

Greetings from the desk of Al Friend

My purpose in writing this article is that "the communication of my faith may become effectual by the acknowledging of every good thing that is in me in Christ Jesus. Philemon 6.

This article is about what I believe and the wonderful things that have happened to me because of it. I have only to prove it to myself. I can know what I know. Here I stand. I can do nothing else.

Luke was a Gentile, an alien from the commonwealth of Israel. He was without God, having no hope. In Luke 2:25-32 the old man Simeon foresaw Jesus as the one to lighten the Gentiles. Luke was an enlightened Gentile qualified to write the Gospel of Luke and the book of The Acts of the Apostles.

No man is really qualified to study the Epistles and Revelation effectively until he has mastered and experienced ~ by obeying ~ the book of Luke and the book of Acts. On these two books hang all of the Old and New Testament. The salvation of the soul that Jesus died for is pre-told in the Old Testament and referred to by Jesus himself in Luke 24:44 ~ then Fulfilled" in Acts. There is no early church to write an epistle to, until they obey what Jesus said to do. Jesus, in (The real) Great Commission given in Luke 24:45-49 said: "Repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His Name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem." Luke wrote this ~ that the world may know. This is why Christ Died.

Beginning at Jerusalem, on their Feast Day of Pentecost, the crowd was convicted in their heart because they heard Jews speaking with other tongues. Their conviction created this question: "Men and brethren, what shall we do?" Then Peter, obeying the commission of Jesus in the book of Luke, said unto them, Repent and be baptized everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. Acts 2:38. This is the message Paul preached in Acts 19: 1-7, and, the same message Paul preached everywhere in every church. See 1 Corinthians 4: 17. KJV

Understanding Luke and Acts is a prerequisite. It is a requirement to advance. It is obligatory. It is a prior condition. It is morally binding. You must understand how to get into the church before you can understand what's going on in the church. The Epistles and Revelation were written to the churches about how to live now that they are in the church. How to be saved is foretold in the book of Luke and fulfilled in the book of Acts. How to stay saved follows the book of Acts starting with the Book of Romans. The Church in Rome was started by the Romans and proselytes mentioned in Acts 2:10. They obeyed Peter's message and took the Church back to Rome with them.

There are some who believe in a Roman's road to Salvation which is taken from the Book of Romans. This is why you cannot pick and choose. The road to the Roman Church leads from Jerusalem on the Day of Pentecost back to Rome. Salvation did not come out of Rome it went back to Rome. You cannot understand the Book of Romans until you understand Luke and Acts. Luke's writings magnify Christianity in a way only God and Luke could have done it.

My motivation is coming from a deep love for God. He has kept me saved through His blood for 59 years, as of March 2009. His blood is my conscience. The writings of Luke are the strong platform on which my long walk with God have taken place. The book of Luke and the book of Acts record the birth of the church. It is on this foundation I have built my house that is still standing after 59 years. I have come safely through many storms and I am convinced, "There Is a God."

There are stories and teachings of Jesus recorded in Luke's gospel that are not found in the other gospels. For instance The manger Scene. These added things Luke wrote will round out and make more complete our knowledge of the new covenant God made with us.