

## A Historical Study On The Book Of Luke Teaching #1: Paul's Influence Of Grace On Luke

To understand the person of Luke and the book of Luke, we must first understand the influence of Paul on Luke, especially as it relates to grace. Paul's influence on Luke in the book of Luke is seen in six ways:

- **The First Way:** Luke's use of the word grace (charis).
- **The Second Way:** Luke's highlighting the promise of grace.
- **The Third Way:** Luke's display of Jesus as the Christ/Messiah of grace.
- **The Fourth Way:** Luke's recounting Jesus' encounters of grace.
- **The Fifth Way:** Luke's telling of the stories of grace.
- **The Sixth Way:** Luke's presenting the law to show the need for grace.

Let's look at the first way.

**The First Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke in the use of the word grace (charis).

### **Luke 1:28-30**

*...God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, **27**to a virgin pledged to be married to a man named Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary. **28**The angel went to her and said, "Greetings, you who are highly **avored** [graced]! The Lord is with you." **29**Mary was greatly troubled at his words and wondered what kind of greeting this might be. **30**But the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found **favor** [grace] with God. **31**You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus."*

### **Luke 2:40**

*And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the **grace** of God was on him.*

### **Luke 2:52**

*And Jesus grew in wisdom and stature, and in **favor** [grace] with God and man.*

### **Luke 4:22**

*All [in Jesus' hometown synagogue] spoke well of him [Jesus] and were amazed at the **gracious** words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.*

### **Luke 6:32, 33, 34**

*"If you love those who love you, what **credit** [grace] is that to you [how is that grace]? Even sinners love those who love them. **33**And if you do good to those who are good to you, what **credit** [grace] is that to you [how is*

that grace]? *Even sinners do that.* **34**And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what **credit** [grace] is that to you [how is that grace]? *Even sinners lend to sinners, expecting to be repaid in full.*

In future studies, we will look more in depth at Luke's use of the word **grace** when quoting Jesus in the Sermon on the Mount. However, if you would like to study these verse now, read my blog, **How Is That Grace?**, on the Gracereach website. Click Here To Read: [How Is That Grace?](#)

### Luke 7:42-43

*Two people owed money to a certain moneylender. One owed him five hundred denarii [a daily wage], and the other fifty. 42Neither of them had the money to pay him back, so he **forgave** [graciously forgave or canceled] the debts of both. Now which of them will love him more?" 43Simon replied, "I suppose the one who had the bigger debt **forgiven**. [graciously forgiven or canceled]"*

- See the [Concordant New Testament Online](#). This translation accurately uses the word **graciously** rather than forgiveness. The word forgiveness is wrapped up in the word *graciously*, but the most accurate translation is the word *graciously* because the word **charizomai** is used by Luke, which means to extend or show grace to someone.
- See also the New American Standard Bible 1995 and 1997
- See also the Legacy Standard Bible, Christian Standard Bible, Holman Christian Standard Bible

Remember, we are looking at six ways Paul influenced Luke with grace.

The first way was the Luke's use of the word grace.

Let's look at five interesting observances concerning the number of times the word grace (charis) is used from Matthew through Revelation.

### Five Interesting Observances The Number Of Times Grace Is Used From Matthew To Revelation

Five interesting observances about the number of times the word grace (Charis) is used from Matthew-Revelation (Strong's Greek word numbering system used in [Bible Hub](#): 5483 – charizomai; 5485 – charis; 5486 – charisma; 5487 – charitoo;).

**Observation #1:** The word grace (charis) is used about **197** times from Matthew – Revelation.

- Matthew used the word grace **zero** times.
- Mark used the word grace **zero** times.
- John used the word grace **three** times (see John chapter 1).
- Luke used the word grace **ten** times in the book of Luke (Luke **1:28-30; 2:40, 52; 4:22; 6:32, 33, and 34; 7:21, 42, 43; 17:9**)

- Luke used the word grace **twenty-one** times in the book of Acts.
- The writer of Hebrews used the word grace **eight** times.
- James used the word grace **two** times.
- Peter used the word grace **ten** times in 1 Peter.
- Peter used the word grace **two** times in 2 Peter.
- John used the word grace **once** in 2 John.
- Jude used the word grace **one** time.
- John used the word grace **two** times in Revelation.
- Paul used the word grace **one-hundred and thirty-eight** times in his letters.

**Observance #2 about the use of the word grace:** Apart from Paul and Luke, the other writers used the word grace **28** times out of the **197** times it is used from Matthew - Revelation.

**Observance #3:** If Paul wrote Hebrews, then the other writers, apart from Luke, used the word grace a combined **20** times, and Paul used the word grace **146** times, since the word grace is used **8** times in Hebrews.

**Observance #4:** Paul and Luke, combined, used the word grace **177** times out of **197** times it is used from Matthew - Revelation.

- Paul used grace **146** times in his writings (if he is the writer of Hebrews).
- Luke used the word grace **31** times in his books, Luke and Acts.

**Observance #5:** Luke's use of the word grace is highly influenced by Paul, which will examine later in the study.

Remember, we are looking at Paul's influence of grace on Luke as seen in the book of Luke.

**The First Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's use of the word grace.

**The Second Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's highlighting the promise of grace.

**Luke 1:11-13**

Then an angel of the Lord appeared to him, standing at the right side of the altar of incense. **12**When Zechariah saw him, he was startled and was gripped with fear. **13**But the angel said to him: “Do not be afraid, **Zechariah**; your prayer has been heard. Your wife **Elizabeth** will bear you a son, and you are to call him **John**.”

In the Jewish culture, names had meanings. Let’s look at the names of Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John.

- Zechariah means **God remembers.**
- Elizabeth means **God’s promise.**
- John means **God’s grace.**

Put all of these together: *God remembers his promise of grace*

What is God’s promise of grace?

The meaning of the names Zechariah, Elizabeth, and John is referring to two promises of God in the Jewish Scriptures:

- **Grace Promise #1:** The Promise of a male child coming into the world to crush Satan (Genesis 3:15; Romans 5:12-21 – Jesus is presented by Paul as the second Adam who paid the sin penalty of death by the first Adam).
- **Grace Promise #2:** The Promise to bless the world through the offspring (the seed-singular) of Abraham (Genesis 12:1-7; 13:15; 24:7; Romans 4; Galatians 3) Jesus was **the seed** of Abraham through who the promise of grace came to the people of the world-righteousness by faith.

We have looked at the names Zechariah (God Remembers), Elizabeth (God’s promise) and John (God’s grace).

Now let’s look at the name **Jesus**.

### **Luke 1:30-31**

*But the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary; you have found **favor** [grace] with God. You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him **Jesus** [God’s salvation].”*

Okay, let’s put all these names together: *God remembers his promise of salvation by grace*

The Jewish scriptures foretell of God’s promise of salvation by grace. Luke picks up on this promise in his book.

Note: If you would like study this more in depth, I explain it more fully in my book, [\*The Story of Grace\*](#).

Remember, we are looking at **Paul’s influence of grace on Luke as seen in the book of Luke**.

- **The First Way** Paul’s influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: **Luke’s use of the word grace.**

- **The Second Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's highlighting the promise of grace.

Now let's look at the third way we see Paul's influence of grace on Luke as seen in the book of Luke.

**The Third Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke displays Jesus as the Christ/Messiah of grace.

In Luke 4:16-22, Luke records Jesus quoting Isaiah 61:1-2, which foretells of the grace the Christ or Messiah would bring when he proclaimed ***the year of the Lord's favor***. The year of the Lord's favor is the year of the Lord's grace. It is the time of salvation by grace preceding the day of judgment when all sin and sinners are removed from the earth prior to the establishment of the new earth (see Matthew 13:36-50).

#### **Luke 4:16-22**

*He went to Nazareth, where he had been brought up, and on the Sabbath day he went into the synagogue, as was his custom. He stood up to read, **17**and the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was handed to him. Unrolling it, he found the place where it is written:*

**18***"The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, **19**to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor." **20**Then he rolled up the scroll, gave it back to the attendant and sat down. The eyes of everyone in the synagogue were fastened on him. **21**He began by saying to them, "Today this scripture is fulfilled in your hearing." **22**All spoke well of him and were amazed at the gracious words that came from his lips. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they asked.*

We will examine *the year of the Lord's grace* as we progress through the study.

In this study, we are examining Paul's influence of grace on Luke as seen in the book of Luke.

- **The First Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's use of the word grace.
- **The Second Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's highlighting the promise of grace.
- **The Third Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke displays the Christ/Messiah of grace.

Now let's look at the fourth, fifth, and sixth way.

**The Fourth Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's telling of Jesus' encounters of grace.

- Jesus' encounters with "sinners," which frustrated the Pharisees and the teachers of the law (Luke 5:30-32; 7:34; 15:1-2)
- Jesus' encounter with the paralyzed man lowered through the roof whose sins were forgiven (Luke 5:17-26)
- Jesus' encounter with the sinful prostitute in the Pharisees house whose sins were forgiven (Luke 7:36-50)
- Jesus' encounter with the tax-collector Zacchaeus at a tree whose sins were forgiven (Luke 19:1-9)

**The Fifth Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's telling of the stories of grace.

- The story of the lost sheep, the lost coin, and the lost son (Luke 15).
- The story of the Pharisee and the tax collector (Luke 18:9-14; notice Luke's use of the word **justified** in verse 14. The word justified by grace and not works/law was prominent in Paul's teachings.)

**The Sixth Way** Paul's influence of grace on Luke is seen in the book of Luke: Luke's presenting the law to show the need for grace.

- The Good Samaritan (Luke 10:25-37) – notice the word **justify** in Luke 10:29.
- The Rich Young Ruler (Luke 18:18-27)

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### **Two Reasons Luke Was Highly Influenced By Paul's Message Of Grace**

**Reason #1:** Luke traveled with Paul on two missionary journeys (Acts 16-28 – notice Luke's use of the word **we** and **us** beginning in Acts 16:10).

It is possible Paul was introduced to Luke when Paul was in Galatia on his first or second missionary journey. The introduction may have been prompted by Paul's eye problem that he mentions in Galatians 4:13-15 when he states the Galatians would have ripped their own eyes out and given them to him.

#### **Galatians 4:13-15**

*As you know, it was because of an illness that I first preached the gospel to you, **14**and even though my **illness** was a trial to you, you did not treat me with contempt or scorn. Instead, you welcomed me as if I were an angel of God, as if I were Christ Jesus himself. Where, then, is your blessing of me now? I can testify that, if you could have done so, **you would have torn out your eyes and given them to me.***

From these verses, we discover that Paul's illness was an eye problem (possibly as a result of his Damascus Road experience – Acts 9:1-9). Paul states that he first preached the gospel of grace to the Galatians as a result of his eye problem.

Luke was a doctor, as written about by Paul in Colossians 4:16.

In **Colossians 4:16**, Paul writes about ***Luke the doctor***.

*Our dear friend **Luke, the doctor**, and Demas send greetings.*

It is highly probable Luke examined Paul's eye condition in Galatia. As a result, he would have heard the gospel of grace from Paul.

The **gospel** as Paul taught it is righteousness by grace through faith in Jesus apart from the law of Moses...apart from any works; forgiveness is received by faith; justification-righteousness is by grace through faith – see the book of Romans, Galatian, Ephesians, Acts 13:13-52; Acts 20:24 and Acts 26:15-18 for the gospel message of grace.

Paul received this gospel of grace directly from Jesus (see Acts 26:15-18; 20:24; 2 Corinthians 3:1-5:21; Galatians 1:10-12; Ephesians 1:1-6).

Paul and his team were ambassadors of Jesus as they spoke this message/gospel of grace (2 Corinthians 5:18-6:2).

Eventually, Luke joined Paul's missionary team as they took the message of grace to the world. Luke writes about this in Acts 16:10 when he begins using the words **we** and **us**, thus including himself on Paul's team.

Luke writes in **Acts 16:10**,

*After Paul had seen the vision [to go Macedonia to the city of Philippi where they met Lydia and established the first grace-based church in Europe], **WE** got ready at once to leave for Macedonia, concluding that **God had called US to preach the gospel to them.***

Notice Luke is joining Paul's team that is telling the world about God's grace, the gospel of grace. He joins Paul's missionary team because God was now calling **them** to take the gospel of grace to Macedonia. This is the same gospel that Luke would have heard when Paul first came to Galatia as result of his eye problem (Galatians 4:13-15). Now Luke is a part of this gospel of grace team.

In **Colossians 4:16**, Paul writes about ***Luke the doctor***. If Luke was from the area of Galatia, then Paul would have met him there, probably because of Paul's eye problem. Luke would have heard Paul communicating the message of grace in the Galatian area.

In Acts 16:10, Luke begins traveling with Paul **after** Paul travels through Galatia. Therefore, we can reasonably conclude Luke initially met Paul in Galatia as a result of Paul's eye problem, but eventually traveled with Paul because of the impact Paul's message of grace had upon him and because God called Luke to be a part of the team. Luke, being a doctor, was a great asset to the team, especially to Paul.

Near the end of Paul's life, as Paul wrote from Roman imprisonment, he stated that everyone had deserted him but Luke (2 Timothy 4:11).

Luke and Paul certainly had a close friendship as a result of the gospel of grace, which explains Luke's use of the word **grace** in the Book of Luke and the Book of Acts.

We are looking at two reasons Luke was highly influenced by Paul's message of grace. The first reason is that Luke traveled with Paul on his missionary journeys.

**Reason #2:** Luke listened to Paul teach about the message of grace while on these journeys.

- Luke would have listened to Paul teach others **publically**.

Luke would have listen to Paul teach many, many people about the gospel of grace. Luke very well could have been in the audience of people in Acts 13-14 who listened to Paul teach on grace. He definitely heard Paul teach to Lydia and her household by the river (Acts 16).

- Luke would have listened to Paul teaching to him **personally**.

During the many days of travel, Luke and Paul probably had numerous conversations about grace.

### **Two Reasons Luke Emphasized Grace In Luke and Acts**

**Reason #1:** His own life was changed by grace.

**Reason #2:** He wanted others' lives to be changed by grace.

*All verses are NIV unless otherwise noted.*

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