

“The Gospel of Knowing For Sure”

Why Luke Wrote His Magnum Opus

Luke 1:1-4

Doubt. It gnaws away little by little at the soul. To be sure there are times that Christianity makes all the sense in the world ... Yet there are also times when, as Roger White so aptly put it, ‘a mosquito buzzes around my faith.’ – the mosquito of doubt.”¹ That’s precisely why Luke “carefully investigated” and tracked down the eyewitness accounts. Look at his “magnum opus” *and his _____* and be strengthened. Seek the FULL ASSURANCE of faith Luke so wanted for his good friend Theophilus (v3)!

I. Luke the _____ (v 1-2)

1. The Gospel omits his _____. But Luke-Acts contains the “_____ sections.”
2. A fellow worker (Philemon 24), beloved physician (Col. 4:14), possibly referred to in 2 Cor. 8:18. Present with Paul in his _____ imprisonment (2 Ti. 4:11).
3. Eusebius (290s A.D.): “Luke was by race an _____, a physician by profession.”

II. Just the _____ (v 3a)

1. Mark is a storyteller, John a philosopher, Luke an _____.
2. His record required painstaking _____. He had _____ (Acts 21:15).
3. The research itself was directed by _____..

III. Getting _____ (v 3b)

1. Arrange Luke’s Gospel in your _____ and _____. Jesus’ words (Lu. 4:17-21).
2. A three-part _____ (19:10): “[I] came to seek and to save what was lost.”
3. Ryken’s outline: The _____ of the Son of Man (1:1-4:13); The _____ of the Son of Man (4:14-9:50) The _____ (or Rejection) of the Son of Man (9:51-19:27); The _____ of the Son of Man (19:28-24:53).

IV. The _____ of Faith (v 4)

1. Addressed to THEO-PHILUS (“Beloved of God”) and to you!
2. To everyone who loves _____ and is loved _____.
3. Don’t yet have full assurance? That’s why Luke conducted his investigation!

¹ Phil Ryken *Luke* in the Reformed Expository Commentary series is our study resource.