



Thankful for Thomas!

A Resurrection Emphasis in the Gospel of John

Ephesians 1:17-23 1 John 1:1-4 John 20:19-29

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Throughout the **Gospel of John** there is an emphasis on **eternal life** that only Jesus can give.

In the **Gospel of John**, *nine times* Jesus predicts that He will rise from the dead¹. His predictions of His resurrection from the dead that came true just as He said proves to us that He is the Divine Son of God and the Savior of the world!

Who else could predict his own resurrection from the dead?

In addition, in the **Gospel of John**, Jesus identifies Himself with Life and Resurrection images, such as, the **Creator** of all life, **Living** Water, the Bread of **Life**, the **Light and Life** of the World, the **Resurrection and the Life**, the giver of **eternal life**, and the one Who *raises the dead*.

Who else could say those things and mean it?

In addition, in the **Gospel of John**, Jesus works powerful **life** miracles, including giving life to a dying boy; and raising Lazarus from the dead after 4 days in the tomb!

Who else has the power to do those things?

**Throughout the Gospel of John
there is an emphasis on eternal life that only Jesus can give.**

¹ See John 2:19-21, 10:17-18, 11:25-26, 14:2-6, 14:18-19, 14:28-29, 16:16, 16:20, 16:21-22

All of these emphases lead to the greatest confession about Jesus in the Gospel of John, and the very highpoint of the book:

Thomas' confession of faith!

You might be stunned by that – because most of your life you have probably only heard of Thomas' weakness; he has been derided, ridiculed, and mocked as “**doubting Thomas**.” The truth is -- that in the **Gospel of John**, Thomas confesses that Jesus, the crucified and risen man, is **LORD AND GOD!**

It is the PINNACLE of the Gospel of John!

Thomas confesses that **A CRUCIFIED MAN IS GOD!** **A crucified man is the One, True, and Only God.** Everything in the Gospel of John leads up to Thomas and his confession that the crucified and risen Jesus is **LORD AND GOD!**

CERTAINLY THOMAS missed out on Easter night. We heard the story today. The disciples were all together that night, but for some reason, Thomas was absent. Jesus appears, and shows them that He has risen from the dead! *A week later*, the disciples are together again, and this time Thomas is with them. Jesus appears, and singles Thomas out. He gives Thomas a chance to touch His crucified and risen body --- and Thomas takes it! He puts his hands in the wounds and touches the scars and boldly proclaims: ***“my Lord and my God!”***

Later, the Apostle John will give us more insight into what happened at this meeting with Jesus. In his Epistle we call 1 John, John teaches us that it wasn't just Thomas who touched the crucified and risen Jesus, ***but all the disciples touched Him!***

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and we have touched with our hands, concerning the Word of Life . . . we testify to it and proclaim to you 1 John 1:1-2

Thomas, and John, and all the other apostles touched Jesus' crucified and risen body! They all wanted to **see for themselves** and **make sure** that He was alive; they all wanted to make sure that this was the **same exact Jesus** who had taught the people and worked great miracles. They all needed to be **assured** that **the crucified Man** who died on the cross is the same Man who is now **risen from the dead!** And they all confessed that **A CRUCIFIED MAN IS GOD!**

This is good news for us, because they represent all of us. The 11 Apostles all bear witness to us that not only did they hear Jesus, and see Jesus, and look upon Him², but they were able to touch Him with their hands and examine Him to make sure that it is true: the crucified Jesus has indeed risen from the dead! The Apostles are **ear, eye, and hand witnesses** to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead!

Jesus said to them, "Peace be with you." When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. John 20:19-20

For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty. 1 Peter 1:16

Thomas and the Apostles bear witness that Jesus is alive; and if Jesus is alive, then **He is Lord, God and Savior!** Everything Jesus said is true and He proved it by His resurrection from the dead.

- ⇒ He really is the long awaited **Messiah** of the Old Testament, the One promised to rescue us from our sins.
- ⇒ He really is the Divine **Son of God** *in the flesh*, who lives a perfect life and dies a sacrificial death for us.
- ⇒ He really is the **Word** who reveals God's love, grace, and mercy to us. We learn about God the Father from His Only Begotten Son who has risen from the dead.

² The words that John uses in 1 John 1:1-2 are **intense**; they "looked upon" Him means to look intently and paid attention; it is the root of the English word "theatre." The physical handling of Jesus has the idea of **investigating**; they were conducting an investigation to make absolutely sure that the crucified Jesus had now risen from the dead!

⇒ He really does destroy death and gives eternal life to all people. He has overcome death by His resurrection; He Himself is the **Resurrection and the Life**, he who believes in Him, though he die yet shall he live; and whoever lives and believes in Him shall never die.

The apostles bear witness to you that they are **ear, eye, and hand witnesses** to the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead! They have written their words down as a testimony; we know their words as the **NEW TESTAMENT**.

The **NEW TESTAMENT** is Jesus continuing to teach us through His Apostles, just as He promised. The **NEW TESTAMENT** is the Holy Spirit at work in the Apostles to write the inspired and the inerrant Word of God. The **NEW TESTAMENT** is the authoritative teaching of God that bears witness to His Son Jesus; and most specifically, to His death on the cross and His resurrection from the dead on the Third Day! The **NEW TESTAMENT** continues to bear witness to us of the Resurrected Savior; in fact every time you read or hear the Word of God, it is fresh, active, and powerful in your life! The Gospel of John's purpose statement serves as a purpose statement for the **NEW TESTAMENT** as well:

These things are written so that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that by believing you may have life in His Name. John 20:21

Today, **believe** the Apostle's witness! **Trust** the inspired and inerrant **NEW TESTAMENT**. Put your **faith** in the crucified and risen Jesus!

By the power of the Holy Spirit, Thomas' confession is now our confession. We too believe, teach, and confess that Jesus is Lord and God; that He has risen from the dead, and He is the Savior of the world! Today Jesus says to you the same thing He said to Thomas: **Stop doubting, and believe!**

Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed. John 20:27

AMEN!

Crucified and risen Savior of the world, we thank you for the Apostles who bear witness to your crucifixion and resurrection. We thank You that You let them see, touch and examine Your crucified and risen body. Deepen our conviction and strengthen our faith, so that we may live holy and godly lives; speaking good words and do good works. Help us to confess Christ and His crucifixion and resurrection to those in our lives, so that they too may know and believe in you as the crucified and risen Savior of the world, Amen.

1 John 1:1-4

That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— ² the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— ³ that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ.⁴ And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Ephesians 1:17-23

I keep asking that the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the glorious Father, may give you the Spirit of wisdom and revelation, so that you may know him better. **18** I pray also that the eyes of your heart may be enlightened in order that you may know the hope to which he has called you, the riches of his glorious inheritance in the saints, **19** and his incomparably great power for us who believe. That power is like the working of his mighty strength, **20** which he exerted in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly realms, **21** far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every title that can be given, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. **22** And God placed all things under his feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, **23** which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.

John 20:19-29

On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, "Peace be with you." **20** When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. **21** Jesus said to them again, "Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you." **22** And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. **23** If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven them; if you withhold forgiveness from any, it is withheld." **24** Now Thomas, one of the twelve, called the Twin, was not with them when Jesus came. **25** So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord." But he said to them, "Unless I see in his hands the mark of the nails, and place my finger into the mark of the nails, and place my hand into his side, I will never believe." **26** Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you." **27** Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here, and see my hands; and put out your hand, and place it in my side. Do not disbelieve, but believe." **28** Thomas answered him, "My Lord and my God!" **29** Jesus said to him, "Have you believed because you have seen me?