

John 20:24-31

~ Good News for Doubters ~

Introduction

One of the most **common experiences** known in the Christian life is the **experience** we know as:

Christian Doubting

As you begin reading the **Puritans** – Church History – **Theologians** – and the bible – one of the most **obvious themes** that comes immediately to the surface is that:

Really no one in the Christian church has ever **alluded** this universal experience of doubting...

I mean this is an experience known to all Christian believers!

And even if you're **NOT a Christian** worshipping with us here this morning – this experience of disillusionment/or uncertainty/ or hesitation/ regarding truth is probably something **you've experienced yourself!**

And there are **a lot of reasons** why people in this life doubt!

Carson on Doubt

D.A Carson in his excellent book *Scandalous* gives a number of reasons why people doubt...

And the first thing he says is that:

Some people doubt simply because their doubts are rooted in ignorance...

They don't understand the **bible** – they don't understand **theology** – they don't have a sufficient grasp concerning biblical **Christianity**...

And so as a result they **doubt/or deny** the Christian faith simply because they don't understand the evidence!

So it's a doubt born out of **ignorance & unbelief!**

Moral

Sometimes **he says** people doubt because of:

Systematic moral choices...

Some people don't believe in God simply because they **don't want to** believe in God!

They enjoy **NOT** believing in God!

They **know that** if the bible were true – and the biblical God exists – then they're **gonna have to** give an account to Him...

So it's a Romans 1 kind of suppression:

Where they **love their sin** more than the Saviour – **they don't want to** give up their sin and indulgence and so they deny the Christian faith!

And that's a **very common** one that **we face** here in the West!

Maturation

Other people doubt says Carson because:

*Doubt is somewhat **a rite of passage**/ or a function of maturation...*

This is – a person who grows up in the Christian faith (they are raised in a Christian home) but **doesn't really know** why they believe what they believe!

They've just been taught that this is how the world works!

And so when it comes time to owning the faith that **you were raised in** – it can be **quite abrasive** having to work out:

Why you believe what you believe!

Little Choices

Other times Carson says:

Doubt can be generated not by a deliberate or philosophical moral choices but by ten thousand other choices...

Sometimes doubt is generated simply because a person starts making a series of **unwise decisions** that end up having a **massive cumulative effect**!

Maybe they decide that they're gonna read the bible less – and pray less – and start going to church less – and before they know it they end up making poor spiritual choices that lead them into sin:

And now they start doubting their religion...

Because they **never really had a solid foundation** of faith!

More Sleep

Another **says Carson** (and I like this one):

Sometimes doubt can be generated by sleep deprivation...

He says:

If you keep burning the candle at both ends, sooner or later you will indulge in more and more cynicism...

And so sometimes he says:

*One of the most godliest thing you can do in the Christian life, is **NOT** to pray more – or to read more – or to listen to more audio – but to simply **go to bed**!*

To get a good night's sleep!

Sleep in a little!

To the glory of God and the state of your health!

Existential Crisis

And then finally Carson says:

Doubt may be generated by some deep, existential crisis of faith!

This is the loss of a child – the loss of a spouse – the memory of abusive parenting – a sudden tragedy – and then **all of a sudden** this crisis leads us to doubt the goodness of God!

The point that Carson is making – is that:

NOT all scepticism is equal!

NOT all doubting is the same!

Doubts come in all kinds of different **shapes** and **sizes**!

And **that matters for us** when coming to a passage like John chapter 20...and this man called doubting Thomas!

Thomas

So called that name because of **the very passage** that is set before us today!

John MacArthur says:

Thomas was an eternal pessimist. Like Eeyore in Winnie-the-Pooh, he was a melancholy person, with an uncanny knack for finding the dark cloud in every silver lining...

JC Ryle says that:

He was a man full of fearful, despondence, with dark & gloomy convictions...

Another writer said that:

*He was a man of **much love** but little faith...*

His heart one writer said:

Was the home of sorrows...

Another said that:

He looked upon life with sad eyes...

Doubt

Now I say that NOT to look down on a man like Thomas but because doubting is **so often seen** as being **dangerous & detrimental** to our spiritual health!

The book of James says in James chapter 1 that:

He who doubts is like a wave of the sea that is driven and tossed by the winds...

He says [James 1:8]:

*For the person who doubts is a **double-minded man**, unstable in all of his ways...*

The word for double-minded there is the Greek word:

Dip-sukos (δίψυχος)

And it simply means:

Having 2 souls!

Or it's the idea of having a divided heart in the midst of trials!

*Dee – meaning **two!***

*And Psukos meaning **soul!***

So literally:

2 hearts/ or 2 souls!

And it captures the reality that even the **doubting believer** can sometimes serve 2 masters!

On the one when trials come we shout in our hearts:

Lord I believe...

But then **in the very next breath** we cry:

Help my unbelief!

One person said that:

*Doubting itself was a **walking civil war** in which trust and distrust wage a continual battle against a person's soul!*

One of the **best descriptions** I've heard on this topic of doubt is in Bunyan's Pilgrim's Progress where he describes the doubting man as:

Mr. Facing-both-ways

And it's **that very dividedness of soul** that we see happening in the heart of Thomas the doubter here this morning!

Outline

We're gonna see Thomas go from:

An **unbelieving skeptic** – to a **fully believing disciple** – to a **sign for others** to believe!

An unbelieving skeptic
A fully believing disciple
A sign for others to believe

Main Point

And the main point we're gonna see is this:

Jesus Christ really did rise from the dead – so stop doubting, repent of your sins, and come to Jesus Christ!

John 20

So let's pick it up from verse 24 of John chapter 20 – remember this is the **second appearance** of Christ to His disciples...

But Thomas (called “Twin”), one of the Twelve, was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples were telling him, “We’ve seen the Lord!” But he said to them, “If I don’t see the mark of the nails in His hands, put my finger into the mark of the nails, and put my hand into His side, then I will never believe...”

Opening Gambit

There's really this **obstinate refusal** on the part of Thomas to believe in the resurrection...

It's **almost as if** Thomas is **so convinced** (he is **so persuaded**) that the resurrection of Jesus could **never have occurred** that He's basically **closed off** that option altogether!

Now he **doesn't go** quite so far as to reject the resurrection of Jesus – but he comes **pretty close**!

In fact Thomas uses what we would call a **double negative** in the Greek here... it's a way to express **one of** the strongest denials in Greek:

οὐ μὴ πιστεύσω

No, never, will I believe!

And we know that his heart was **emphatic in this denial** for 2 reasons:

1. First the disciples were repeatedly telling him “*We have seen the Lord...*”

The tense of that verb is an **ongoing action** in the Greek – this was a repeated emphasis:

They continued to tell him...

2. Second the way that Thomas denies His appearance here seems to be in a way that is **active** rather than **passive**!

In other words – he could have expressed the denial in terms of an open-passiveness/ or a willingness to believe...

Like he could have said something like:

*Thank you for telling me this brothers – I remember that He said that He was going to **die and rise 3 days later** in the Upper Room... and so if I see the nails marks in His hands, and if I touch those nail marks, and if I feel the side of the wound – then **I'll believe!***

But he doesn't say that!

One is the language of **being open** to believing – the other is completely shutting yourself off!

Because what Thomas says **in reality is:**

Unless I **see** His wounds – unless I **touch** His side – unless I **feel** His marks – then I will **NOT EVER BELIEVE!**

So Thomas **wasn't so much** of a skeptic – as he was a **hard-hearted** denier!

He was basically an unbeliever!

He denied the resurrection was even possible!

Broken Hearted

And I think just from my **own observations** of Thomas – and from what **other people** have told me about him – I think this denial comes from a place of:

Profound grief & disappointment...

I think at the end of the day the **simple reality** is that his heart and mind were basically torn in two...

And think about the fact that Thomas was a man who had **boldly professed** his faith & loyalty in the Messiah of Israel!

He had **courageously promised** that he was willing to die for Jesus in John chapter 11!

He was **the one disciple** who managed to elicit the famous response of Jesus in John 14:

I am the way, the truth, and the life, No one comes to the Father but by me...

And so I just think that Thomas' heart was **so despairingly sad** that when Christ died that day – a little bit of Thomas died with Him...

And it's **kind of like** what happens when a **hero of the faith** falls into persistent and sin & adultery – or like when a child denies the faith and turns their back on Christ:

We feel this deep sense of regret and remorse over their state!

And you take that grief and multiply it by **a thousand percent** and you start to understand the **deep sense** of grief & disappointment that Thomas was probably feeling...

And so I think this denial from a place of **profound grief & heartache**...

Believing Disciple

And it's really only the peace of Christ (and the presence of Christ) stepping into that pain that is able to heal his heart!

And that's what we see in our second point this morning – Thomas goes **very quickly** now from a Skeptical denier to a:

Believing disciple

Verse 26 – John writes:

A week later His disciples were indoors again, and Thomas was with them. Even though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you. Then He said to Thomas, "Put your finger here and look at my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Don't be faithless, but believe..."

So Jesus now enters a second time into the upper room – but this time:

He displays *divine omniscience*

He knows exactly what Thomas **has said** – He knows exactly what **Thomas was thinking** – even though He was **NOT present** with Thomas **8 days earlier** when Thomas had said this!

So there's a divine omniscience being put on display – and did you notice that he answers **every single one** of Thomas' 4 demands!

Demand Vs. Command

How many demands did Thomas make back in verse 25:

1. Unless I **see** His hands!
2. Unless I **put** my finger!
3. Unless I **put** my hand!
4. I will **NOT** believe!

So 4 demands/ or 4 arguments that Thomas makes!

And how does Christ answer them – verse 27:

1. Thomas **reach** here with your **finger**!
2. **Look** here with your **eyes**!
3. **Reach** here with your **hand**!
4. And **stop** being faithless!

And so **every single one** of Thomas' 4 demands are met with the raw-sovereign authority of God!

So Christ silences all 4 of Thomas' doubts (and all 4 of his demands) **point by point**!

Reminding us of that precious verse in Romans 3:19 that:

Whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, so that every mouth may be silent, and the whole world accountable to God...

It's the word of God that silences skeptics – it's the word of God that shuts the mouths of people!

Pilgrim's Progress

How unlike us the Lord Jesus is in these commands – how patient is He toward Thomas!

One pastor says:

*It should remind us of the **many characters** found Pilgrim's Progress!*

He says:

There are many characters like that of doubting Thomas in the story of Christian...

Like **Mr Little Faith** who hails from the town of *sincere*!

Indicating that he is a genuine believer who simply struggles with insecurity and doubts!

He gets robbed by 3 thieves: Mr. *Faint-heart*, Mr. *Mistrust*, and Mr. *Guilt* but by the end of the story he **nevertheless makes it** to the celestial city and finds his rest in God!

Ready to Halt

Or what about **Mr Ready to Halt** who goes all the way to the celestial city on crutches – but when he finally gets to the River of Death, he leaves the crutches behind and passes through to the celestial city!

Feeble mind

And then there's **Mr. Feeble mind** who carries his doubts all the way to the banks of the River Jordan – but when he **passes through** the river he demands that his **feeble mind** be buried in the **dung-hill of this old world** he says:

For it is not worth bestowing on the poorest of Pilgrims...

Fearing

And then Bunyan includes **Mr. Fearing** who stumbles over a tiny straw – or if there's one drop of rain he panics because he thinks God is going to judge him!

Various others

And then there's **Mr. Despondency** – and **Miss much afraid** – and **various other characters** who all lack the **courage** and **strength** to believe in God with great joy!

And yet **each and every one** of these **weak & weary** people all make it home **safely** to the Celestial City!

The Good Shepherd loses **NOT** one of them – because the Good Shepherd loves **all of them!**

Or as J.C Ryle puts it in his commentary:

*The Holy Spirit knew well that the **dull**, and the **slow**, and the **stupid**, and the **doubting**, are by far the **commonest types** of disciples in His Kingdom...For our Lord has many **weak children** in His family, many **dull pupils** in His school, many **raw soldiers** in His army, many **lame sheep** in His flock. And yet He bears with them all, and casts none away...*

Friends the Lord is patience with His people!

He is persistent with His people!

He is gracious with His people!

This is why 1st Thessalonians 5:14 says:

To admonish the idle, to encourage the weak, to help the weary, and to be patient with them all...

See Paul understood his Old Testament Scriptures when it spoke of the **soft** and **tender** calling that Jesus has for His pilgrims...

Like Psalm 34:18 which says:

The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves those who are crushed in spirit...

Isaiah 42 verse 3 says:

A bruised reed He will not break, and a smouldering flax He will not quench!

Friends the Lord is tender with the weakest of saints – and He is gracious to us all!

And so he turns to Thomas and says:

Thomas do NOT be a faithless disciple...

Do NOT disbelieve Thomas – but believe!

Trust!

Have faith in my word!

Have faith in my presence!

Have faith in my wounds!

My Lord and My God

And Thomas **whether or NOT** he did actually touch the body of the Lord Jesus – or whether he **simply believed** because of His presence – or maybe it was His omniscience that made him believe:

We don't know!

But what we **do know** is how **Thomas responded** in verse 28:

Thomas responded to Jesus, "My Lord and my God!"

He goes from a disciple of **doubt** to a disciple of **declaration** in a matter of mere minutes...

It's one of the **boldest & clearest** statements of Christ's divinity in all of Holy Scripture!

In fact, some have even said that this statement **exceeds that** of Peter's confession in Matthew chapter 16 – Peter says to Jesus:

You are the Christ, the Son of the living God...

But whatever the case this confession of Thomas is **intended to demonstrate** the purpose of John's Gospel...

And **the reason why** John is writing this account is so that we all would make this confession of Christ and fall to our knees like Thomas here!

In fact it's **no accident** that this account of Thomas comes **right before** the purpose statement for John's entire Gospel – the very pinnacle of the Gospel – verse 30 says:

*Jesus did **many other signs** (like the one with Thomas) which are not recorded in this book; but these signs are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you would have life in His name...*

So the **very purpose** for why John is writing this Gospel and why He includes this **incredible story** of Thomas and every other event in John is so that:

We too would believe by faith that Jesus is the Christ the Son of the God, and that by believing we too would have life in His name!

This Gospel **from start to finish** is:

A divine invitation into the fullness of eternal life!

In fact this is what it means to receive Jesus as your Lord and your God – it is **NOT merely** to receive Him as a great **moral teacher** or a great **moral example** for us to follow – but:

To receive Him as Lord/ as Master/ as King & Sovereign over every aspect of our lives!

So that we say with the Psalmist in Psalm 103:19:

The LORD has established His throne in the heavens, and His kingdom rules over all...

Over your finance – over your future – over your family – your parenting – marriage – your commitments your career:

You do **NOT make** Jesus the Lord of your life – Jesus **is** the Lord over all!

He is the LORD of your life already...and your confession of Him is to **simply acknowledge** that His Kingship has come to rule over your heart and soul here this morning!

It's a recognition of Him as Lord and a submission to Him therefore!

And Thomas makes that confession with joy in his heart as He bows in submission and praises God!

He calls Jesus the very God incarnate the one who is God in the flesh!

A sign to others

And so Thomas goes from an **unbelieving skeptic** – to a **fully believing disciple** – and his confession now becomes:

A **sign for others** to believe!

Have a look at verse 29:

Jesus said to Thomas, “Because you have seen me, you have believed. Blessed are those who have not seen and yet believe...”

Beatitude

Jesus here utters what many have seen as a Christian beatitude

The beatitudes are those **pithy** and **powerful** sayings we know in Matthew 5 where Jesus stands up on the mountain and says:

Blessed are those who **mourn** – for they shall be comforted!

Blessed are the **pure** – for they shall see God!

Blessed are the **meek** – for they shall inherit the earth!

These are those **blissful & blessed** promises to those who’s comfort and faith are found in God and God alone!

And so John doesn’t have a **list of beatitudes** or **blessings** like that of Matthew’s Gospel – he simply has **this one beatitude** here in verse 29:

*Blessed are those who have **NOT** seen Jesus and yet have believed...*

Jesus says that there is a kind of blessing that comes by trusting in Jesus **without seeing Him** with your **physical eyes** – it’s the kind of faith that Peter speaks of in 1st Peter chapter 1 – when he says that:

Though you have not seen Him, you love Him!

*That though you have **NOT** seen Jesus with your **physical eyes** in the flesh – you believe in Him [with the eyes of faith] and you rejoice with a joy that is **inexpressible** and filled with glory, obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls...*

Trusting in Jesus **without seeing Him** Peter says is enough to grant you eternal joy and life in the Son when you die!

That is the kind of blessing that is being **held out** for those who believe **without** seeing Jesus Christ with our physical eyes – it's the kind of faith that **you and I** must here this morning!

Credible Faith

But at the **same time** this is **NOT** a **blind** or **unreasonable** faith – a faith that says to just believe in Jesus without the evidence/ or even **despite the evidence!**

Like you just believe in Jesus **without any** evidence!

That's **NOT** what Jesus is saying here!

This is **NOT** a **foolish** or **fickle** kind of faith!

But a faith that is based on objective reality & truth!

Historical events that actually took place and were written down by **firsthand eyewitnesses** during the lifetime of **other eyewitnesses** who all purport to us the **exact same events!**

Which **by the way** was the **gold-standard** of **historical veracity** in the Ancient world!

That's why John Calvin can say:

We behold Christ in the gospels no less than as if He stood among us today!

It's the reason why we see Christ through:

The preaching of the word!
 And the reading of the word!
 And the receiving of the word!
 And the hearing of the word!
 And the singing of the word!
 And the praying of the word!
 Every single Sunday!

Local Church

This is why it is **so important** that we as Christians do **NOT openly forsake** the assembled gathering of the people of God!

This is why we **should NOT allow** our children to partake of sports on a Sunday morning **over and against** gathering with the Saints on the Lord's Day!

Because we understand that there is a **kind of blessing** that comes with being with the **Lord's people** on the **Lord's Day!**

It's the blessing that Thomas **missed out on** the first time Jesus showed up after His resurrection – and had to wait a **whole-nother week** in mournful sorrow while the **other disciples** are rejoicing with joy inexpressible!

A joy that Peter says is filled with glory!

Because they did **NOT** forsake the assembling of the Saints!

One pastor says:

Do you see what happens when you decide to skip Church on the Lord's Day!

Something may just happen and Jesus may decide to show up!

And so Jesus says:

Blessed are those who have NOT seen and yet still believe...

Because we believe based on:

True – faithful – and historically reliable evidence!

That's why you get atheists who try to disprove the bible and every time they do – they end up **being converted** by it because:

*God's word is active and living and sharper than. Any two-edged sword and **it will pierce your heart** to repentance and faith!*

And so Thomas becomes as we said:

A sign for those who believe

Signs

And that's really where John ends this chapter in verses 30 to 31 – he says this:

*Jesus performed many other **signs** in the presence of His disciples that are not written in this book. ³¹ But these are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His name.*

John refers back to these **7 miraculous events** that he consistently refers throughout his Gospel as:

Signs

And it's **important to note** that throughout John's Gospel – John **never once** refers to them as miracles – but only ever as signs!

Simple, boring, ordinary signs!

NOT Miracles!

NOT Wonders!

NOT Marvels!

But signs!

Because like signs they are intended to point us **beyond themselves** to the **greater & grander** reality found in the **thing they are pointing toward!**

These signs are intended to **point beyond themselves** to:

Who Christ is!

And what Christ has come to do!

John 2

And so a quick example of this is the **first sign** that Jesus performed in John chapter 2 where Jesus turns water into wine – and the point of that sign was to demonstrate that:

Jesus is greater than the Old Jewish laws of purification because Jesus came to bring the new wine of the gospel!

Jesus comes to bring abundant joy to the heart of those who trust Him!

John 4

The **second sign** was in John chapter 4 where Jesus heals the Nobleman's son from a distance – Jesus simply commands by the power of His word “your son is healed” – and the point of that sign was to demonstrate that:

Jesus' words of eternal life are so much better than mere physical healing!

That even if our children die but they die trusting in Jesus – we have confidence in God that He knows what to do with our children and sickness!

John 5

The **third sign** in chapter 5 was with the **invalid** who sat at the pool for 38 years unable to get up and walk – and Jesus comes on the sabbath and heals him and tells him to **go and sin no more** – the point of that sign was to demonstrate that:

Jesus comes as Lord of the Sabbath for the weary, withered, and waiting...

That our healing is **NOT** simply a matter of praising God but He heals us **for the sake of holiness!**

John 6

In **John chapter 6** we have the feeding of the 5,000 – and Jesus gets up and gives bread and fish to all the people present – and so we said that the point of that sign was to demonstrate that:

We should not live for the bread that perishes but for the Bread that leads to eternal life!

That Jesus is the bread of life and all those who come to Him in faith will be nourished!

John 6

And then we have Jesus walking on the water **also found in John 6** – and the point of Him *walking on the water* was to demonstrate that:

We must learn to kiss the waves that throw us against the Rock of Ages!

That we can trust Jesus in the storms that get thrown our way!

John 9

And then in **John 9** with the man born blind – Jesus comes and heals the man to demonstrate that:

Jesus has come into the world to open blind eyes, and to harden hard hearts...

Jesus has the ability to take away our spiritual blindness and to harden the hearts of those who reject Him!

John 11

And then in John 11 we have the **final sign** with the raising of Lazarus – and Jesus came and raised him from the dead demonstrating that:

Jesus has the ability to grant spiritual life from the dead!

That that you are **as dead** in your sins as Lazarus was **in that tomb** and we need the one who is the resurrection and the life to call our names from that tomb!

Thomas

And so you get to the end of John chapter 20 with Thomas seeing and believing in the resurrected Jesus and the issue of who Jesus is has now **finally been settled** in the mind of John!

John **in no uncertain terms** has demonstrated who Jesus is – what He has done **in the flesh!**

And so now as John finishes his Gospel – he now concludes with the very purpose for why He recorded these things!

In other words – now that you're here – now that you've read this – now that you've seen the 7 signs of Jesus (and everything else He's done):

You have **no more reasons** NOT to believe!

You have **no valid evidence** to deny Him!

You have **no valid excuses** to reject!

John has given you enough evidence – He has given you **enough proof** –and **enough information** that if you do **NOT** repent of your sins and believe in Jesus Christ then you are choosing to deny Him!

There is **no valid reason** for rejecting Jesus anymore:

There is No **intellectual** reason!

No **moral** reason!

No **scientific** reason!

I like what one person said – they said:

If an honest atheist is willing to examine the facts, he will either cease being an atheist or he will cease being honest...

John has given us this Gospel so that we too like Thomas would make the honest confession:

My Lord and my God!

Notice the personal pronouns that Thomas is using!

He doesn't just say that Jesus is:

The Lord and the God!

But he says:

*Jesus is **my** Lord and **my** God!*

It's personal!

He's owned this reality for himself!

Conclusion

Let me finish with a story I heard this week by a man named J. Wilbur Chapman – he was a pastor and writer many years ago and he tells the story of a travelling man going through Switzerland who came across a little shepherd boy who was uneducated and he told him the story of the Good Shepherd who gave His life for the sheep...

He told Him about the Lord Jesus Christ and God's love for the world – and how He died saving His sheep by laying down His life on the cross!

And so he kind of taught him **something of** Psalm 23 – he related the story back to the 23rd Psalm!

How David exclaims that the LORD is *my Shepherd* and He lays His life down for the sheep!

But the man soon realized that the boy was **very dull** and **very uneducated** – and he **couldn't really read** or remember stories too well!

And so to help the boy remember the story of Jesus – he told him to use his **5 fingers** as a memory device...and he said:

To hold up his 5 fingers and to say:

1. *The*
2. *LORD*
3. *Is*
4. *My*
5. *Shepherd*

And so the story goes that the man left and continued his journey through the *Swiss Alps* – but that **sometime later** he was **coming back** through that region and he remembered where the little boy lived!

And so he stopped by the house to say hello to the boy – but to his **utter shock** and **disappointment** the man discovered that the boy had **died** sometime after the man had left...

And so his mother answered the door – and **after delivering the news** to the man she said to him:

Are you the one that taught my boy to say something on his fingers?!?!

The man looked at the woman and said:

Yes Ma am that's me...

To which the mother replied:

*My boy just before he died told me to tell you that if you ever came this way again to say that he died **holding his fourth finger...***

I don't know if that means anything to you...

And so the man looks down at his fingers and he said:

1. *The*
2. *LORD*
3. *Is*
4. ***My***
5. *Shepherd*

The boy died believing that God died for him!

Friends I wonder if you can **hold your fourth finger** with Thomas here this morning – and to say with Thomas:

*Jesus is **my** Lord and **my** God...*

Can you say that He is your God here this morning...?

Is He your King and Lord here today...?

Do you have the confidence to die in the face of death and to hold fast to the testimony of the word of God and to all those believing Apostles – that:

*Jesus Christ is **my** Lord!*

For this is what it means to confess that Jesus is Christ; the Son of God – that you recognise that He is **NOT only** your Lord but that He is your Lord forever and for always...

And what is the consequence of believing on the Lord Jesus Christ here this morning – well verse 31 tells us:

*That by believing you may have **life in His name***

Or as 1st John 5:11 to 12 so powerfully puts it:

And this is the testimony, that God has given to us: eternal life, and this life is in His Son. And whoever has the Son has life; but whoever does not have the Son of God does not have life...

Let's pray

John 20:24-31

Discussion Questions

[Read John 20:24-31].

Main Point: *Jesus Christ really did rise from the dead – so stop doubting, repent of your sins, and come to Jesus Christ!*

Q1. How often do you find yourself doubting the Christian faith? – What are some common reasons that people doubt the Christian faith?

Q2. What do you think was the main cause of Thomas' doubt? (Intellectual, emotional, moral, or something else)? – How does the example of Thomas help us understand the nature of doubt and belief?

Q3. How does Jesus respond to Thomas' demands in John 20:27? – What does this teach us about Jesus' patience and grace toward doubters?

Q4. In John 20:28, Thomas proclaims, “My Lord and my God!”—why is this confession significant?

Q5. Jesus says in John 20:29, “Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” What does this mean for believers today? – Does this verse negate the idea that we need visible or tangible proof for our faith? Why or why not?

Q6. How can we support fellow believers who are struggling with doubt?

Q7. [Read verses 30-31]. Explain what these verses are saying. – What does it mean to believe in Jesus Christ?