

READING THE NEW TESTAMENT IN 2021 Week 30 (July 26 – 30)

“Let the Word of Christ dwell in us richly” ... and bear fruit in our lives) – Colossians 3:16.

Historical Context (Paul’s third missionary trip).**62 AD** Approximate time of the writing of Luke

There are more than 5,800 complete and fragmented documents of the New Testament. These are more than any other ancient work of literature.

The document which is the fragments known as P 75 (papyrus 75), and a part of which is to the right, is the oldest known copy of a portion of Luke. It is missing only the first two chapters and the first 18 verses of chapter 3. This set of fragments also contains John 1-15 (missing 16-21). When compared with another document, P 45, it becomes apparent there was already divergence in the copied texts by the second century.



Which version is correct? Among other things, in the comparison of texts, the older and shorter readings are generally preferred. However, this does not mean it is the closest to the original. Why is this?

An older copy may have more errors than a recent one, if the source for the recent one was more carefully copied and recopied over time. Words, sentences, and even whole stories may also have been skipped over in the generations of reading and recopying.

Like treasure maps, which have been studied since before Luke was written, our current synthesized Greek version – there are significant differences in the various English translations using the same text – is generally agreed to be the most accurate reading.

If your chosen version has footnotes in the text, they are worth contemplating as they give alternate readings which have wide agreement. Remember that a majority opinion does not mean it is the correct reading (for years it was thought the sun went around the earth).

<u>Day</u>	<u>Reading</u>	<u>Clarification from original language – Greek word leads in parentheses</u>
Mon.	Luke 5 (:17)	Power = (Dynamis) From Homer onward: ability to achieve, physical or political strength. In the time of Jesus, the word had also taken on metaphysical connotations. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, it also has the idea of military power.
Tues.	Luke 6 (:45)	Abundance = (Perisseumatōs) To be more than enough / over and above / over flowing surplus.
Wed.	Luke 7 (:23)	“Does not fall away = (Skandalos) From a root word meaning “jump up / snap shut”; and was originally the piece of wood that kept a trap open to be tripped by the animal. In the Greek translation of the Old Testament, it replaced the words for “bait / lure / snare / cause of misfortune.”
Thurs.	Luke 8 (:15)	“Honest and good” = (Kalos) These two words translate one word that gained more and more meaning over time. Originally it meant “fit / useful / suitable / sound / healthy”. Then, was added the meaning of pure – like gold,

and aesthetically beautiful. Following this, was added: “morally good.” It is used describe meeting the highest standards of heroic self-discipline, along with fair dealings with whomever they might meet. Plato added to this the idea of being respectful, thoughtful, discreet, and capable in conducting one’s life no matter what may come one’s way.

Fri. Luke 9 (:11) **Welcomed** = (Apodechomai) It builds on the word which means to “accept / receive”, strengthening the positive significance of the word to include “welcoming / valuing / approving/ agreeing.”

Sources: www.thebiblejourney.org; www.historyofinformation.com; www.pinterest.com;
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodmer Papyrus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bodmer_Papyrus); [en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester Beatty Papyrus](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chester_Beatty_Papyrus);
[en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical manuscript](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Biblical_manuscript); . christianpublishinghouse.co/2020/01/04/papyrus-45; [The Interlinear NIV, Parallel New Testament in Greek and English](#); [Dictionary of New Testament Theology, Vols. 1-3](#); [Revised Standard Version Bible](#) – © 1990, Thomas Nelson.
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