

January 28, 2024

Making The Story Real

by George Slover

“Inasmuch as many have taken in hand to set in order a narrative of those things which have been fulfilled among us, just as those who from the beginning were eyewitnesses and ministers of the word delivered them to us, it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.” (Luke 1:1-4)

One of my greatest challenges as scribe and preacher is to help the story of Jesus come to life in the hearts of the readers. It was for this very purpose that Luke recorded his account of the incredible life of Jesus.

At the close of the 19th century skepticism swept over the British Isles. Among the skeptics was a brilliant young scholar by the name of William Ramsay. He was an agnostic, who wanted to disprove the accuracy of the Bible.

Sir William Ramsay went to Asia Minor as an archaeologist to disprove Luke’s accuracy. His conclusions are recorded in Josh McDowell’s book, *Evidence That Demands a Verdict*, pg. 74: “Luke is a historian of the first rank; not merely are his statements of fact trustworthy; he is possessed of the true historic sense...In short, this author should be placed along with

the very greatest historians.” Ramsay’s discoveries changed him from skeptic to believer.

The purpose of Luke’s gospel is both literary and spiritual. From the literary viewpoint, Luke sets the life of Jesus within the context of institutions, customs, geography, and historical characters of the time. From the spiritual viewpoint he plainly presents the person of Jesus Christ as the perfect man and Divine savior of the world. Jesus really was God in the flesh!

As one reads through Luke’s gospel he must be impressed with the powerful life of Jesus. Luke wants the reader to grasp the authority and graciousness of the master teacher. He presents Jesus as a God who wishes to extend his help, mercy, and love to mankind. The thrilling account of those who witnessed Jesus after his death and resurrection reminds the reader of how much Christ offers.

Have you been moved by Jesus lately? Take time to read through the gospel of Luke. It could be a spiritually life changing experience!

Welcome!

When you visit our assemblies, you will be received friendly, kindly and courteously. We believe this to be the natural attitude of those who truly love God and mankind. Though you may at first be among strangers, we hope that you will come to know us well and count us as your friends.

We offer Bible studies as well as correspondence courses for those interested in learning more about what God expects of us.

Important Dates

Ladies’ Class - Tuesday, February 13 at 10 a.m.

Our Next Gospel Meeting is scheduled for March 24-27 with David Raif

If you know of upcoming events, please inform Darrell so they can be included here.

A Case of Distress

By George Slover

“I waited patiently for the LORD; And He inclined to me, And heard my cry. He also brought me up out of a horrible pit, Out of the miry clay, And set my feet upon a rock, And established my steps.” (Psalms 40:1-2)

This Psalm of David is describing some kind of deliverance from a peril. We shall assume he is speaking of being rescued from spiritual distress. Perhaps he is talking about an overwhelming temptation. With this in mind, follow the progression of thought through the Psalm.

First, there is the “horrible pit” and “miry clay”. This figuratively illustrates the wretchedness of one deep in the mire of sin and guilt, and the precipitating results as the guilt weighs heavily upon him. The transgressor is swallowed up in despair.

Second, such distress leads to prayer. (vs.1) There is a “cry” for God’s help. The help seems delayed. “I waited patiently, but waited long”.

Third, the prayer is answered. (vs.2) “He inclined to me and heard my cry.” “He set me on a rock.” A sinner who is truly penitent will change his ways and be placed on solid ground. Our rock is the Rock of Ages.

Fourth, his salvation leads to a new song. “He has put a new song in my mouth-Praise to our God; Many will see it and fear, And will trust in the LORD.” (vs. 3) As stated by a well known hymn: “He took my burdens all away up to a brighter day. He gave me song, a wonderful song.” The sinner rejoices in his new life and relationship!

Fifth, the penitent’s gratitude for God is expressed in two ways – 1) a full surrender of his will and life (vs. 6-8),

and 2) a proclamation of God’s mercy to others. (vs.9, 10)

There is nothing like experiencing the changed life accomplished by the gospel! He who was at first in the pit, then on his knees, then on a rock, will have power to stand in the market place proclaiming the good news!

Prayer Requests

Jack Wilson is still struggling with pain and limited mobility.

Jerry Richardson’s lymphoma has returned and is suffering cognitive and balance issues.

Dinah Williams continues to have mobility issues.

Don Simmons is still struggling with his breathing; he is on oxygen at all times. **Alene** is having hip issues.

Debbie McMurray is isolating at home after her therapies and compromised immune system.

Terry Behrns is recovering at his sister’s home

Elaine Kersh is undergoing treatment for cancer.

Dryden Boatright had adenoid surgery.

If you know of someone that needs to be on this list, please tell Darrell (email preferred) and provide updates so names stay on the list as long as needed.

“praying at all times in the Spirit, with all prayer and supplication. To that end, keep alert with all perseverance, making supplication for all the saints,”
(Ephesians 6:18 ESV)

The Oaks West church of Christ is a group of individual Christians who have been added to the Lord’s body through baptism (Acts 2:38, 47; Gal 3:26, 27), and have joined themselves together (Acts 2:42ff) in an effort to do the Lord’s will.

We are not a part of any larger organization – we do not follow any man-made creeds and we do not answer to anyone other than the Lord.

Our standard of faith and practice is the Word of God. We believe in the God of revelation (Eph 3:1-7; 2 Tim 3:16-17) and follow his instructions in an effort to have an ongoing relationship with him (1 John 4:7-11; 5:3).

Our times of study and worship are open to all, and our members are happy to meet with interested individuals or families for study.

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