THEN MY ENEMIES WILL TURN BACK IN THE DAY WHEN I CALL; THIS I KNOW, THAT GOD IS FOR ME



Brethren fellowshiping following Lord's Day morning assembly Christ's Church Bozeman, MT

"When Jesus had said this, He spat on the ground, and made clay of the spittle, and applied the clay to the blind man's eyes."

John 9:6



<u>Great Falls -</u> Potluck today!

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Bible Bowl - Sat. Mar. 13 at Bozeman MT Ladies' Advance April 8-10 - Billings ladies Badlands Family Camp - May 28-31 Men's PEAKS - July 22-24, 2021 2021 Family Camp - Sept. 3-6



Question of the week:

In Mark chapters 8,9, and 10, it is recorded in each chapter that Jesus would be rejected by the Jews and would suffer and rise again. Who else does the account in chapter 10 bring in?

Last week's question: According to the Israelite calendar, what day was the Day of Atonement? Answer: The seventh month and the tenth day (roughly mid-September) (Leviticus 16:29).

ATTENDANCE LAST WEEK:

Bible School – 77	Wednesday Night (3/3) —98
Morning Assembly – 98	Butte Lord's Day – 18
Evening Assembly – 64	GF Lord's Day (<i>Wed</i>) – 58,78, <i>W-51</i>



Acts Alive ...

Luke, The Beloved Physician

We first meet Luke in the inspired record in the city of Troas. At Troas—on the western coast of what is now Turkey, near the ruins of the ancient city of Troy—we find a subtle shift in pronouns, and this slight murnur is the humble introduction of the author of Acts. Speaking of Paul, Timothy, and Silas, Luke says that "*they* came down to Troas." Two verses later the pronoun shift occurs: "Immediately *we* sought to go into Macedonia." Possibly Luke was converted to Christ in Troas, and made a decision on the spot to follow Paul. Of the conversion of Luke we know little; of his character, much. Luke is the largest single contributor to the writing of the New

Testament, with his gospel account and the book of Acts comprising over 25% of the total, just slightly more than Paul. Luke, in his opening declamation to Theophilus, said that "it seemed fitting to me as well, having *investigated everything carefully* from the beginning, to write it out for you in consecutive order" (Luke 1:13). His investigation was so complete, and his account was so accurate (with the backing of the Holy Spirit) that God thus chose to feature Luke's works as such major contributions to the New Testament display.

Through Luke's gospel account we have the record of the angel's announcement to the priest Zacharias concerning the birth of John the Immerser. Luke alone details the appearance of Gabriel to the humble hand-maid Mary, informing her that she would be overshadowed by the Holy Spirit and give birth to the Son, Jesus. Through the physician's recordings, we are allowed to visit the manger wherein the Savior was born, and to hear the words of the angel, that he had "good news of a great joy which shall be for *all the people.*" Through Luke, we have that small but precious picture of Jesus as a twelve- year-old boy—tremendously intelligent, studied, and very interested in the things of God. The conscientious historian, who clearly used

the apostle Paul as one of his great resources, gave us many details not recorded in the other gospel accounts, such as Jesus' telling us about the rich man in Hades' agony, and the poor man Lazarus in Abraham's bosom. We have through his gospel account the Lord's asking forgiveness for the soldiers whose duty it was to crucify Him, the important record of "the thief on the cross," and of the men "on the road to Emmaus" following Christ's bodily resurrection from the dead. It was this author who recorded that Jesus

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said "repentance for [*and* in some versions] forgiveness of sins should be proclaimed in His name *to all the nations*, beginning from Jerusalem."

Luke closes his account by mentioning Jesus' ascension, and that the disciples in the days that followed "were continually in the temple, praising God." The stage was thus set for the marvelous sequel, the book of Acts!

Luke, called by Paul "the beloved physician" (Colossians 4:14), was left by Paul to labor for a number of years in Philippi while the others pressed the work forward in the rest of Greece. The result was that the church in Philippi was a generous congregation, sending money time and again to Paul as he preached the word in the depths of Macedonia and Achaia. "No church," said Paul, "shared with me in the matter of giving and receiving but you alone; for even in Thessalonica you sent a gift more than once for my needs" (Philippians 4:15,16). The church at Philippi also developed the only scripturally recorded set of elders on the European continent. These attributes of the Philippians stand as enduring testimonies of the quality of Luke's labor and leadership.

The last inspired letter Paul wrote was the book of II Timothy. As Paul approached the end of his earthly existence, he wrote these somewhat mournful words: "Only Luke is with me" (II Timothy 4:11). Luke, the careful researcher, clear thinker, logical writer, and Paul's fellow worker, was also a consistent man who stood with Paul through his imprisonments until his death. Many of us would do well to imitate the character and consistency of "the beloved physician."

JAY WILSON