

WHAT IS CHRISTMAS ALL ABOUT?

Believe!

Luke 1:1-4

This month our Sermon Series has been entitled, “What Is Christmas All About?”

- Matthew – Family – 42 generations of the Family Tree including some well-known names like David, Abraham, Jesse and some that were not so familiar,
- Mark – Prepare – the first 8 verses of this Gospel deals not with the Messiah but rather His forerunner, John The Baptist who came to prepare the way for the Messiah.
 - John’s key 1-word message would be “repent”.

Today, we move to the 3rd Gospel penned by Luke.

Luke 1:1-4

Luke:

- Introduces us to a man by the name of “most excellent Theophilus”.
 - His name means “lover of God”.
 - He is probably a Roman Official who had come to faith in Christ.
 - Now he needs to be instructed in his new-found faith.
 - In verse #4 - Taught – instructed – in the original language means – someone who is being taught the basics of Christianity.
- Many had taken on the task to compile or put together an account of the things that were done among us:
 - Some were handed down.
 - Some were accounts by eye witnesses.
- Luke says it seemed fitting for me to write one as well.
 - Having investigated everything carefully.
 - From the beginning.
 - To write it out in consecutive order.
- Why
 - So that you may know the exact truth about the things you have been taught.

So, what would Luke say that Christmas is all about?

- Believe – but know why you believe it Theophilus.
 - Christianity does not say “close your eyes and believe, but rather check it out for yourselves.”
 - Trust
 - Have faith in.
 - Be certain of.
 - Have confidence in.
 - Accept as true.

Jesus’ Parable Of The Sower – **Luke 8:4-8** - To summarize the point of the Parable of the Sower: “A man’s reception of God’s Word is determined by the condition of his heart.” A secondary lesson would be “Salvation is more than a superficial, albeit joyful, hearing of the gospel. Someone who is truly saved will go on to prove it.”

In his book “Gospel Reset – Salvation Made Relevant”, Ken Ham says that America’s Research Group:

- **If you attended Church regularly as a child, do you still attend most Sundays, or did you stop attending?**
 - 22% of people over 60 have stopped attending regularly.
 - But with the Millennial Generation (born between 1982 and 2002) 53 % have stopped attending regularly.
 - Why
 - #1 reason – we have not shown them how to defend their faith.
 - **Philippians 2:12 - 13** - First, the Greek verb rendered “work out” means to continually work to bring something to completion or fruition.
 - **Philippians 3:12-14**
 - **II Timothy 2:15**

Notice where Dr. Luke takes Theophilus next, into the lives of 2 individuals.

- Zacharias – Priest
- Mary – A virgin

Zacharias:

- Righteous in the sight of the Lord.
- Walking blamelessly in the commandments.
- Childless / Advanced in years.
- Then his faith is pushed.

- Luke 1:18

On the heels of this Dr. Luke takes Theophilus to a virgin by the name of Mary.

- Engaged
- Then her faith is pushed.
- Luke 1:37 - 38

The late great American jurist, judge, author, and Christian apologist, Simon Greenleaf, once said: "*There should be a readiness on our part, to investigate with candor to follow the truth wherever it may lead us, and to submit, without reserve or objection, to all the teachings of this religion, if it be found to be of Divine origin.*"

What is it that you believe?

If you were pushed, could you defend it?