

## Outline for August 15, 2010 Luke 1:1-4

Introduction: Dr. Luke's gospel is the longest of the gospels and when placed with Acts comprises over one quarter of the New Testament. He is both theologian and historian. He does not blur the facts of history to do theology and his theology is supported by the history which he writes. As I. Howard Marshall suggests, "It is better to refer to Dr. Luke as an evangelist who, in writing his account of the life of Jesus, does so as an historian and theologian."

### I. Luke's preface and the introduction of John the Baptist and Jesus

#### A. Preface: Luke carefully builds on precedents (1:1-4)

##### 1. Luke's expository procedure in writing his gospel (1:1-2)

###### a. The task at hand

###### (1) "to compile a narrative"

- "narrative" – a declaration, an orderly exposition of what Jesus said and did (Acts 1:1)
- "many" – refers to the apostles, the "eyewitnesses and ministers of the word"

###### (2) "the things accomplished among us"

- "accomplished" – what was done in time past yet continues in present time, that which was fulfilled and completed in and by Christ, the decisive events of salvation completed and perfected in Christ (John 20:31; II Peter 1:16-19; Acts 1:1-3)
- "among us" – This work of Christ was not done in private or behind closed doors, but openly and publicly for all to see

###### b. The tradition of those who saw and spoke these "things"

###### (1) "from the beginning" – from the beginning there were "eyewitnesses and ministers of the word" who both spoke and wrote what they saw and heard

###### (2) "delivered them" – handed them over, thus Luke's gospel is firmly founded upon the faithfulness of "eyewitness and ministers of the word", the apostles, directed by the Holy Spirit

##### 2. Luke's explicit purpose in writing to Theophilus

###### a. To encourage and confirm Theophilus in the faith and in his pursuit of the Lord

###### (1) "Theophilus" – a close and dear friend of Dr. Luke's and a disciple of Christ growing in his faith

###### (2) "followed all things closely"

- Dr. Luke investigated all the matters of the life of Jesus carefully
- He diligently examined all of the facts
- He thoroughly pursued the truth about Jesus for some time

###### (3) "to write an orderly account"

###### b. To affirm Theophilus in his relationship to Christ

###### (1) That Theophilus might have absolute certainty in the finished work of God

###### (2) That he might have absolute clarity in the content of the gospel

###### (3) That he would have absolute confidence and assurance in the person and work of Jesus

APPLICATION: What do I mean when I say, "Go hard after God?" Dr. Luke gives us clear direction.

1. A thorough reading of the text, investigating the person of Christ through the Word.
2. A diligent pursuit of the truth. An examination of all the events from the birth of Jesus onward.
3. A passionate desire for certainty – the assurance of faith. Not being careless in our approach to salvation and the things of God.
4. A worshipful submission to the Lord Jesus – treasuring Christ by guarding and defending the truth, delighting in the person of Christ, esteeming the value of Christ above all else and following Christ wherever He leads.