

Tell Me Again: The Accomplishments of Christ & God's Concern for Our Certainty

Sermon Series: **Luke: All Things New**



Series Goal

That Mercy Hill Church would be made new as we follow the One who is making all things new!



Key Text

Luke 1:1-4

→ "...that you may have certainty concerning the things you have been taught."



Big Idea

Our God is unlike any other god. He delights in reassuring us of His great love for and commitment to us. When we are struggling, He never fails to tell us again!

(1) Things Accomplished

Luke is jealous, from the very first verse of his gospel, to show Christ as the climactic fulfillment of God's plan—bringing together in His person and work all the promises, prophecies, symbols, and shadows of the Old Testament. To put it more plainly: Christ's death and resurrection inaugurate the fulfillment of the entire Old Testament anticipation! Of this, Luke wants Theophilus to be certain.

(2) Things Delivered

But how do these accomplishments get to us? Where did Luke get them to give to Theophilus? In vv. 1-3 we see essentially 3 stages of delivery. The historical order of this delivery moves: (1) from Christ to eyewitnesses; (2) from these eyewitnesses to Luke and his contemporaries; and (3) from Luke, in particular, to Theophilus, and us. And, intriguingly, certainty and assurance stand forth as the driving goal in every stage of this delivery.

(3) Things Certain

But how do we get certainty? The facts matter. Historical referentiality is critical. If Christ wasn't raised from the dead, bodily, historically, what does Paul say? Our faith is in vain! This is a joke if it's not true. So our certainty starts with historical referentiality, ordered accounts, tight arguments, human reason. But it doesn't end there. Factuality is necessary but it is not decisive. The word of the cross is foolishness to natural man. You can give me all the facts you want, but I will twist them to serve myself. We need the Word—we need Things *Accomplished* to be Things *Delivered*—but O how we also need the Spirit to open our hearts, that they might become for us Things *Certain*!



Critical Action

Build God an altar on which His fire can fall! Build Him a temple which His glory can fill! In other words, put yourself in the pathway of the Spirit by immersing yourself in the truths of God's Word. May His Spirit meet you in His Word and bring assurance to your heart of His love!



Reflection Questions

- Nick listed reasons why Theophilus might need certainty in Christ's accomplishments given his context. Why might you need certainty? Where are you prone to doubt and temptation?
- How is your certainty? How can we pray and labor together for your assurance?
- Are you building God an altar on which His fire can fall, a temple which His glory can fill? Are you in His Word, waiting for His Spirit? Describe seasons where you have done this well and not so well. What difference did it make for your assurance and joy?
- Share a resurrection story. How has Christ come to you in times of struggle and told you again of His great love for and commitment to you?