



Staff Corner – Greg Spires – Teaching Pastor

Is This For Me?

This Sunday, January 9, we will begin our study of the Gospel of Luke. As you would expect, the Gospel of Luke tells us about the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus so that sinners would find forgiveness through faith in Him. But the opening paragraph of the Gospel of Luke also reminds us that Luke has a particular audience in mind.

Luke 1:3-4 reads, "...it seemed good to me also, having followed all things closely for some time past, to write an orderly account for you, most excellent Theophilus, that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."

First, we notice that Luke is writing this account for Theophilus. We don't know much about Theophilus. But we know he needed certainty (which he appeared to be lacking). Also, Theophilus is likely a Gentile.

Second, Luke tells us that his goal is to provide Theophilus with certainty about what he has been taught. Theophilus knew the Gospel and had been taught about Jesus. But now, the faith of Theophilus was on shaky ground.

Why would Luke's Gentile friend need help in having certainty about the life of Jesus and the Gospel?

The content of the Gospel of Luke (and its companion, Acts) makes it clear. Unlike the other Gospels, Luke wants to demonstrate that the work of Jesus isn't just for the Jews; it is for Gentiles who trust Him too.

Maybe you have had that experience where you showed up to an event and figured out pretty quickly that you didn't fit in. Perhaps you weren't dressed the way others were for the event. Or, maybe you thought there would be people at the event you knew, but they weren't there. In that awkward moment, our thoughts generally turn to, "How quickly can I get out of here?"

Theophilus was in a similarly awkward situation. He found life and forgiveness in Jesus. However, as a Gentile, he felt like an outsider among all of his Jewish brothers and sisters. Even though faith in Jesus made Theophilus a child of God, when he spent time with others, he felt like most of us would, "How quickly can I get out of here?"

So Luke gives us his Gospel, the Gospel for outsiders, to give us certainty. Certainty of what? First, certainty that Jesus is God who saves sinners. Second, that when we trust Jesus, we are no longer outsiders. Through faith in Jesus, outsiders become insiders!

I look forward to being with you this Sunday as we celebrate the work of God in Jesus Christ together! This Sunday, we seek God through His Word in Luke 1:1-45.

Praying with you,

Greg



**Join us for an
Informational Lunch
on Sunday, January 9
Room 128**

13 Week Study starting
Monday, February 7
6:00- 8:00 pm - Room 128

Questions? Call
Mike or Happy Mansfield
at 541-770-5118.

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SUN, JANUARY 9

9:00 AM - ADULT, STUDENT AND KIDS CLASSES
10:30 AM - WORSHIP SERVICE
12:00 PM SECOND SUNDAYS GRIEF SHARE INFO LUNCH

MON, JANUARY 10

6:30 PM - WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

WED, JANUARY 12

9:30 AM - MOMS GROUP

6:30 PM

AWANA
STUDENT MINISTRY
FBC WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY

THURS, JANUARY 13

9:00 AM - WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY BEGINS

JANUARY 14-16 - MEN'S RETREAT

If you have questions on any of our activities, you can view our calendar online at:
<https://www.fbcmedford.org/calendar.html>
or call the church office at 541-779-8855.

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