

DEAR THEOPHILUS

Luke 1:1-4 – Many have undertaken to draw up an account of the things that have been fulfilled among us, ² just as they were handed down to us by those who from the first were eyewitnesses and servants of the word. ³ **With this in mind**, since I myself have carefully investigated everything from the beginning, I too decided to write an orderly account for you, **most excellent Theophilus**, ⁴ so that you may know the certainty of the things you have been taught. (NIV)

What was so intriguing about Theophilus

There are more words of scripture initially written to this one man about the truth of Jesus Christ than to any other single person in the History of the world.

Q. Why is this significant?

Because Theophilus was Luke's "Pray for One"

Who was Theophilus?

The name Theophilus means loved by God...

God knew Theophilus existed and he used one man Luke to reach Him with the Gospel

Luke 15... Luke describes to Theophilus –the love of God when he presents the parables of the **lost coin, the lost sheep... and the lost son**

Lost coin... sweep the whole house until she finds it and then calls a party over her Joy

- **Luke 15:10** – In the same way, **(Theophilus)** I tell you, there is rejoicing in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner who repents. (NIV)

The lost sheep... leaves the 99 and goes to retrieve the one

- **Luke 15:6** – Then **(Theophilus)** he calls his friends and neighbors together and says, 'Rejoice with me; I have found my lost sheep.' (NIV)

The lost son

Luke 15:22-24 – ²²“But (*Theophilus*) the father said to his servants, ‘Quick! Bring the best robe and put it on him. Put a ring on his finger and sandals on his feet. ²³Bring the fattened calf and kill it. Let’s have a feast and celebrate. ²⁴For this son of mine was dead and is alive again; he was lost and is found.’ So they began to celebrate. (NIV)

TCC – Ultimately you and I must realize the very same thing... We are Theophilus... God will be relentless in His pursuit of you

2 Corinthians 5:14 “For the love of Christ constrains us.” (MEV)

- The word “constrains” here conveys the His love takes a hold of us with force and moves us with that force to act in a certain manner.

Prepare for One

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TCC- Here is the challenge before us... to you and to me... are we prepared to give an **accurate... carefully crafted... fully investigated** account of our faith in Jesus Christ?

TCC It begins with a mindset every day ... this is the day the Lord has made and I will make the most of it by anticipating my one.

A look for one attitude

1 Peter 3:15 - Always be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks you to give the reason for the hope that you have... (NIV)

2 Timothy 2:15 – Do your best to please God. Be a worker who doesn’t need to be ashamed. Teach the message of truth correctly. (NIV)

TCC- it’s our turn... not only pray for one but to be a worker... to look for one