

Certainty... in a world of doubt

The Gospel of Luke

desert breeze
community church



Sunday, December 18, 2016 Ray Davis

CHRISTMAS GIFTS Luke 1:57-80 "Blessing"

God is always for us because in Christ our sins can never be held against us and this is what ultimately transforms us (Rom8:1, 31-32). It's not a changed life that brings His blessings but it's His blessings that bring a changed life. Therefore, how critical is it to our spiritual wellbeing that we revel regularly in God's blessings?

Theology – Doxology = dead orthodoxy

Doxology – Theology = Idolatry

Theology + Doxology = Life Liberating & Soul Satisfying Psychology (Jn4:23-24)!

The Birth of John the Baptist

Verses 57-66

What do you do when unbelief is creeping in and anxiety and bitterness is taking over? You need to learn how to bask in His blessings!

Zechariah's Prophecy

Blessed be the Lord God who has...

Verses 67-71 Jesus fulfills the Davidic Covenant (2Sam7:11b-16)

In every case where someone is Spirit-filled in Luke's nativity account the result is worship. Called the Benedictus (Blessing) because that's the 1st word in Latin.

- Visited us. v68b; Ps8:4; Matt1:23; John14:6
- Redeemed us. v68c; Eph1:7; 1Pet1:18-19; Hosea 3:1-5
- Raised up a horn of salvation for us. v69a; A common expression in the O.T. as a symbol of strength i.e. 2Sam22:3; Ps18:2; Deut33:17.

Verses 72-75 Jesus fulfills the Abrahamic Covenant (Gen12:1-3; 15:1-21)

- Granted us deliverance from our enemies. Eph2:1-3; 1John2:15-17
- So that we can boldly live wholly belonging to Him. Rom 8:1-4

Verses 76-79 Jesus fulfills the New Covenant (Jer31:31-34)

- Given us a rich endless supply of healing, strength, love, comfort, motivation, transformation, and fullness of life beginning with forgiveness. V77; Rom1:16; 2Cor5:17

- Because He is moved with deep affection for our total wellbeing. V78 "tender mercy"; Matt7:11; 1Jn3:1;
- Given us His presence which will dispel the darkness in our lives & give us peace. Ex33:14; Josh1:9; Ps23:4; Heb13:5-6

Verses 80

The more we grow strong in spirit the more effective we will be in preparing the way for the Lord in the lives of those around us. 2Pet3:18; 1Sam30:6

Growing Notes

1) It's not a changed life that brings God's blessings but it's His blessings that bring a changed life (Eph2:8-10). Therefore, how critical is it to our spiritual wellbeing that we revel regularly in God's blessings? What happens when we forget who God is, who we are and what we have in Him (Deut8:11-14)?

2) Pray and then Read Luke 1:57-80. Observation (What Does It Say?): Retell the story of this passage in your own words. Stick to the text and not your interpretation of the text. What stands out to you?

3) Interpretation (What Does It Mean?): Why was Zechariah mute and deaf (v20)? At what point was Zechariah's speech & hearing restored and what did he say (v64)? Why do you think God imposed this 9 mos. time of silence and solitude on him? What do we learn about God and humanity from this section of scripture?

4) Application (What Difference Does It Make?): Review Zechariah's Prophecy (vv67-89) along with corresponding eight blessings from God. Which one(s) do you find the most beneficial for where you are in life? If you really believed you were a recipient of all of these blessings what difference would it make in your life? Pray.