

# Friday Night Sunday School

## Luke

by Ty Robinson  
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The Apostle Paul wrote the following: 1 CORINTHIANS 4:16 *Wherefore I beseech you, be ye followers of me*. 1 CORINTHIANS 11:1 *Be ye followers of me, even as I also am of Christ*. PHILIPPIANS 3:17 *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample*. That word “mark” used here is number 4648 in The Strong’s Greek Concordance, skopeo {skop-eh'-o}, and the usage here means: to be observing of those who walk after the example of the Apostle Paul, and his fellow-workers, so as to follow their ways. In other words, mark the racecourse runners that are running to win the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. The Apostle Paul’s objective was to “win Christ” according to PHILIPPIANS 3:8, and not to “win Christ” as his Saviour, for Jesus Christ was already Paul’s Saviour, but rather to “win Christ” as Bridegroom. Paul’s greatest desire was to marry Jesus, and his encouragement to us here in PHILIPPIANS 3:17 was to “...mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample.” In 2 CORINTHIANS 5:7 Paul wrote how we are to walk, writing: *(For we walk by faith, not by sight:)*. We are to be New Testament worthies of faith. Paul also wrote that we are to: “...walk in newness of life...” in ROMANS 6:4; “...walk in the Spirit...” GALATIANS 5:16 & 25; “...walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us...” EPHESIANS 5:2; and to “...walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God;” ...COLOSSIANS 1:10. Furthermore in HEBREWS 6:11 & 12 Paul wrote: *And we desire that every one of you do shew the same diligence to the full assurance of hope unto the end: 12 That ye be not slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises*. One more similar encouragement is found in HEBREWS 13:5-8, which I will read from a literal Greek translation. HEBREWS 13:5 *(Set your) way of life without money-loving, being satisfied with present things; for He has said, “Not will I leave you, nor will I forsake you, never!”* (DEUTERONOMY 31:6) 6 *So that we may confidently say, “(The) Lord (is) my helper, and I will not be afraid. What shall man do unto me?* 7 *Remember your leaders who spoke the Word of God to you, considering the issue of (their) conduct, imitate (their) faith: 8 Jesus Christ, the same yesterday and today, even to the ages*. It is with this kind of Godly encouragement that we are to be followers of Paul, as he followed Christ.

To follow Paul as he followed Christ one needs to learn, and know Paul’s gospel message. To truly do so is a lifetime achievement. To win Christ the award. Why are we to follow Paul Gospel message? ROMANS 1:16 & 17 gives us an answer. ROMANS 1:16 *For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ: for it is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth; to the Jew first, and also to the Greek. 17 For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith*. At the conclusion of ROMANS Paul wrote: ROMANS 16:25 *Now to him that is of power to stablish you according to my gospel, and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret since the world began, 26 But now is made manifest, and by the scriptures of the prophets, according to the commandment of the everlasting God, made known to all nations for the obedience of faith: 27 To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever. Amen*. One of the greatest mysteries still hidden from most of God’s people, yet plainly stated in Paul’s gospel record is the mystery of the Bride of Christ, which is constantly expounded in sermons, and lessons here at Living Waters Tabernacle.

One more portion of Paul’s scripture to finish introducing the topic of the next few lessons, as the Lord leads, takes us to 2 TIMOTHY 4, the last chapter written by the Apostle Paul, and according to the time table of Coneybeare and Howson, 2 TIMOTHY was written in the Spring of 68 A.D. In this 4<sup>th</sup> chapter Paul is encouraging Timothy to keep looking for the appearing of the Lord Jesus Christ, and to continue to preach the gospel, Paul’s gospel message that Timothy learned first hand from the Apostle Paul. Paul then writes in 2 TIMOTHY 4:6 *For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. 7 I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have*

*kept the faith: 8 Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing.* Paul knew his time on earth was nearly over as he wrote this. Then note these next three verses that we will read: 2 TIMOTHY 4:9 *Do thy diligence to come shortly unto me: 10 For Demas hath forsaken me, having loved this present world, and is departed unto Thessalonica; Crescens to Galatia, Titus unto Dalmatia. 11 Only Luke is with me. Take Mark, and bring him with thee: for he is profitable to me for the ministry.* Please note in verse 10 that Crescens and Titus didn't forsake Paul, but Demas did. There is a sermon or two about Demas found in verse 10, which can be summed up by noting that at the end of Paul's life, Demas had forsaken Paul! Demas had the same opportunities that Luke, and Mark did, but we find his downfall was that he *...having loved this present world...* didn't have the vision that old Abraham had, who according to HEBREWS 11:10 *...looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.* Paul wrote to Titus in TITUS 2:13 to be *...Looking for that blessed hope, and the glorious appearing of the great God and our Saviour Jesus Christ.* Paul's vision was on the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Demas couldn't get his eyes off this present evil world, which he loved more than the things of God. Don't be a Demas, but rather be a follower of Paul! The encouragement written to Timothy by Paul in verse 11 was to come as soon as possible up to Rome, and bring Mark with him. So we find at the end of Paul's life only Luke was with him, and that Mark was profitable to Paul for the ministry! This 11<sup>th</sup> verse speaks volumes, and is really the starting point of our next few studies, as the Lord guides us through this pandemic, and we do Friday night Sunday school. We are going to study some things about Luke, and perhaps also little bit about Mark.

Before we learn some things about Luke please take note that Timothy, Luke and Mark were all fellow laborers with Paul late in Paul's ministry, and we also find this in PHILEMON the little letter before HEBREWS. Again according to the extensive research of Coneybeare and Howson the little epistle to PHILEMON was written from Rome by Paul during his first Roman imprisonment in the spring of 62 A.D. as was COLOSSIANS and EPHESIANS. Coneybeare and Howson write that PHILIPPIANS was written in the autumn of 62 A.D. All of these dates are a little different than what is found in the Scofield Bible. And since Paul didn't write a date on his letters the debate continues as to when each one of his epistles was written. The date of the letters isn't what is important, but the content is. I like to go with the timetable of Coneybeare and Howson for some perspective of when these epistles were written. In PHILEMON verse 24 Paul writes of: *Marcus, Aristarchus, Demas, Lucas, my fellowlabourers.* Marcus is another name Mark, who is also the author of the gospel of MARK. Here in PHILEMON verse 24 we find Marcus in association with Lucas as being fellow laborers with the Apostle Paul. Lucas is contracted from Latin Lucanus, and is another name for Luke. Luke and Lucas means: "light-giving." This is very appropriate, for Luke shed light on many thoughts, and themes, and lives that we otherwise would know nothing about, and he does so in The Gospel According to LUKE, and The ACTS of the Apostles, and we will cover some of these points a little deeper in this study, Lord willing. As a fellow labourer in the gospel with the Apostle Paul, what wonderful hours of fellowship Luke and Mark must have shared with our Apostle Paul. Please also take note that they, Luke and Mark, were followers together of the Apostle Paul, who literally walked in the footsteps of Paul, who were taught Paul's gospel message from the mouth of the Apostle Paul himself, and thus they both knew, and also taught Paul's gospel message, not as Pastors, but as teachers, and more so as Holy Ghost inspired writers of scripture. Neither Mark nor Luke were Apostles, but rather followers of the Apostle Paul. We can safely say they were men of faith, and men full of the Holy Ghost, who also inspired them, and gave them the ability to write their gospel records, perhaps even with the encouragement of the Apostle Paul. We know that the Apostle Paul wrote fourteen epistles in the New Testament, and now we see Paul's Holy Ghost inspired influence in MARK, LUKE, and the book of ACTS. And again we note that Luke, and Mark were profitable to Paul for the ministry, so we know that they also encouraged Paul as they followed him as he followed Christ!

Focusing in now on Luke, we have now looked at two of the three scriptures where Paul mentions Luke, and the third scripture is found in COLOSSIANS 4, which was written approximately in the same time period as PHILEMON, and about six months before PHILIPPIANS. We are going to read some verses in COLOSSIANS 4 where Paul acknowledges several fellow servants, and fellow laborers that were with him when he wrote the epistle to the COLOSSIANS. COLOSSIANS 4:7 *All my state shall Tychicus declare unto you, who is a beloved brother, and a faithful minister and fellowservant in the Lord: 8 Whom I have sent unto you for the same purpose, that he might know your estate, and comfort your hearts; 9 With Onesimus, a faithful and beloved brother, who is one of you. They shall make known unto you all things which are done here. 10 Aristarchus my fellowprisoner saluteth you, and Marcus, {Mark} sister's son to Barnabas, (touching whom ye received commandments: if he come unto you, receive him;) 11 And Jesus, which is called Justus, who are of the circumcision. These only are my fellowworkers unto the kingdom of God, which have been a comfort unto me.* Pausing here for a moment we find that the above-mentioned men are all noted to be Jews (Israelites) because there were of the circumcision. As we read on here in COLOSSIANS 4 we find some more people listed not of the circumcision, thus they would be Gentiles. COLOSSIANS 4:12 *Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, always labouring fervently for you in prayers, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. 13 For I bear him record, that he hath a great zeal for you, and them that are in Laodicea, and them in Hierapolis. 14 Luke, the beloved physician, and Demas, greet you.* Take note that Luke was a Gentile.

COLOSSIANS 4:14 states one of the more enlightening things written in scripture about Luke, where Paul calls *...Luke, the beloved physician*. Of course we know that Paul knew our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ to be the Great Physician, *...who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;... 1 TIMOTHY 6:15, and ...the LORD that healeth thee... ...Who forgiveth all thine iniquities; who healeth all thy diseases;... who ...healeth the broken in heart, and bindeth up their wounds...* as is recorded in EXODUS 15:26; PSALMS 103:3, and PSALMS 147:3. Paul acknowledged that Luke was “beloved,” which is to say esteemed dear unto Paul, and worthy of love because of Luke’s love of Christ, and truly Luke loved the Apostle Paul, and followed him until the end. Oh, and by the way, Paul is saying that not only is Luke “beloved,” but his credentials also include that of being a “physician.” So we see that Luke was a “physician,” “beloved” of Paul. A modern day physician would get worn out reading Paul’s past medical history, and by 62 A.D. when COLOSSIANS was written Paul had suffered all of the things recorded in 2 CORINTHIANS 11, including the 195 stripes laid on him by the Jews, being stoned, and left for dead once, three times being beaten with rods, numerous perils, plus the ship wreck of ACTS 27, and the poisonous viper bite of ACTS 28:4! No doubt Paul was left scarred, and a hurting man until the day he died, and to have a beloved friend with him, who was also a physician, brought much comfort to the Apostle Paul. Luke was with out a doubt a real blessing unto the Apostle Paul. On commentator notes that Luke was probably taught the science of medicine, which knowledge combined with faith in the Lord provided much aid and comfort to the Apostle Paul. For some of Paul’s health problems Luke became Paul’s medical advisor, and thus Luke earned the moniker “the beloved physician.” Luke was like a medical missionary, especially to the Apostle Paul.

We have now looked at the three scriptures where Paul references Luke, but we do know some more things about Luke, and his following Paul as Paul followed Christ, and we know this information from what Luke himself wrote in the 28 chapters of ACTS. And let me make a quick mention that Luke in the gospel of LUKE, and in the book of ACTS was more like a historian, or a reporter, who set out events in chronological order starting with the birth of John to Baptist to the Apostle Paul arriving in Rome, and these events covered approximately sixty years. Luke was a personal witness to some of these events starting in ACTS 16, where we read of him joining Paul in the middle of Paul’s second missionary journey, and Luke then becomes an eye-witness reporter for a while. Luke’s style of writing about events he eye witnessed are not told with the words “I,” “me,” and “myself,” but rather he casually mentions that he was traveling with Paul by using the words

“we,” and “us.” Luke uses the words “we” and “us” several times in his writings in reference in part to himself, and as he does so we see Luke as a team player, and not the center of attention. Luke never focuses the attention upon himself in his writing. Thus we know very little about him, but I think we can safely say that Luke was a humble man with a clear focus upon the important things of God, and was willing to share what he knew.

We first read of Luke when he joined up with the Apostle Paul part way through his second missionary journey in ACTS 16:10 when Paul was at Troas. Paul was several months into this second missionary when Luke writes in ACTS 16:8 *And they passing by Mysia came down to Troas.* The “they” in ACTS 16:8 is a reference to the Apostle Paul, and Silas, and Timothy, who had been traveling together for several months. ACTS 16:9 *And a vision appeared to Paul in the night; There stood a man of Macedonia, and prayed him, saying, Come over into Macedonia, and help us. 10 And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavoured to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us for to preach the gospel unto them.* In ACTS 16:10 note the words “we” and “us” used in this verse. It shows the author of ACTS, Luke, had now joined up with Paul during his second missionary travels. Later in this study, Lord willing, I will connect the dots to show the who, what, when, and where of how Luke knew Paul. The one thing I can’t explain is to how Luke caught up with Paul, and Silas, and Timothy here at Troas. The communication as to how this happened is not revealed in scripture. The point we are noting here in ACTS 16:10 is that this is where Luke begins writing a first person account in the book of ACTS. Let’s read a few more verses. ACTS 16:11 *Therefore loosing from Troas, we came with a straight course to Samothracia, and the next day to Neapolis; 12 And from thence to Philippi, which is the chief city of that part of Macedonia, and a colony: and we were in that city abiding certain days. 13 And on the sabbath we went out of the city by a river side, where prayer was wont to be made; and we sat down, and spake unto the women which resorted thither. 14 And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul. 15 And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

On your own please read the rest of the chapter of ACTS 16 all of which takes place at Philippi. Luke tells the story of how the church at Philippi was established by the Apostle Paul in ACTS 16. The year was 52 A.D. In ACTS 16:40 we read: *And they went out of the prison, and entered into the house of Lydia: and when they had seen the brethren, they comforted them, and departed.* The “they” that went out of the prison at Philippi were Paul and Silas. It was Paul and Silas who comforted the brethren at the house of Lydia. Among the brethren would have been Luke. Who departed Philippi in ACTS 16:40? Study the first 15 verses of ACTS 17, and you will see that Paul, and Silas, and Timothy were again traveling together, but what about Luke? Luke doesn’t write any more first hand accounts until ACTS 20:5 & 6. Let’s read these verses. ACTS 20:5 *These going before tarried for us at Troas. 6 And we sailed away from Philippi after the days of unleavened bread, and came unto them to Troas in five days; where we abode seven days.* The year now is 58 A.D., and this event was at the end of Paul’s third missionary journey. Note where Luke was when he rejoined Paul; he was at Philippi, or perhaps we could say Luke was still at Philippi. Had Luke spent the better part of six years at Philippi? It appears that he did, and if this was the case, Luke would have been the main guy there at Philippi who could have expounded to the Philippian Saints Paul’s gospel! When the Apostle Paul later wrote in PHILIPPIANS 3:17 *Brethren, be followers together of me, and mark them which walk so as ye have us for an ensample...* do you think the Philippian Saints immediately thought of Luke as one of them to mark? Again that word “mark” used here is number 4648 in The Strong’s Greek Concordance, skopeo {skop-eh'-o}, and the usage here means: to be observing of those who walk after the example of the Apostle Paul, and his fellow-workers, so as to follow their ways. Luke was this kind of example.