

Key words in Luke

Baptize: Greek *baptizo* — 3:7, 16, 12, 21; 7:29, 30; 12:50 — literally, “to dip” or “to immerse.” People came to John to be immersed by him in the Jordan River. The baptism of Gentile proselytes to Judaism was common to the Jews, but this kind of baptism for Jews was new and strange to them. John called them to be baptized as a public renunciation of their old way of life. baptism also symbolized the preparation of their hearts for the coming of the Messiah. Paul connected baptism with the believers’ identification with Christ. Just as a cloth soaked in dye absorbs the color of the dye, so a person immersed in Christ should take on the nature of Christ.

Mammon: Greek *mamonas* — 16:9, 11, 13 — literally, “wealth.” “money” or “property.” In Luke 16, this word is used for “riches.” *Mammon* is also considered an idol or god of the human heart that is in conflict with the true God. The Bible proclaims it is impossible to serve this god of the world and the true God at the same time.

Paradise: Greek *paradeisos* — 23:43 — literally, “garden” or “park.” The Septuagint uses this word literally in Ecclesiastes 2:5 and Song of Solomon 4:13, although the term also refers to the Garden of Eden (see Gen 2:8). Later, Paradise was described as the place of the righteous dead in Sheol (Luke 16:19-31). When Jesus spoke to the thief on the cross, He assured him that he would that day reside with Him in Paradise (23:42). This seems to indicate that this word refers to a pleasant place for the righteous among the dead. Revelation 2:7 speaks of Paradise as the restitution on an Edenic paradise, an everlasting home for believers (compare Gen 2 and Rev 22).