

The Stories That Remain

Certainty

Pastor Craig Sweeney | March 19, 2023

Thread: Certainty of the Truth will still require your FAITH.

“Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.” Luke 1:1 – 4 NLT

- Luke is a doctor by training, a companion of Paul on his missionary journeys, and with Paul for his imprisonment in Rome.
- A scroll this size...
- Theophilus is most likely a Roman official of very high rank - “most honorable.”
- We know why he wrote it - “so you can be certain of the truth”

“It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.” Luke 3:1 – 3 NLT

- I can love my house the way it is to my detriment.

“Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, ‘He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him! The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth. And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.’” Luke 3:4–6 NLT

- Nothing will get in the way of seeing Him if you want to see Him.

“When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, ‘You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.’ The crowds asked, ‘What should we do?’ John replied, ‘If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.’ Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He replied, ‘Collect no more taxes than the government requires.’ ‘What should we do?’ asked some soldiers. John replied, ‘Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.’” Luke 3:7 – 14 NLT

- Some of us need a RESET; we need the mess cleaned up.

Challenge:

-How certain are we that LIFE WITH JESUS is what we want? Our faith is the “tell.”

-How certain are we that RESCUE is what we DESIRE?

- Engage your faith and obedience will follow.



**DEVOTIONALS
& MESSAGE
RESOURCES**

The Stories That Remain

Certainty

Pastor Craig Sweeney | March 19, 2023

Thread: Certainty of the Truth will still require your FAITH.

“Many people have set out to write accounts about the events that have been fulfilled among us. They used the eyewitness reports circulating among us from the early disciples. Having carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I also have decided to write an accurate account for you, most honorable Theophilus, so you can be certain of the truth of everything you were taught.” Luke 1:1 – 4 NLT

- Luke is a doctor by training, a companion of Paul on his missionary journeys, and with Paul for his imprisonment in Rome.
- A scroll this size...
- Theophilus is most likely a Roman official of very high rank - “most honorable.”
- We know why he wrote it - “so you can be certain of the truth”

“It was now the fifteenth year of the reign of Tiberius, the Roman emperor. Pontius Pilate was governor over Judea; Herod Antipas was ruler over Galilee; his brother Philip was ruler over Iturea and Traconitis; Lysanias was ruler over Abilene. Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. At this time a message from God came to John son of Zechariah, who was living in the wilderness. Then John went from place to place on both sides of the Jordan River, preaching that people should be baptized to show that they had repented of their sins and turned to God to be forgiven.” Luke 3:1 – 3 NLT

- I can love my house the way it is to my detriment.

“Isaiah had spoken of John when he said, ‘He is a voice shouting in the wilderness, ‘Prepare the way for the Lord’s coming! Clear the road for him! The valleys will be filled, and the mountains and hills made level. The curves will be straightened, and the rough places made smooth. And then all people will see the salvation sent from God.’” Luke 3:4–6 NLT

- Nothing will get in the way of seeing Him if you want to see Him.

“When the crowds came to John for baptism, he said, ‘You brood of snakes! Who warned you to flee the coming wrath? Prove by the way you live that you have repented of your sins and turned to God. Don’t just say to each other, ‘We’re safe, for we are descendants of Abraham.’ That means nothing, for I tell you, God can create children of Abraham from these very stones. Even now the ax of God’s judgment is poised, ready to sever the roots of the trees. Yes, every tree that does not produce good fruit will be chopped down and thrown into the fire.’ The crowds asked, ‘What should we do?’ John replied, ‘If you have two shirts, give one to the poor. If you have food, share it with those who are hungry.’ Even corrupt tax collectors came to be baptized and asked, ‘Teacher, what should we do?’ He replied, ‘Collect no more taxes than the government requires.’ ‘What should we do?’ asked some soldiers. John replied, ‘Don’t extort money or make false accusations. And be content with your pay.’” Luke 3:7 – 14 NLT

- Some of us need a RESET; we need the mess cleaned up.

Challenge:

-How certain are we that LIFE WITH JESUS is what we want? Our faith is the “tell.”

-How certain are we that RESCUE is what we DESIRE?

- Engage your faith and obedience will follow.



**DEVOTIONALS
& MESSAGE
RESOURCES**