

**TWENTY-SIX  
LESSONS  
ON LUKE  
PART I**

Lynn Gardner

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The printed text of Luke and unidentified scripture quotations are from the Revised Standard Version, 2nd edition, 1971.

**Abbreviations for Versions:**

KJV — King James Version  
ASV — American Standard Version  
NASB — New American Standard Bible  
NEB — New English Bible  
NIV — New International Version  
RSV — Revised Standard Version  
TEV — Today's English Version

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*To BARBARA  
Woman of God,  
My wife and best  
friend.*



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## *PREFACE*

Living with the life of Christ as recorded in Luke's Gospel while writing this study guide has been a great source of spiritual strength and pleasure. It has been an exercise in filling my mind with great thoughts. Careful study of the Word of God yields great benefits.

The value of the book has been greatly enhanced by the suggestions and careful editing of Seth Wilson, dean emeritus and professor of New Testament at Ozark Christian College. He has taught the life of Christ for over fifty years. I want to express appreciation to Kenny Boles, an editor for College Press and also a professor at Ozark Christian College, for his editorial help. However I accept responsibility for any errors in the book.

I express my appreciation to my family for their patience and encouragement to me while I was working on this project.

In your study of the Gospel of Luke the text of the Gospel itself is the most important part of your study. My comments are meant to guide and help you understand the intended meaning of the text.

During the last forty-four years of my life I have been either a student or a teacher. Of all the subjects I have studied or taught, the most valuable subject of all has been the study of the life of Christ. Your life will be enriched as you get personally acquainted with Jesus — His

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mind, His heart, His life. In Christ “are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge” (Col. 2:3).

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## *INTRODUCTION*

### **Learn from Jesus**

Jesus, the “teacher come from God” (John 3:2), invites us, “Come unto me, . . . learn from me” (Matt. 11:28-29). How often people bypass the precious privilege of listening and learning from the life and teaching of Christ. Paul says to us, “Remember what Christ taught and let His words enrich your lives and make you wise” (Col. 3:16, *The Living Bible*).

Jesus Christ must be lifted up and listened to if man is to find rest and peace. The early church presented with power and reality Jesus Christ as the only Savior of man. That pattern must be followed today so men may come to know Him personally.

Christ made us and knows what is best for us (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16). He loves us and died to save us from the power and penalty of sin and to restore us to fellowship with God. He came from God and as a man lived a perfect life (Hebrews 4:15).

### **Truth**

Pilate’s cynical question, “What is truth?” has echoed through the

centuries. One may search for the truth in philosophy, history, science, literature, and in the religions of the world. In these areas one can find some facts and truths. But they do not bring us to the final truth about God, man, and the world.

A great sin of our day is one of saying there is no certain truth in religion. We hear that one religion is as good as another, providing you are sincere. If all religions are equally true even when they contradict one another, then they are all equally false.

Truth remains truth whether men accept it or not. Either Jesus is God in the flesh or He is not. Either the Bible is the authoritative Word of God or it is not. The root reason for the confusion and frustration of contemporary man lies in his refusal to build his life on the truth of God. Christians must lift up their voices and state clearly and forcefully their confidence in the truth of Christianity.

Jesus is the best starting point for one who wants to know the truth.

In Jesus we have the clearest and fullest disclosure of the truth and reality of God. The apostle John tells us, "No man has seen God at any time; the only begotten God, who is in the bosom of the Father, he has explained Him" (John 1:18, New American Standard Bible). Jesus pointed out, "He who has seen me has seen the Father" (John 14:9). "For in him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily" (Col. 2:9).

In Christ's perfect manhood we can see what God intended man to be.

One can not accept Christ and reject His Word or His church. True acceptance of Jesus as Lord included acceptance of His testimony to the authoritative and infallible Word of God (John 10:35; 16:13; Mark 7:8,13). Submission to Christ means surrender to His rule as King and Head of His church. The church must be continually reforming itself in the light of the authoritative word of Christ, the New Testament.

When one accepts the truth in Christ, he has a perspective for evaluating and integrating the knowledge he acquires from any other area.

### **Purpose**

Thoughtful persons must answer life's most basic questions: Who am I? Why am I on the earth? What is my purpose in life?

Many artists and novelists are saying life is meaningless. Grab

## INTRODUCTION

what thrills you while you have a chance, they advise, in this world of anything goes. Others who would not accept this view of life still manifest confusion as to their purpose in life.

God did not create man to be driftwood shaped by current opinion and physical thrills. Aimless living is unworthy of man. Knowing the Christ who is portrayed in the New Testament and surrendering to Him as Lord and God is the most important step toward finding one's true purpose in life. The most worthwhile life is the life that honors God by doing His will.

Study of the life and teaching of Christ helps one to see what is important and what is secondary in life. Our values, standards, and goals must be in harmony with those of Jesus. One must have a clear idea of where he is going if he achieves his objective in life.

In the study of the life of Jesus observe His allegiance to the Word and will of God. He made moral choices not on the basis of personal interest, but on the basis of what is right with God.

### Life

Right after the question of the why of life comes the how of life. How to be right with God must be answered because God is the original source and ultimate judge of our lives. Christ and the apostles insisted on faith which implicitly trusts and completely surrenders to Christ as the Son of God. Heartfelt repentance and burial in baptism are essentials to becoming a new creature in Christ. When a Christian sins he finds God is willing to forgive when he truly repents. Christ gives us the only valid way of solving our guilt problem. Psychiatrists may describe it, but only God can solve it. Only Christ can redeem us from sin and restore us to fellowship and the favor of God.

Christianity gives a person self-respect because by it one learns he is not a worthless zero but is worthwhile, since he is made in the image of God. Thrilled by God's grace and purged by His pardon the Christian finds life a new and exciting adventure. We can find peace within ourselves only after we have made peace with God.

Christian principles provide the most practical and useful guidelines for human relationships in the home, church, and society. Notice how Jesus deals with each person as an individual. He cuts to the heart of the matter when dealing with sins such as pride, self-righteousness, greed, and hatred. Jesus' teaching on social relationships refresh and revitalize life when they are practiced in one's daily living.

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Study of the life of Christ is a priority. Humble submission to the Word of God will greatly enrich your life. Christ as the Son of God and Savior of the world knows what life is and how best to live. He came that we might have life in its fullness (John 10:10). Learn from Him who said, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me" (John 14:6).