, he accompanied Paul to Rome and was with him during his imprisonment there**

- **Luke was with him for much the beatings Paul endured and as his doctored...ministered to his wounds...Probably knew Paul's body better than Paul. Listen to a portion of Paul's defense of him ministry...Luke was there for most of it!**

2 Cor 11:<sup>23</sup> .... I have worked harder, been put in prison more often, **been whipped times without number**, and faced death again and again. <sup>24</sup> Five different times the Jewish leaders gave me thirty-nine lashes. <sup>25</sup> Three times I was beaten with rods. Once I was stoned. Three times I was shipwrecked.



*Once I spent a whole night and a day adrift at sea. <sup>26</sup> I have traveled on many long journeys. I have faced danger from rivers and from robbers. I have faced danger from my own people, the Jews, as well as from the Gentiles. I have faced danger in the cities, in the deserts, and on the seas. And I have faced danger from men who claim to be believers but are not. <sup>27</sup> I have worked hard and long, enduring many sleepless nights. I have been hungry and thirsty and have often gone without food. I have shivered in the cold, without enough clothing to keep me warm.*

**And Luke was with him when Paul wrote 2 Timothy from a dark and damp Roman prison cell, his last letter before his martyrdom, shortly before his death in AD 67.**

*<sup>2 Tim 4:11</sup> Only Luke is with me. Bring Mark with you when you come, for he will be helpful to me in my ministry.*

- **God knew that Paul would need a man of like passion to succeed ... Luke brought special gifts and talents...doctor and historian...**

**Loyalty was one of Luke's outstanding virtues. He stuck with Paul, enduring the hardships of travel and persecution. Luke made good use of his writing skills and knowledge of human emotions to write Scripture that jumps off the page as both authentic and moving.**

**God gives every person unique talents and experiences. Luke showed us we can each apply our skills in service to the Lord and to other**

**Luke could have chosen a number of ways to live his life...He chose the road less traveled...spent his life serving others in the name of God...and wrote two letters to one man named Theophilus...a man loved by God ...and had no idea those letters would make up 26% of the New Testament ...and would be foundational in the forming of the faith of millions of people ...he would never meet this side of heaven!**

**Don't ever tell me helping one person in their walk with Christ does not mean much! Or is not worth the effort, cost and time!**

- everyone has 24 hours a day...you either own that or it owns you...you are a victim of time...if only I had more time...I am too busy..etc. makes you a victim...but if I own my time I now have freedom to use it in the best of ways...
- You have to own the role of controlling your day! we each have 24 hours..and only 24 hours everyday...you have to own your days!
- I have to own that You have to own you have a role to play in the Kingdom!

*[Ephesians 2:10](#) For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do..*

- You have to own...you are the handiwork of God to do the work of God in our generation...
- You have to own you are a difference maker for the kingdom
- You have to own you belong to a team ...a church
- You have to own discovering the role you will play in the kingdom
- You have to own that role..
- You have to own doing what you need to do to play your role well!

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No definite information is available about Luke's death. One early source says he died of natural causes at age 84 in Boeatia, while another church legend says Luke was martyred by idolatrous priests in Greece by being hanged from an olive tree.

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He is God's Son , the Redeemer, He is the very image of God, He is the Lord of creation, the head of the church, the fullness of salvation , the Reconciler of the universe, the One who contains all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, the standard by which all religious teaching is judged, the fullness of God, undiminished deity, the One under Whom all power and authority is subjected, the Victor over all the cosmic powers, the reality of the truth foreshadowed in Old Testament types and figures, regulations and rituals, the One exalted and enthroned at the right hand of God in heaven , the One in Whom we are complete and in Whom our life is hidden, protected, and kept , the One by Whom our new life will be gloriously manifested at His coming again, and it is through Him and because of our new life in Him that we ought to put away our old manner of life from which we have been marvelously saved .

end

to the young

Scholars have noted that Luke had an outstanding command of the Greek

language, obviously well-educated, Luke's God given nature for details was key in his training as a medical doctor, his accuracy historically and his familiarity with sailing and his google map attention to geography. All these character traits equipped Luke to be an observant, and careful writer.

- He probably studied to be a physician in Antioch, in Syria. In the ancient world, Egyptians were the most skilled in medicine, having taken centuries to perfect their art. First century doctors like Luke could perform minor surgery, treat wounds, and administer herbal remedies for everything from indigestion to insomnia.
- One of the essential qualities of a good doctor is compassion. People need to know that their doctor cares. Even if he or she doesn't know what is wrong or isn't sure what to do, real concern is always a doctor's good medicine. Doctor Luke was a person of compassion.
- He may have been converted to Christianity by Paul.
- Luke joined Paul at Troas and went with him through Macedonia. He probably traveled with Paul to Philippi, where he was left behind to serve in the church there. He departed from Philippi to join Paul on his third missionary journey, through Miletus, Tyre, and Caesarea, ending in Jerusalem. Luke apparently accompanied Paul to Rome and is last mentioned in 2 Timothy 4:11.
- No definite information is available about Luke's death. One early source says he died of natural causes at age 84 in Boeatia, while another church legend says Luke was martyred by idolatrous priests in Greece by being hanged from an olive tree.
- **In his Gospel, he emphasizes Jesus Christ's compassion.** He vividly recorded both the power demonstrated by Christ's life and the care in
- Luke highlighted the relationships Jesus had with women. His writing in Acts is full of sharp verbal pictures of real people caught up in the greatest events of history.

- Being a doctor. He had a traveling medical practice as Paul's companion. Since the gospel was often welcomed with whips and stones, the doctor was undoubtedly seldom without patients.
- It is even possible that Paul's "thorn in the flesh" was some kind of physical ailment that needed Luke's regular attention. Paul deeply appreciated Luke's skills and faithfulness.

**Luke would become Paul's companion the rest of Paul's life...**

- Luke tells Jesus' story from Luke's unique perspective of a Gentile, a physician, and the first historian of the early church. Though not an eyewitness of Jesus' ministry,
- Luke nevertheless is concerned that eyewitness accounts be preserved accurately and that the foundations of Christian belief be transmitted intact to the next generation.
- As a medical doctor, Luke knew the importance of being thorough. He used his skills in observation and analysis to thoroughly investigate the stories about Jesus.
- **His diagnosis: The Good News of Jesus Christ is true!** You can read Luke's account of Jesus' life with confidence that it was written by a clear thinker and a thoughtful researcher.
- Because the Good News is founded on historical truth, our spiritual growth must involve careful, disciplined, and thorough investigation of God's Word so that we can understand how God has acted in history. He writes History not myth or fable..

**So he takes us to the beginning as a doctor would...what is the root...how did the narrative of Jesus start...**

So lets think on these things given to us...that have been fulfilled...so you may know for certainty Jesus is with us! And the Kingdom of God is among us...

And I leave you today with what the Angel Gabriel said to Zechariah...as thoroughly researched by Luke

Luke 1:37 For the word of God will never fail.

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Don't ever tell me helping one person in their walk with Christ does not mean much! Or is not worth the effort, cost and time!

- **research which would include years of traipsing around the middle east with Paul the Apostle and then to write about the life and ministry of Jesus to help his friend ... in which he did not know that his writing will now help us today...2000 years later...**

**everyone has 24 hours a day...you either own that or it owns you...you are a victim of time...if only I had more time...I am too busy..etc. makes you a victim...but if I own my time I now have freedom to use it in the best of ways...**

- **You have to own the role of controlling your day! we each have 24 hours..and only 24 hours everyday...you have to own your days!**
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Ephesians 2:10 For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do..

- **You have to own...you are the handiwork of God to do the work of**

**God in our generation...**

- **You have to own you are a difference maker for the kingdom**
- **You have to own you belong to a team ...a church**
- **You have to own discovering the role you will play in the kingdom**
- **You have to own that role..**
- **You have to own doing what you need to do to play your role well!**

**Or**

**God has always been comfortable with making people uncomfortable they were just one risk away from breaking through a barrier that seemed impossible. **THEY WENT FOR IT!** And because they were willing to try things no one else was trying...we are here today!**

**Here are a few questions for you?**

- **What risks am I wrestling with wanting to take...but have been too afraid to vocalize?**
- **What am I REALLY afraid of—failing OR people viewing me as a failure?**
- **Am I saying I am praying about something when, in actuality, I am delaying & hoping that God will just somehow “work things out?”**

**We are not to be obsessed with those who oppose us...we are to be obsessed with Jesus. If we are following Him then He will handle those who oppose us.**

**HIS plans will take place in HIS ways in HIS time...and that I am not the one who gets to direct His will...but rather participate in it!**

**When things seem most out of control...He is most in control! We cannot proclaim to be believers in the Sovereignty of God and then freak out at the first sign of the wheels coming off!**

**Understand this...no matter what happens...no matter WHAT happens...God is still God...He still reigns...He is not worried...we shouldn't be either!**

- **Many scholars believe that Theophilus was benefactor who supported Paul and Luke on their missionary journeys.**

So my question to us... who is your Theophilus?

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