

Ain't Nothing Like The Real Thing Baby

1. READ

Scripture: Acts 1:1-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, ²until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen, ³to whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God.

Additional Scriptures: Luke 1:3-4 New King James Version (NKJV)

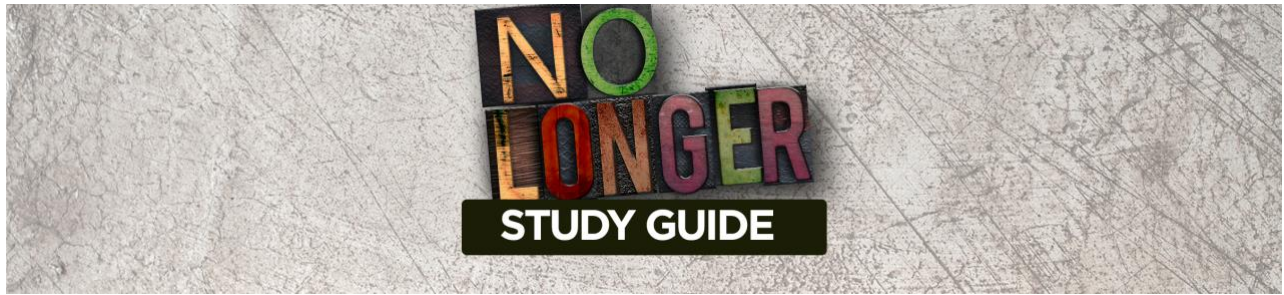
³ it seemed good to me also, having had perfect understanding of all things from the very first, to write to you an orderly account, most excellent Theophilus, ⁴that you may know the certainty of those things in which you were instructed.

Additional Scriptures: John 21:25 New King James Version (NKJV)

25 And there are also many other things that Jesus did, which if they were written one by one, I suppose that even the world itself could not contain the books that would be written. Amen.

Additional Scriptures: Daniel 3: 17b – 18 New King James Version (NKJV)

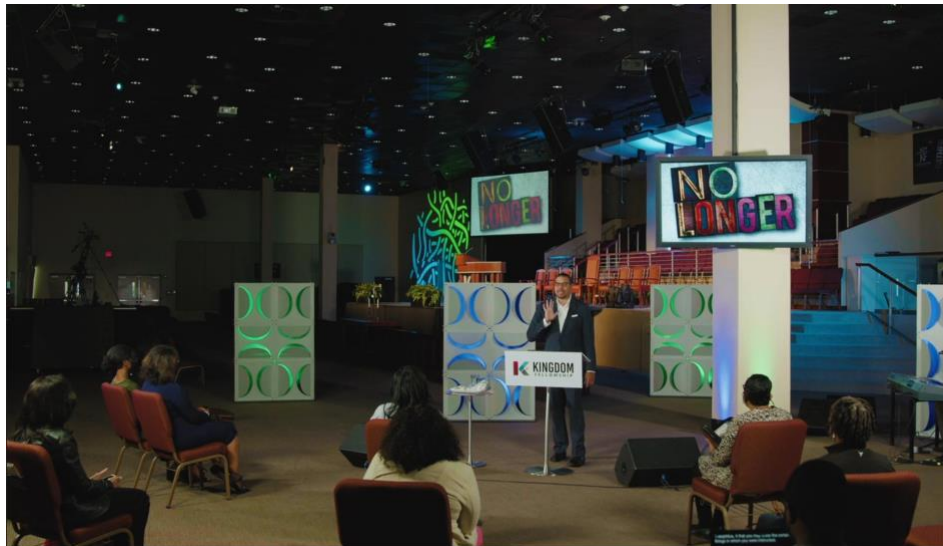
Our God whom we serve is able to deliver us from the burning fiery furnace, and He will deliver us from your hand, O king. But if not, let it be known to you, O king, that we do not serve your gods, nor will we worship the gold image which you have set up.”



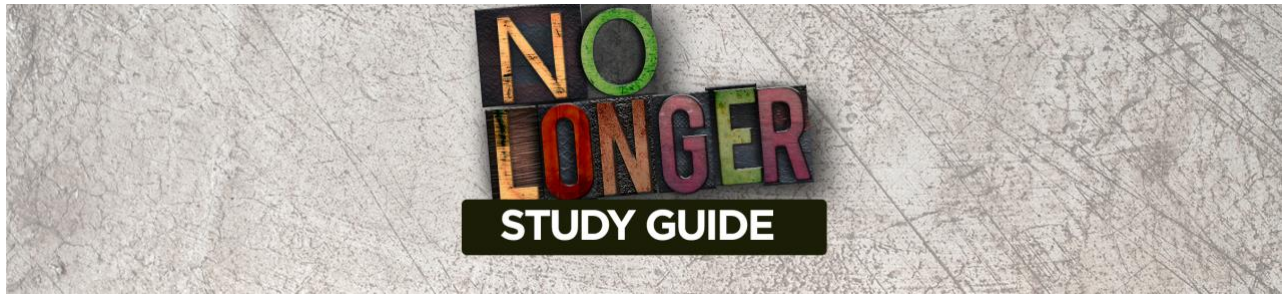
Suggested Chapters to Study This Week: Ready and study the scriptures above.

2. REFLECT

[Click the image to go to our YouTube page for more content!]



Pastor Watley is continuing in his sermon series “No Longer.” This series is designed to encourage us to trust God with the “no longer” moments of our lives. God will always show up in our lives even when it seems like we’re alone because we are never alone. God will never leave us nor forsake us because we are now “no longer” the person we were in the past. This week Pastor Watley’s sermon title is “Ain’t Nothing Like The Real Thing Baby.” Pastor is encouraging us to know and “trust” that nothing is like the real thing when it comes to our God. The introduction of the sermon Pastor helps us to understand that when dealing with the real thing. When spoken to others who aren’t part of the craft or the group, this language might be confusing. Like in fishing or cooking or some other hobby. Pastor shares that in the same way, those who are scholars and studying God’s Word also have a specific language. One of the terms that Biblical scholars use is “Luke-Acts,” this is a term used to speak about the third (Luke) and the fifth (Acts) book of the new testament. They are also called Luke-Acts because they are written by the same author Luke.



Pastor points out some of the connections or links through the books, the first part of Luke and the first part of Acts. Luke here in both books is outlining the life, legacy, and mission of Jesus Christ. Pastor teaches here, for those of us who wonder why Luke wrote both Luke and Acts is John in the middle?

Pastor says, “frequently in the Bible the focus isn’t on Chronology but Theology. Some books might not be in the correct order related to time but in the proper order related to our faith. Pastor points out the book of Job in the Old Testament is older than Genesis. Still, no one wants to read the complicated story of the life of Job before we read Genesis. Pastor Watley goes even further on this point to explain how the council of Nicaea in 325 AD came together to discuss and work through the books of the Bible to ensure that its flow and order would be most helpful for those who read it centuries later. The main point of their conclusion was the order of the Bible but also that Jesus was indeed the Son of God and the Messiah that had been spoken about.

All of this goes to back up the claim of who Jesus was and what Jesus came to do. Pastor shares that Jesus had been with them for 33 years and then three years of ministry, but some didn’t get it until this moment.

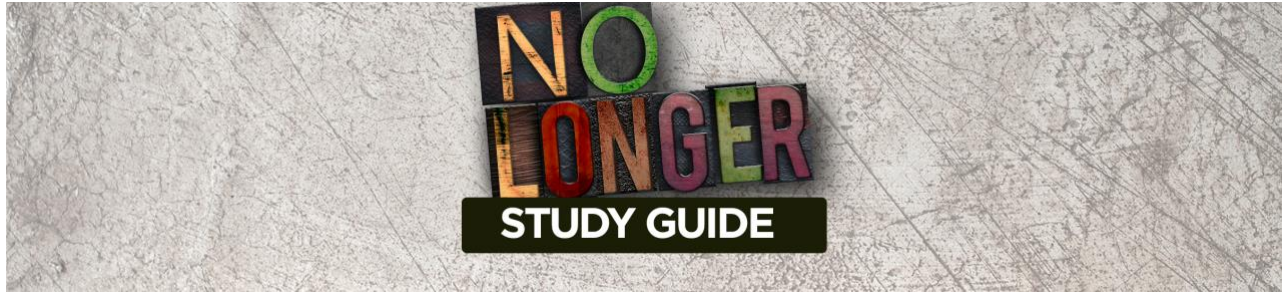
Until he came back, they saw the scars and marks until they saw the miracles he had done. While people didn’t believe, and even the disciples who were closest to him didn’t believe, Jesus still did many miracles in their sight. Jesus came back to prove who He was even though he didn’t need to prove Himself.

Pastor explains that Jesus did this because He loved us so much. Jesus loved us show much that even though He was in all power, He didn’t make Himself less so we can be saved. In the sermon, you will hear and see Pastor’s reference to President Obama and the young man who could touch his hair and realize that they had the same kind of hair. When you are so in power and control, you don’t mind giving up your control for the love of those you serve. This point had Pastor share with us that old Hymn by William Kirkpatrick and Louisa M. R. Stead “Tis So Sweet to Trust in

Jesus.”Tis so sweet to trust in Jesus,
Just to take Him at His Word;
Just to rest upon His promise,
Just to know, "Thus saith the Lord!"
Jesus, Jesus, how I trust Him!
How I've proved Him o'er and o'er;
Jesus, Jesus, precious Jesus!
Oh, for grace to trust Him more!

We prove Jesus which means we test Jesus. We try Jesus, which is how we’re able to trust Jesus. We can trust Jesus because we can and have tested Him at His Word, and God has never failed us yet. We





trust Jesus because we have put Him to the test and seen Him work. Pastor reminds us here of John 21:25, that while Jesus did so much here, he didn't do everything. Jesus didn't heal everyone, Jesus didn't do every miracle possible, but it was more than enough for us to trust Him with what He did. In our lives, Jesus hasn't done everything, but in what He has done, it's more than enough to give Him praise and give Him our lives because we have the real thing in Jesus.

3. RESPOND

Introspective Questions

- ï When is the last thing you have to trust God at His Word?
- ï How have you tested God so far this year?

Discussion Questions

- ï What do you think the others around the disciples thought about what Jesus was saying and the claims He was making?
- ï Those who didn't believe Jesus but now made a different decision, what do you think were they're first words to others?