

THE BELOVED PHYSICIAN - LUKE

2 Timothy 4:11

Introduction: How does one make a statement that is mingled with happiness and sorrow at the same time? What does one say that reflects sunshine and darkness at the same time? How does one describe summer and winter simultaneously?

Paul writes about a friend deserting him, being in prison, separated from his church friends, but at the same time writes with joy that one friend has not left him and that those who are not with him are busy doing the Lord's work. *"Only Luke is with me."*

I. WHO IS LUKE?

1. Who is this friend upon whom Paul counts with such absolute assurance?
 - not flesh and blood kin
 - not of the same nationality
 - they are worshippers of the same Lord Jesus
2. When did Luke become a Christian?
 - Nobody knows.
 - It is good to know when and where you were saved, but not necessary.
 - It is well to sing, "At the Cross, where I first saw the light..." but it is better to sing, "Blessed Assurance, Jesus is Mine.."
 - What is important is that Luke was a Christian - that you ARE a Christian NOW.
3. To be told how wonderful, or beautiful, or handsome you used to be is one thing.
 - To be told how wonderful, or beautiful, or handsome you still are is very different.
 - It is one thing to remember when, where, how you were saved, but far more important is the question, "Do you know Jesus now?"

II. LUKE WAS A PHYSICIAN

1. When Luke was saved, he was a practicing physician.
 - God did not call upon him to throw away his profession and take up another one.
2. Luke's case is not special.
 - God does call some to be preachers, missionaries, etc...
 - For most, it is to continue doing the same thing, in the same way, but with a new joy.
 - Luke did not throw away his bandages and medicine, he used them to the glory of God.

3. Everyone cannot render the same service.
 - Everyone can render some service.
 - There is no end to the service when one is doing what God wants.

III. LUKE WAS A WRITER

1. Luke was a writer of great brilliancy and power.
 - 66 books in the bible
 - 64 books in the bible were written by Jews.
 - Luke wrote two books - the conquest of the early Church and one of the Gospels.
 - Luke's account of the Christmas Story is the most used today
 - Luke gave us the story of Zaccheus and the Woman who washed Jesus' feet with her hair.
 - Luke told us about the prodigal son and the story of the rich farmer who had no time to take care of his soul.
 - Luke wrote about the rich man Dives and the beggar, Lazarus.
2. Luke wrote about the universality of Christ's forgiving love and the dangers of prosperity.

IV. WHAT KIND OF A MAN WAS LUKE?

1. He was a scholar, well trained, well educated and capable of mental communication with the equally well trained, well educated and capable friend, Paul.
2. He was modest. In all his writings, one has to hunt to find anything about Luke.
3. He was lovable. Paul calls him the Beloved Physician.
 - What makes some more loveable than others? They love the most.
4. He was steadfast. He had the heart of a lion. He stood by Paul in Paul direst circumstances.

CONCLUSION

1. ***"Only Luke is with me."*** What a statement!
2. Every church has a few like Luke. The pastor learns very quickly who they are. They are the ones always there, no matter what..steadfast..dependable..They are the ones who will be watching outside the "prison cell" and will hear, "well done..."
3. ***"Only Luke is with me."*** And he is with Paul now, in the presence of their Lord.