

Certainty ... continued

- continued from inside -

Knowledge, or truth comes from the word of God (Romans 3:20; 1 Corinthians 14:37; Ephesians 4:13). Acting without knowledge, or truth is dangerous to the soul (Romans 10:2; 2 Timothy 2:25; 3:7).

Responsibility Toward Truth

Luke wrote his gospel because he did not want Theophilus to accept something blindly, or accept something that was not true. Don't ever accept something as "truth" without first investigating it thoroughly (2 Timothy 3:10). This includes denominational teaching and teaching within the Lord's church.

You can verify your faith and you can fulfill your responsibilities toward the truth. What are some of your responsibilities toward the truth? You must obey it (2 Thessalonians 1:7-9). You must also be accurate in your living (Ephesians 5:15). You must be able to defend the truth from attack (Jude 3; 2 Peter 3:15). You, like the apostle Paul, must share the truth with others (Ephesians 3:1-9).

Yes, you can have a faith built on a firm foundation in this modern world of change and uncertainty. You can be certain about what you believe. You can fulfill your responsibilities toward the truth. Friend, know what you believe AND show what you believe! - *Chris Reeves*

Sentence Sermons

- Sometimes you can know which way you are headed in life by looking at the crowd you are with.
- The man who does as he pleases, seldom pleases the Lord.
- Always tell the truth and you do not have to remember what you say.
- If more saints would heed the admonition to "go", more sinners would heed the admonition to "come".

Warfield Blvd. church of Christ
290 Warfield Blvd.
Clarksville, TN 37043

Website
WBCOC.org

Assembly Times
Sunday: 9:30 am, 10:30 am, 6 pm
Wednesday: 7 pm

Everyone Is Welcome!
For More Information Call
(931) 647-1324

Published and Edited by
Chris Reeves
(615) 389-3250
chrisreevesmail@gmail.com
TheGoodTeacher.com

THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

October 15, 2017



For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

The Certainty of the Christian's Faith

The Purpose of Luke's Gospel

Luke, a physician and traveling companion of Paul (Colossians 4:14; 2 Timothy 4:11; Philemon 24), wrote two books: Luke and Acts. The purpose of his gospel is set forth in Luke 1:4: "so that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught" (NASV).

The recipient of the books of Luke and Acts was the most excellent Theophilus (Luke 1:3; Acts 1:1). We do not know whether or not he was a Christian. However, we do know that Luke wanted him to have "the exact truth."

There are three lessons concerning the "exact truth" that are important for us today: 1) the Christian's faith is not founded upon speculation; 2) we cannot live spiritually on uncertainties; and, 3) we have responsibilities regarding the "exact truth".

No Speculation

The New Testament writers did not record what they thought, or supposed might have happened. There is no speculation in their writings. They recorded the facts of history. For example, John wrote about what he saw (John 19:35; 20:30-31; 21:24; 1 John 1:1-3) and Peter wrote about what he saw (2 Peter 1:16-18). Note some of the

words in Luke's preface that point to the certainty of the Christian's faith:

- "fulfilled" (Greek *plerophoreo*, to bring in full measure); "having been fully carried out" (Nestle); see Romans 4:21; 14:5; 2 Timothy 4:5,17)
- "eyewitnesses" (Greek *autoptes*, to see with one's own eyes); used only here
- "traced" (Greek *parakoloutheo*, to follow up, is used of investigating or tracing a course of events); see 1 Timothy 4:6; 2 Timothy 2:10
- "accurately" (Greek *akribos*, accurate, pointed); see Matthew 2:8; Acts 18:25; Ephesians 5:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:2
- "know" (Greek *epiginosko*, to observe, fully perceive, notice attentively, discern, recognize)
- "certainty" (Greek *asphaleia*, not liable to fall, firm; hence, denoting safety); see Acts 5:23; 1 Thessalonians 5:3

Luke writes with accuracy. His record of history, geography, and first-century practices are all accurate. The Christian's faith, then, is based upon the historical Jesus. The historical record of Luke is based upon eyewitness testimony and facts. The eyewitnesses anticipated no personal gain from what they said; only death. They lived and died for what they heard and saw. They did so because it was true!

The historical Jesus also has a personal bearing on each of us. The book of Acts demonstrates how the historical Jesus influenced the world; some believed, others disbelieved. What about Theophilus? What about you? Will you believe and obey Jesus? You must understand that faith is not a "leap into the dark." Faith is based upon reliable "evidence" (Hebrews 11:1, KJV).

No Uncertainties

There are no doubts and no uncertainties at all concerning the truthfulness of anything related to the life of Jesus from beginning to end.

Note the phrase in Luke's preface: "to write it out for you in consecutive order" (Luke 1:3, NASV). In Luke's gospel, we have a logical and chronological arrangement of the life of Jesus from his birth to his ascension (see also Acts 1:1).

Today, you must know what you believe. Some are saying that you cannot know for certain concerning spiritual truths. You need to be "open-minded", they say. But, their teaching becomes "open-ended", confusing, and untruthful.

God, however, wants all men and women to know the truth (1 Timothy 2:4). You can know the truth (John 8:32; Philippians 1:9; Colossians 1:6,9,10; 2:2; 3:10; Philemon 6; 1 Timothy 4:3; Hebrews 10:26). — *continued on other side*