

A Declaration of Those Things Which Are Most Surely Believed Among Us

An Expository Study of **The Gospel According to Luke** **Chapter 4- Luke 4:38-44** 52- The Signs of the Messiah- Part 1

October 24, 2009

Luke 4:38-44

This morning- by the Grace of God- we are entering the second year of our Journey through **The Gospel According to Luke**. And this message this morning is the 15th sermon in Chapter 4. If you desire copies of any of the previous 51 sermons- you can get with Simeon and he will get you a copy. And we are working on getting both the text and the audio available for download on the Church website which is **www.covenantofpeace.net**

Now, you remember that last week- we finished a six part mini-series on demons and fallen angels and demon possession, and how Jesus has total and complete Authority and Power over all the power of the enemy. Demons have to instantly and fully obey Jesus, and the Bible says that Jesus came to this earth to utterly destroy the power of the devil. We also saw that as Savior- Jesus had the Sovereign Authority to bind up the strong man and to walk right into satan's kingdom and forcefully and violently steal the souls of men who are held captive by satan and deliver those souls into His Father's Kingdom.

Now, Lord willing, today we will begin to look at the Sovereign healing Ability of Jesus and we will talk about what the Bible teaches about physical healing; the gifts of healing that the Bible speaks about, and diseases, in general.

Now like demons and fallen angels and demon possession- physical healing is a very important and fascinating subject. But like the subject of demons- there is much false teaching and misconception and subjective reasoning in the modern Church about physical healing and the gifts of healing, and the result is that people believe and people

teach things about physical healing that the Bible simply does not teach. So, Lord willing, what we will do over the next several weeks is to examine all that the Bible *does* say about this important subject so that we will be able by God's Grace to develop a belief about healing that is consistent with Scripture. I want to say to you that I am well aware that this is a very controversial and emotionally charge subject that has very passionate followers all over the scale. And it would be far easier for me to simply avoid this subject and allow you to make up your own minds about this. But I have a duty and a responsibility to teach the whole counsel of God and to preach what the Holy Spirit inspired men to write in this Book.

And I am to preach all these infallible Words that came out of God's Mouth and Mind and Heart with equal passion and conviction- without adding anything to them or taking anything away. And I am to preach these inerrant Words without being ashamed of what they say and what they mean. And I have made a commitment to you to preach every verse and every word and every line and every precept of the entire Gospel According to Luke, and this section about physical healing is the next passage in our journey, so I have this to do.

And I approach this assignment with both fear and joy. I Fear that I may say something that is not true and inject my own personal feelings and biases in these sermons, and I approach this task with great joy in discovering with you the unsearchable riches of Jesus Christ that the Holy Spirit inspired Luke to write. So I beg you to pray for me that I will do what Jonathan Edwards said and "treat the Scriptures fairly."

You need to know that I have no ax to grind with other ministries and I seek only to take an honest and full look at the Word of God about this very important subject, and I pray that my tone and my approach to this task will be gracious and kind- but also bold and authoritative and fully Biblical, and I plead with you to stand with me.

If what you hear over the next several weeks about physical healing is different or strange from what you have been taught- I simply ask you to consider this- that if what I preach is God's Word- then it is true- no matter how odd it may seem and no matter how many other people disagree with it. The Truth of Scripture is not obtained by majority rule. What God said is True regardless of how many people agree or disagree with it. As the Apostle Paul wrote in **Romans 3:4:**

... let God be found true, though every man *be found* a liar,

My commitment to you is that I will study to show myself approved unto God a workman that needeth not to be ashamed so that I may rightly divide the Word of Truth. I will also employ comments made by the Fathers of the Church and current Theologians that I value and trust so that what you get in these sermons will not just be my own opinion but will- to the best of my ability- be a full and through discussion of what the Bible actually teaches about physical healing.

Now I suppose that the most important place to begin with as it pertains to physical healing is God. The Bible teaches us from cover to cover that God is a healing God. The Bible says that God is a saving God, and a merciful God, and a loving God. The Bible says that God is a Sovereign God, and a Kind, Good and healing God.

So it is wrong to think of God the Creator Who is revealed in the Old Testament as a Distant, Angry, Powerful, Vengeful, and Destructive God, while thinking of the Father of Jesus Who is revealed in the New Testament as being Merciful and Longsuffering and Kind and Good. That is a false conception of God.

The Truth is that from the Old to the New Covenants, and from the Old and the New Testaments- all 66 Books of the Holy Bible teach us that God is by Nature a Good and Loving and Saving and a Healing God. God did not begin Salvation with the Crucifixion. God saved Abraham by Grace through Faith- 430 years before God gave the Law to Moses. God saved Moses by Grace through Faith and not by obedience to the Law. God saved David by Grace through Faith without animal sacrifices, and God saved all the Old Testament saints the very same way that God saves us today- by Grace alone through Faith alone in the finished Work of Jesus Christ alone, and not by works of righteousness that we have done, and not by being baptized and not by speaking in tongues and not by partaking of Communion and not by going to Confession and not by being a nice person.

Dear friends, we are saved by Grace- by God's Mercy- by God's gracious unmerited favor, by God's Own Undeserved special treatment, and by God's precious unearned love whereby God loved us before we were ever born, and whereby God set His love upon elected unworthy sinners and chose us in Him for Salvation before He ever made the

worlds so that Salvation is wholly and totally a Sovereign Act of God alone which brings God more Glory than anything else.

You see, God is more praised, God is more honored, and God is more glorified to save the soul of a undeserving lost sinner than He is by creating a supernova; God is seen as being more magnificent in the saving of a lost soul than He is through a waterfall; God is more honored and His great Name is more exalted in Salvation than through the birth of a child; and the majesty and magnificence and brilliance of God is more evident in the redemption of an unworthy sinner than through the expanse of the great galaxies that He created.

At the very beginning of time- way before He ever created the world- way before He ever made Man- God- all by Himself- determined in Himself that the maximum amount of Glory that He could receive was by sitting in His Throne at the end of time- surrounded by the millions of unworthy sinners that He saved by His great Mercy- who will praise Him and sing to Him throughout all eternity for how He pardoned their wicked sins gave them eternal life and God went backward in time and God the Father made an undeniable and unbreakable Covenant with God the Son and God the Holy Spirit to make that glorious event happen.

And that is the only reason why God made the world, and that is the only reason why God made Man, and that is the only reason that you and I are saved today- so that we would know God in all His glorious Fullness, and so that we would love God with all our hearts and all our souls and all our minds and all our strength, and so that we would enjoy God in all His Brilliance and in all His Beauty and in all His Goodness forever and that we would live our lives for no other reason other than for the Glory of God!

The apex of human achievement is not in living the high life in a town house in downtown Manhattan, it is not in being able to live in luxury from the interest on your money, it is not in being able to understand the most intricate mathematical problems or in developing a cure for cancer or in being safe and secure in your own little world.

No, the highest peak of human existence- the single greatest source of Joy and Peace and human fulfillment is in being totally and radically abandoned and submerged in the Love of God that is found in Jesus Christ- to live your life inconvenienced by the great and all-consuming expectations of the King of kings, and of being troubled and

disturbed by the Lordship demands of a risen Christ, and of pouring out the very essence of your life to the Glory of God that is found only in the Face of Jesus Christ.

Listen, our great dilemma as human beings is not a lack of money or a lack of good health or a lack of material goods. Our great dilemma is not liberal Supreme Court Judges or any of the social issues of our day. No, our great dilemma is the fact that God is holy and we're not. God is perfectly sinless and we are totally sinful. God is pure and we are corrupt, God is righteous and we are evil, God is glorious and the Bible declares to us in **Romans 3:23**:

For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God

So as human beings- we are all sinful. And this sin problem is not taken care of with money or with education or with technology or with medicine or with science or with culture. You cannot educate your way out of sin and you cannot buy your way out of it. There is no pill to take that will relive you of sin and you cannot buy an electronic gadget that will free you from your sin. And Government cannot regulate sin or pass a law to remove sin from our lives. As long as we are in this flesh and on this earth- we will sin.

All men sin, all conservatives sin and all liberals sin, all black people sin and all white people and all brown people and all yellow people and all purple people with orange dots sin. All wealthy people sin as well as all poor people. All educated people along with all uneducated people sin all day long.

All Muslims sin and all Buddhists and all Hindus and all atheists and all agnostics sin. But what is amazing is that all Christians sin, too. All women sin and all men sin and all old people sin and all young people sin. All men sin and we sin all the time. And the only thing that technology does for us is to give us new and innovative ways to fulfill the lusts of our hearts, and all that medicine does for us is to allow us to sin with less pain and for a longer period of time. And all that human Government does for us to allow us to sin with either less or more freedom.

Now while it is true that all human beings sin- it is also true that we manifest our sins differently from each other. Some people sin boldly and openly with little or no remorse, while others sin quietly and

softly with great remorse- but they still sin. Some sin in broad daylight while others hide or wait for the cover of darkness to sin. Some sin with other people while others prefer to sin alone.

And we have to know that some sins are more acceptable than others. There are some sins which cause polite and dignified people to gasp at, and there are other sins which don't seem to bother anybody- in fact, they are even desired and sought after.

For example- most people still cringe at acts of violence and for the most part- violent behavior- especially to the weak or the very old or the very young- is almost universally rejected in a civilized society with the notable exception of abortion, and the notable exception of encouraging sick old people to go ahead and do everybody a favor and die- while loving money and coveting after more of this world's goods is seen as a good thing and is promoted as fulfilling the American Dream, and is rarely- if ever- cried out against- not even in the Church.

So we all sin and because mankind has engaged in sin for so long- it seems normal to us now, and we are getting very good at being able to sin against God without conviction and without shame. We rarely lose any sleep over our sin anymore, and most people are not even disturbed about their lust or their adultery or their blaspheming or dishonoring their parents or telling a lie nearly as much as who won the game or who sits in the White House or whether the dog got the right food.

But, we must know, dear friends, that it is our sin that causes us to be separated from God. Our sins profoundly and completely dishonor God- they mock His Sovereignty and they laugh at the Lordship demands of Jesus Christ over our lives.

Our sins insult the very holiness of God so we must realize that we offend God terribly when we sin. And so God is good to punish us for our sins. God justly and properly exacts payment out of us for our sins and the payment for our sins- for the wickedness that we've sown- is eternal damnation in a lake of fire.

You see, even though we have grown accustomed to our sins- to the point where we justify them and even excuse them and even promote them- God has *not* grown accustomed to them and God does *not* excuse them, and even though we laugh at sin and give reasons why we sin and blame others for our sins- God doesn't think sin is funny at all and God *doesn't* accept our reasons or our excuses and God will not allow any of us to blame anybody else for why we sin. God requires that

we take personal ownership for what we do and what we think and what we say and what we believe; God holds each of us personally responsible for our thoughts and our actions.

And God Almighty has declared- as the sole Owner and Creator of the Universe- that we all will stand before Him on Judgment Day and we will have to give an account of what we have thought and the very intents of our hearts and the deeds that we performed while in this body- whether they be good or evil. And there is no escape, there is no grading on a curve, and there is no allowance for good intentions.

So we humans are in the worst of all possible positions. We are all sinful and we love our sins and we cannot cease from sin, and yet we will be held accountable for our sins on that day.

And it is preaching like this as to why this Church is so small, and it is preaching like this that is the offense of the Gospel because who in the world does this man think he is to tell us that we are sinful and that we need to repent? But I beg you to consider that a greater than me is telling you that you are indeed sinful, and a far greater than me is commanding you to repent.

I will not stand in judgment of your life on that day- but God will, and I will not exact payment from you in the lake of fire- but God will. So I stand with you as trembling and sinful man in just as much need of Grace and Mercy as you are for I, too, am a sinner.

Now many people today make the terrible mistake of judging themselves based on other human relationships. In other words- they look at a man like the Apostle Paul and then they look at a man like Adolf Hitler. And they freely admit that they are not nearly as "good" as Paul, but then they are very quick to add that they are also not nearly as "bad" as Hitler. So then they take comfort in the fact that they fall somewhere in between Paul and Hitler and they incorrectly reason to themselves that that means that they must be "okay".

But, you see, God is not going to judge us based on that criteria. No, God already has put forth the one single criterion that determines whether or not a person is sinful, and whether or not a person should feel comforted about himself or whether they should be very afraid. And that one single standard is the Ten Commandments.

If you have ever blasphemed God- just one time- then you are a blasphemer. If you have ever stolen anything in this life- no matter how small or how large its value- then you are a thief. If you have ever

one time told a lie- whether white or black- then you are liar, and if you ever looked on another person to lust after them- you are, in fact, an adulterer.

If you have ever wanted what somebody else has- you are covetous, if you have ever not rested in Jesus- you have broken the Sabbath, if you have ever dishonored your parents, or put sports or money or pleasure above God- you are an idolater, and if you have ever hated anyone for any reason- you are a murderer.

So, in reality, even though we may not have committed mass murder like Hitler did- I pray that you can see that you are, in fact, a sinner, and most of us are very vile sinners, very wicked sinners, and so we really are not good people after all are we? And all of our money and all of our sophistication and all of our prestige and pedigree and our pomp and self-righteousness won't change the fact that we are sinners and we are in real serious trouble with God.

We are sort of like the damsel in distress in the old black and white serials because the Wrath of God is bearing down on us for our sins like a freight train at 300 miles an hour and we are chained to the railroad tracks.

So what are we to do? How do we escape the Just Wrath of God- especially since we are all guilty? Well a good place to start would be to first of all acknowledge to God that you agree with Him about your own sinful condition and stop kidding yourself about your own human goodness and your own self-righteousness and openly and freely confess that you are guilty of being a vile and wicked sinner.

The second thing would be for us to cry out to God for Mercy- because as you admit that you are guilty of sin- you should also admit that you cannot do anything about it in your own human strength and power.

The third thing would be to look to God's Son- Jesus Christ, Who was God in human flesh, born of a virgin, and Who lived a perfectly sinless life here on earth for 33-1/2 years, and Who died to pay for the sins of the whole world. Jesus never lusted, not once, ever. Jesus didn't covet, He never dishonored His parents, He never told a single lie, He never stole anything, He never blasphemed God, He never violated His Perfect Rest in God, and He never ever committed murder.

Jesus never even had a bad attitude for one single second, and Jesus lived a perfectly sinless Life- being in perfect and complete

submission to the Will of His Father, living in perfect obedience to the entire Law of God, and being perfectly led by God the Holy Spirit in every aspect- every second of His Life here on earth.

And that means that the Promise that the Old Covenant gave- that whoever would hearken diligently unto the Voice of the Lord thy God to observe and to do all His Commandments would find life and peace and blessing and prosperity and favor with God- Jesus fulfilled.

And that also means that by living a perfectly sinless Life that Jesus *earned* a place in Heaven, that Jesus literally *worked* His way into Heaven, that Jesus was saved by His Own Works and His Own Actions and His Own Deeds.

Jesus was *not* saved by Grace- he didn't need God's Grace- because He earned God's Favor- because He was sinless. We, however, *are* saved by Grace- because we are *cannot* earn God's Favor because we *cannot* fully obey or fully surrender or fully yield- because we are sinful.

And that means that because He was sinless- that the spotless Righteousness that the Law promised but that no man besides Jesus ever attained- became His. And that very same spotless Righteousness that Jesus earned by living a sinless Life here on this earth can be mine if I will put all my trust and all my hope and all my confidence in the finished Work of Jesus Christ- if I will fully trust in the Death, Burial, and Resurrection of the Lord Jesus Christ, if I will confess with my mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and God and Savior and King, and if I will believe in my heart that God Almighty literally and physically raised Jesus from the dead! That will be the end of my sin problem.

And if you are lost today I beg you to come to Jesus. I beg you to repent of your sins and to fully trust in the completed Work of Jesus in saving your soul. I beg you to cry out to God for mercy and to confess with your mouth that Jesus Christ is Lord and God and Savior.

I beg you to believe in your heart that God raised Jesus from the dead as the sign that God was well pleased with all that Jesus said and did to redeem us. And I beg you to do that before you leave here today.

Now unlike Secular Humanism- that teaches that all men are born basically "good"- the Bible teaches that all men are born basically "bad". Humanism teaches that deep down inside of human beings is an inherent "goodness", and if we can just learn how to tap into that inner goodness and learn how to tap into that inner strength- we can do all that is in our hearts.

But the Bible says that deep down inside human being is an evil and corrupt heart that was radically and negatively ruined by the Fall of Adam in the Garden, and that all men are evil and sinful in their hearts and we can become great in the earth.

Humanism says that if we can just change the *external* environment of people and give them education and money and opportunity- then "bad" people will magically become "good" people and we will fulfill our destinies.

But the Bible says that it is Man's *internal* environment that needs to be changed- his wicked heart and his fallen nature- and that all the money and education and opportunity in the world cannot wash away a single sin.

Humanism and Sociology and Government and Technology and Medicine, and, sadly, the modern Church all say that Man must build up *himself* that Man must build his own "self-worth" and accomplish "self-fulfillment" and build up his "self-esteem" and promote his own "self-righteousness" so that Man can be great in the earth, while the Bible says that sinful man must repent of his sins and be saved and then *abandon* himself and decrease and humble himself and that Man must mortify the deeds of the body and crucify his flesh and so that Christ may be exalted in the earth and so that God may be glorified.

And because the modern Church has basically abandoned sound Biblical teaching, and because they have all but abandoned line upon line and precept upon precept preaching from God's Holy Word- the modern Church has developed strange sounding doctrines and foreign sounding teachings that glorify Man at God's expense, and which say that Salvation and Healing and Blessing are all the result of what *we* do for ourselves- that we are saved and healed and blessed by the exercise of *our* faith, by the act of *our* will, and by the putting forth of our *own* free will human choices.

But I hope to show you in the next several weeks- as we closely examine what Luke teaches us about the perfect Ministry of Jesus- how that much that the modern Church teaches today about physical healing is as wrong as what they teach about Salvation, and I am not doing this to bash anybody or to find fault with somebody or so I will look spiritual or great or better than somebody else. I do not believe that I am right and whoever disagrees with me is wrong. I have never

said that and I do not believe that- and I pray that I don't come across like that to you.

But I do believe that God is right, and I do believe that what God's Word says is right, and I do not believe that any of us has the right to say things about healing or teach things about physical healing that God's Word does not say, or to take verses out of context to try to develop a manmade theology simply because it gets people all charged up and makes people feel temporarily better.

No, I simply want to know what God's Word says about these issues so that I may love Jesus properly, and so I may worship Him correctly, and so I may bring Him the Honor and Glory that He so richly deserves. So tie up your bonnet- we will be in for quite a ride.

So let's read again what Luke wrote about Jesus' total and complete Power and Authority over diseases in **Luke 4:38-44**:

38 Then He got up and *left* the synagogue, and entered Simon's home. Now Simon's mother-in-law was suffering from a high fever, and they asked Him to help her.

39 And standing over her, He rebuked the fever, and it left her; and she immediately got up and waited on them.

40 While the sun was setting, all those who had any *who were* sick with various diseases brought them to Him; and laying His hands on each one of them, He was healing them.

41 Demons also were coming out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God!" But rebuking them, He would not allow them to speak, because they knew Him to be the Christ.

42 When day came, Jesus left and went to a secluded place; and the crowds were searching for Him, and came to Him and tried to keep Him from going away from them.

43 But He said to them, "I must preach the kingdom of God to the other cities also, for I was sent for this purpose."

44 So He kept on preaching in the synagogues of Judea.

Now as we come to this last part of **Luke 4**- we see a series of paragraphs and if you have a Bible that is paragraphed or has the verse numbers in bold type- you will notice that there are at least four paragraphs in this final section. And because the editors of the Bible have decided to paragraph it in that way- it might seem to us that this

is a somewhat disconnected portion of Scripture- but, in fact, I hope to show you that it is very connected and designed by the Spirit of God to impact us with a single message. It is really not as disjointed as it may first appear, or even as it may read.

But I want to back up a little bit first before we look at verses 38 to 44 and remind you that the Gospel according to Luke is one of only four inspired historical accounts of the Life and Ministry of Jesus Christ. And we have all four to this day in our Bibles- Matthew, Mark, Luke and John. And these four historical Records present the Story of Jesus comprehensively, and everything that we know about the Life of Jesus that is true- is contained in these four accounts. And the four when put together will give the total and complete sum of all that God has revealed to Man about Jesus.

Now essentially the four Gospels tell us that Jesus was God in human flesh. God came into the world, born to a virgin, lived a sinless life, died as a substitute for believing sinners, and rose from the dead on the third day having conquered death for all who believe in Him. Faith in Him and His work brings the believer into full forgiveness of all sin and into the promise and hope of eternal life. That is basically the Gospel.

Now that Gospel message concerning the history of Jesus' life and the Salvation He brings is the theme of all four of these Gospels. And they are, quite frankly, the most monumental accounts in all of history because they give us the record of the Divine Savior, and they draw us to the reality of His Provision for our eternal Salvation. And since to be saved it requires that you believe in Jesus' Person and Work- it's, therefore, critical to know about His Person and Work- which is why the four Gospels were given to us.

Now such monumental spiritual reality, such singular accomplishment, such glorious promises, such massive temporal and eternal implications coming from these accounts demands that we study them very carefully. Because these records- all four Gospels- carry convincing evidence that Jesus was exactly Who He claimed to be, and that He could do exactly what He claimed He could do.

So they are not only records from the standpoint of history- but they are records from the standpoint of undeniable and irrefutable evidence. So it's not just history to be presented to those who are interested in history- no, it is evidence to be brought into the court to

prove that Jesus is, in fact, the Messiah that the Old Testament promised- that Jesus alone is the Savior and the Great Deliverer and Healer.

So these stories that we find here in the Gospels carry more eternal power and eternal potential and eternal weight, and they matter more than all other human history combined. These four writers- including Luke- very carefully under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit Who was superintending every Word they wrote provide for us the full and complete Truth about Jesus Christ, and along with that Truth is the convincing evidence for the validity of all of Jesus' claims.

Now while all four Gospels are made up of details- there are details about geography and there are details about personalities and there are details about events and there are details about time and place and there are all kinds of details about conversations and so forth...while there are many details in the Gospels- the writers, including Luke, are not primarily concerned with the details but with what the details prove, and that is that Jesus is the Messiah, and that He is the Savior, and that He is the only Redeemer God Who came to save His people from their sins.

And, in particular- Luke is a very, very gifted and thorough historian. He is also very good at pulling together the history in order to make an extensive irrefutable case for the claims of Jesus and the claims of the Bible for Jesus as the only Savior. So what we're learning here is not just history- it is also evidence. And we are not learning all this stuff for the sake of information that we might somehow learn something from history- no, we are learning all this for the sake of believing, and, therein, is its importance as evidence. It is to bring us to the place where we are convinced that Jesus is exactly Who He claimed to be and who the Bible claims He is, and that He did exactly what Scripture claims and what He said He had come to do.

Now as we look at our verses- the verses before us- what we have here interestingly enough is a summary of some of the evidences that Jesus is Who He claimed to be- a summary of certain categories in which Jesus demonstrated His total Authority, or demonstrated His complete Power.

Now, as I said- this section may seem like a strange group of unattached statements that summarize a certain period, or a certain range of activity in the life of Jesus. And certainly at an initial glance

they are indeed that. But they are not nearly so disconnected as it might appear to the first reading. They're very carefully connected as we would expect from Luke and as we would expect from the Holy Spirit Who is inspiring Luke.

You see, it is true about the Jews that they desired a sign. For example- in **1Corinthians 1:22** the Apostle Paul says that the Jews desired a sign. So these Jews weren't about to accept just anybody as their Messiah, and all throughout their history- there had been plenty of wanna-bes who had periodically risen up to say that they were the Messiah.

These would-be pretenders to the role of Messiah- wanted to come down and gain a favor of the people, and they wanted to be elevated to positions of power and glory and prestige as the Messiah.

So the Jews wanted to have some criteria by which to judge Who was really the Messiah and who was not. And so they were always looking for some sign. But just what is a sign? A sign is something that points or directs you somewhere, and that's exactly what they were looking for- they were looking for something in the life of Jesus that would give them the necessary evidence to be convinced that He was, in fact, the Messiah.

So these Jews were looking for a sign and Jesus delivered in spades. And in these brief verses- Luke shows us three realms of Power in which Jesus gave them a sign- three different realms in which Jesus demonstrated His Divinity- three realms in which Jesus demonstrated His Messiahship- three different realms in which Jesus proved Himself to be the great Deliverer.

Now since we just finished a six part series on Jesus' total and complete Authority over demons- we would all agree that lost sinners need deliverance- that God sent Jesus to be the great Deliverer. So here we find- and we've already looked at a lot of detail in the six-week series we did- but here in this passage- we find that human beings require deliverance in essentially three areas:

1. Our Physical Body
2. Our Mind
3. Our Soul

And we talked about those three areas in the series that we just finished- so I won't go over it again this morning- but we're going to look at them in a little bit different way in this series.

Now, first of all- we need to know that the reason that we need deliverance in these three areas is because of our fallen and sinful condition. And that is why I spend so much time on two main topics in this Church. I teach two main topics in just about any teaching or Bible Study or prayer meeting or men's Meeting that we do here-

- A. The Absolute Sovereignty of God
- B. The Radical Ruination of Man

If you can just get those two Biblical Truths down pat in your mind- the whole Bible will make sense to you and the great mysteries of God's Word will open up to you. But, if you get either Sovereignty or Total Human Depravity wrong- the Bible will be nothing but a confusing bunch of Books to you.

And it is not a coincidence that as we come closer to the return of Jesus- that those two critical issues- God's Absolute Sovereignty over everything all the time and Man's total and complete fallenness are the two main subjects that the modern Church has almost universally abandoned. There is less taught about these two subjects in the modern Church than at any time in the 6,000 year old history of Man and the 2,000 year old history of the Church; that is a real shame, beloved, because the ignorance of both God Sovereignty and Man's radical Ruination has caused untold confusion about issues ranging all the way from physical Healing to Salvation. And it is the unbelievable ignorance about these two issues in the heart and mind of the average Church member who sits in the average Church today that has given rise to almost all the heresies and false teachings that plague us today.

If God is not as Sovereign as the Bible says that He is, if God is not in complete and total control over every aspect of the Universe that He created 24 hours every day and 7 days every week and 52 weeks every year - then nothing else matters. And if Man is not as bad and as fallen and as sinful and as wicked and as helpless as the Bible says that he is, and if Man is not as unable and unwilling to love and serve God as the Bible says that He is- then Grace is meaningless and Jesus wasted His time dying on the Cross. So these two issues are real

important. If you need to study up on these two issues- let me know- and I will be happy to give you copies of my teaching on both The Absolute Sovereignty of God and the Radical Ruination of Man.

So we need to be delivered in body, mind, and soul from our fallen condition. And please let me see if I can't unpack that a little bit for you.

First of all- let's talk about the physical body. Human beings have a problem and it is our bodies. All of us are constantly subject to the devastating effects of the Fall- in a physical way. But just what does that mean? Well, birth is the first step in dying. Birth is the first step toward dying. Deformity, illness, weakness, injury, aging, disease, body parts malfunctioning as we get older and then finally death- and that is the universal biography of all men who live in any country throughout all human history.

We need help in the physical area because we are born to die. The Bible teaches that our sin and the Original Sin of Adam brings forth physical death to the body of all men. And I pray that you have already discovered during your life that indeed all men are obviously sinful because all men die. And ultimately that is what physical healing is all about- death. Healing is not nearly as much about being delivered from cancer or head colds or post nasal drip as it is the ultimate end of all diseases- and that is the fact that we all die.

And Whoever is the Savior- Whoever is the true Messiah- that Person must be able to deliver me from the ultimate end of all sickness, and that is the Power that death has on the sinful human being. This Deliverer must be able to rescue me and my soul from the death and bring me to Heaven.

You see, as soon as we are born- the clock starts ticking towards death. So Whoever this Savior is- Whoever this Redeemer is- He *should* be and He must be capable of *overpowering* the physical realm which always in all cases leads toward death. And He has to be able somehow stop the destruction of the body of man. And He has to be able to do something to us physically that can grant to us an *eternal* existence. He has to be able to give us new and eternal bodies that will never age, never become weak, never become ill, and never die.

So as we're looking for this genuine Messiah- we need to find Somebody who has all Power and Authority over all physical problems- all of them- including sickness and including the ultimate end of all

sickness, which is death. And so the real question that needs to be asked is:

"Since Jesus claimed to be the Messiah and since the Bible claims that Jesus was the Messiah, the Deliverer, the Savior, the Redeemer- did, in fact, Jesus have the Power and Authority to conquer all disease? Did Jesus have the Power to conquer physical decay? And did He have the power to conquer death? Can Jesus give me an eternal life that supersedes this life, and can Jesus give me an eternal body that will never die?"

That is *essential* question that only the one true Messiah can answer. And that is the central question that Luke asks and answers for us in this section of his Story of Jesus.

And secondly, we need a Deliverer- Who can work with our minds. Now when we talk about the mind- we are very much aware of the fact that all human beings are subject to the destructive impact that comes upon the mind. That's where all the temptation eventually goes. That's where all of the lust comes from. That's where all of evil desires eventually work their way into- from the heart to the mind. Evil desires are resident in the fallen human heart- they are birthed in the heart- Jesus said- but they have to work their way into our minds so we can then put those lusts into action.

And that's where every thought that ultimately issues in a sin is produced. That's where the fertile ground of imagination stirs up iniquity. So because that is true- we need Someone Who can not only rescue our bodies from the grave- we need Somebody Who can deliver our minds. We are assaulted in our minds- and, particularly, from Satan's kingdom.

We know that Satan himself is disguised as an angel of light and we know that demons disguise themselves as ministers of light. And we know that they go around poisoning the minds of people. They are in the business of lying. They are in the business of deceiving. That's what they do. The fallen angels- the demons- assault the minds of men through the development of a corrupt world system that generates wicked thoughts and wicked impulses in the mind. And that is the world that we live in- so we not only need new bodies- but we also need new minds.

That is to say we need to be free from the impact of sin physically, and we need to be free from the impact of sin and the influences of demons mentally.

So the question then is not only is Jesus the One Who can deal with the problems of our bodies- but is Jesus really and truly the One Who can deal with the problems of the demonic assault on our minds?

And thirdly, is the soul. We also need a Savior Who can deal with our sinful souls. We are as souls subject to the temporary but powerful control of satan. The devil is our father as we are born into this world. He is the king of the sphere- this ball of dirt- on which we live. Our souls are in his complete control. We are all headed for eternal damnation as members of his kingdom.

So we ask the third question. Did Jesus have the Power to rescue sinners from Satan? Does this Jesus have the Ability to walk right into satan's kingdom and rob satan of our souls and deliver our souls to God and transfer our souls to God's eternal Kingdom of righteousness and joy? And the answer to all these questions is, "Yes! Yes! Yes!"

So essentially what Luke is both asking and answering in this section of His Gospel Account is, Does Jesus have Power over the sin that is in us? Does He have power over the demons that corrupt our minds? And does He have power over the devil himself who is the ruling lord over the kingdom in which we exist?

The true Messiah must demonstrate those categories of Power and Authority, or else He is not the true Messiah. The genuine Savior of sinners must have complete Authority to deliver sinners body, mind, and soul from the effects of sin- physical, mental, and spiritual. He must be able to rescue us from the decay of our fallen flesh and from the demons that assault our mind with false teaching and temptations and from the dominion of the devil himself so that when Jesus comes if He is to be believed as the Messiah, then He must demonstrate evidence in these categories.

He must prove that He has Power over bodily decay, He must prove that He has power over the mind corrupted by demons, and He must prove that He has Power over all of satan's dominion.

And when we really and truly understand this- we go way beyond where the Jews were. You see, the Jews of this day were a lot like modern America and the modern Church have become- they were looking for a political Deliverer. They were looking for some kind of

military Messiah, some economic savior. They were not looking to be rescued from their sins- no, they wanted low taxes, and they wanted to be safe from terrorists, and they wanted to be able to make as much money as possible and buy as much stuff as possible, and they wanted to have as much freedom as possible without having to worry too much about standing before God to give an account of their sins.

The Jews didn't want the Messiah to save their sinful souls- they wanted the Messiah to kill all the Romans and give them their land back.

But doomed sinners don't need a political leader. They don't need a social reformer. They don't need an economic guru. They don't need a military leader. Lost wicked pagan and evil sinners need a deliverer who will deliver our bodies and our minds and our souls from those things that damn us.

And so it is in those three areas particularly that Luke records the Power of Jesus in this brief passage. And Lord willing- we will begin our examination next week.

Let's come and pray.

© 2008- 2014 by The Covenant of Peace Church. All rights reserved. Printed in the United States of America

The Covenant of Peace Church 13600 John Clark Road Gulfport, Mississippi 39503 228.832.7729 www.covenantofpeace.net

Scripture quotations, except those noted otherwise, are from *The New American Standard Bible* © 1996 by The Lockmann Foundation. Used by permission.

This is a single transcript in a larger series of teachings taken from a verse by verse study of **The Gospel According to Luke**. You are free to reproduce it and distribute it as the Lord leads you- without cost or reimbursement to us with the stipulation that you may not add anything or take anything away from this transcript without the express written permission of The Covenant of Peace Church and that this complete copyright statement be at the end of all copies.

The Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit. Amen. Be watchful and quicken your pace. Soli Deo Gloria. For the Glory of God alone.