

The Marks of Jesus

John 20:24-31

We have good news today! It's the true gospel message of Jesus Christ.

The Gospel Story would be incomplete if the resurrection of Jesus is overlooked. The Good News of how God sent His one and only Son into the world to seek and to save that which was lost would have a bad ending if Jesus did not rise from the dead. We preach a full gospel including the crucifixion and death of Christ; His burial; and His bodily resurrection to live forevermore. The gospel is good news because of the gift it provides. What does it provide? There is so much.

There's the gift of the forgiveness of sins

- Ephesians 1:7: "In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

There's also the gift of eternal life. God can forgive you, but will he allow you to live forever enjoying the quality of life enjoyed in Heaven? The answer is yes!

- "For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" **(Romans 6:23)**.

The Lord's death secured the forgiveness for all who truly repent and trust in Him. But it doesn't end there. The Lord's resurrection gave proof God accepted the sacrifice Jesus offered on the cross to redeem us. Also, it gives assurance because He lives, we will live. It guarantees our future resurrection.

Here's the Question - Do you believe? Do you really believe the Son of Man, the Lord Jesus who died was truly raised from the dead that third day as the Gospel writers tell us? Your eternal soul hangs in the balances on that question. Paul tells us...

Romans 10:9 if you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved;

I know God is sovereign in salvation. It is God who gives repentance, and faith, yet we are responsible to believe.

When a person refuses to believe, it's not because of a lack of evidence. The evidence of the resurrection is overwhelming!

Luke writes in **Acts 1:3**

He presented himself alive to them after his suffering by many proofs, appearing to them during forty days and speaking about the kingdom of God. (many convincing proofs) CSB

So far, we have seen how Jesus appeared FIRST to Mary Magdalene. Her testimony to the disciples was this "I have seen the Lord!" (John 20:18) Other gospel writers tell us...the disciples were not so quick to believe...Mary's testimony....and other women who saw Jesus... their story "*seemed as idle tales, and they believed them not.*" (Luke 24:10-12)

On that evening...the first day of the week (Sunday)....the disciples were behind closed doors; that is, locked doors for fear of the Jews. They were afraid the Temple Police would come to arrest them since they were connected with Jesus. Jesus appeared to them. He literally came through the locked doors. In his resurrected body...he went through the wooden door. I was reading what John MacArthur had said about this:

"Now I know what the skeptics say. They say, "No, that's not true. He met a janitor who had a secret key and let Him in." Somebody else suggested, "No, He found an open window and crawled through the window." Somebody else said, "No, the truth of the matter is He was in the room before they got there and locked the door." All ridiculous efforts to discount the resurrection" (MacArthur)

Jesus appeared to ten disciples. Originally, we have 12 disciples, but we know what happened to Judas Iscariot. We also know Thomas was not present that evening. That leaves only ten. Jesus gives them assurance and calmness by saying, "Peace be unto you" (Shalom). He showed them his hands and his side. LUKE tells us he showed them his feet, also.

Let me read what Luke tells us in **LUKE 24:37-43**

³⁷ But they were startled and terrified and thought they were seeing a ghost. ³⁸ "Why are you troubled?" he asked them. "And why do doubts arise in your hearts? ³⁹ Look at my hands and my feet, that it is I myself! Touch me and see, because a ghost does not have flesh and bones as you can see I have." ⁴⁰ Having said this, he showed them his hands and feet. ⁴¹ But while they still were amazed and in disbelief because of their joy, he asked them, "Do you have anything here to eat?" ⁴² So they gave him a piece of a broiled fish, ⁴³ and he took it and ate in their presence.

I will introduce our next section which deals with Doubting Thomas. We are hard on Thomas, but the other disciples were just as difficult to believe.

NOTICE v.24-25

..... unless I see.....I will never believe.

Eight days later v.26 Jesus appears to the ELEVEN...Thomas is with them now..

THOMAS - 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.**

EIGHT DAYS later.... Jesus gives Thomas the opportunity to DO JUST THAT ! come here Thomas.... let me have your hand.... place your finger into the scars...

Jesus: Do not disbelieve but believe.

Thomas: He recognized Jesus as God! My Lord and my God!

Jesus: Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.

The disciples who became the Apostles saw with their own EYES the physical, bodily resurrected Christ.

They were there to give witness. They had a testimony....just like Mary Magdalene who said, "I have seen the Lord"..... just like the ten disciples telling Thomas, "We have seen the Lord".....now all of them can say, WE ALL HAVE SEEN THE LORD!

WE HAVE SEEN PHYSICAL EVIDENCE. We've seen the nail print hands....the nail print feet.... the scar from the spear in his side.....WE've seen it.....

How do we believe? We were not there, so how can we know it's true?

1. Believing is supported by Eyewitnesses who were present.

They say a man named Christopher Columbus discovered the Americas...He sailed a ship into the area called the Bahamas. They teach kids this little poem:

In fourteen hundred ninety-two
Columbus sailed the ocean blue.
He had three ships and left from Spain.
He used the stars to find his way.

How do we know this is true? We were not there. I didn't see this historical event with my eyes.

Yet, I am satisfied it really happened. There's overwhelming evidence this event took place back in history. Someone was physically present to document this.

I wasn't living when Abraham Lincoln was president. I've never met the man. I'm satisfied he was the president of the United States as the history books tell us. There's too much that's

been documented, written down for us to read to close our eyes in disbelief. Too many people were present to see President Lincoln.

The disciple Thomas was NOT present the first time when the other disciples saw Jesus. There was enough convincing evidence for Thomas to believe, yet he chose not to believe unless he saw with his own eyes. There seems to be a mild rebuke from our Lord to Thomas:

“Have you believed because you have seen me? Blessed are those who have not seen and yet have believed.” (I believe this was for the other disciples as well, because they had to see the scars as well.)

They were convinced because of the unmistakable evidence of the nail prints in his hands and feet.

The number of EYE Witnesses was incredible. The “marks of Jesus” made the difference. As we have read in previous passage, “Then the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.”

Over 500 brethren at once saw Jesus in His Risen Body... - 1Cor. 15:7

This is fresh testimonies.... not over a period of 100's of years..... over a period of 40 days Jesus revealed himself to his disciples.

Believing is supported by Eye Witnesses..... they were present to see all of this...

2. Believing is supported by all that's been written.

"By the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established." Matthew 18:16

The testimony of the resurrection is established by witnesses. The Bible says “by the mouth of two or three witnesses.....” The witnesses to the Resurrection surpass that number greatly.

- If Peter was here today, he could tell us a lot..... His testimony is powerful.
- If John was here today, he could tell us a lot.... His testimony is powerful.
- The same could be said for Philip, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and even the Apostle Paul.

All those who were eyewitnesses to the Lord's resurrection are gone, but their testimonies are still with us on the pages of God's Word.

READ vv.30-31

- We don't have knowledge of everything that Jesus did in the way of miraculous signs.... He did so many things that we don't have a record of it. **LOOK at 21:25** *"Now there are also many other things.....I suppose the world....."*

- **WE do have**....all that we need to believe in the Lord Jesus Christ..... JESUS is the CHRIST (Greek) or MESSIAH (Hebrew)
the SON of GOD

We have the WRITTEN WORD:

Matthew gives a witness through what He has written

Mark gives a witness through what He has written

Luke gives a witness through what He has written

So does John....and all the Gospel writers..... Paul who gave the epistles (letters)

The entire Bible is God's inspired Word..... you can believe every word.

Listen to John's testimony:

1John 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 — ²the 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— ³that 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. ⁴And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

1John 5:13

³I write these things to you who believe in the name of the Son of God, that you may know that you have eternal life

John tells us..... Jesus did Many other signs.....that's what His miracles were... miraculous signs.... Just like a sign on the roadside tells you certain things..... points you in the right direction....

the miracles of Jesus....were SIGNS.... pointing everyone to the glory of God who was displayed in the Person of the Lord Jesus....

that by believing you may have life in his name.....

something has happened to you. A wonderful change has come into your life.

Romans 8:16 *The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God,*

1John 3:24 *..by this we know that he abides in us, by the Spirit whom he has given us.*

Just like the nail prints of Jesus give evidence that HE is the ONE. This is the ONE who gave his life on the Cross.

Jesus through the New Birth Experience leaves HIS MARK on those Who are His. A change comes with being Born Again. It's impossible to encounter the God of our salvation, and not know it.

Apostle Paul --- an incredible change came about in his life.... he once persecuted the church, after his conversion...he became the one persecuted for preaching Christ. Paul once said, *"I bear in my body the marks of the Lord Jesus"*. (Galatians 6:17)

Marks of persecution was his personal testimony for the Christ He lived for....and was willing to die for.

By believing you may have life in his name.....when you have HIS LIFE in YOU... it makes a change.

John Newton – wrote Amazing Grace, said this:

"I am not what I ought to be, I am not what I want to be, I am not what I hope to be in another world; but still I am not what I once used to be, and by the grace of God I am what I am" (John Newton)

I know Jesus lives...because He lives within my heart. Like what Peter said.....

1Peter 1:8-9

⁸Though you have not seen him, you love him. Though you do not now see him, you believe in him and rejoice with joy that is inexpressible and filled with glory, ⁹obtaining the outcome of your faith, the salvation of your souls.

Where does this love come from? Where does this "rejoicing" come from? It's the LIFE OF CHRIST in US.

What a wonderful change in my life has been wrought

Since Jesus came into my heart!

I have light in my soul for which long I have sought,

Since Jesus came into my heart!

One of these days.... we will see the Marks of Jesus.... Just as the disciples saw his nail print hands and feet... I don't think those scars will fade away over the many many centuries of time.....

I believe they will be visible to us in Heaven. An eternal reminder of what it cost to get us to Heaven.

Revelation 21:4 says - God will wipe away every tear from our eyes..... I'm not sure what all might bring on the tears.....Do you think the very sight of the nail print hands of Jesus might bring it on?

The Marks Jesus bore on our behalf....secures for us a place in heaven.....secures our redemption....

See Revelation 1:7 "Behold, he is coming with the clouds, and every eye will see him, Even those who pierced him....."

Fanny Crosby..... blind..... wrote a hymn "I shall know Him"...

When my lifework is ended and I cross the swelling tide,

When the Bright and glorious morning I shall see;

I shall know my Redeemer when I reach the other side,

And his smile will be the first to welcome me.

.....

I shall know Him, I shall know Him,

And redeemed by His side I shall stand;

I shall know Him, I shall know Him

By the print of the nails in His hand.

Do you believe? Do you know Christ as Lord and Savior?

The Marks of Jesus

John 20:24-31

The Gospel account would be incomplete if the resurrection of Jesus is overlooked. The gospel is “good news” because of the gift it provides:

- the forgiveness of sins - Ephesians 1:7
- eternal life - Romans 6:23

Do you believe Jesus was raised from the dead? Romans 10:9

Acts 1:3 Jesus presented himself alive....by many convincing proofs...”

Thomas – was unwilling to believe Jesus rose from the dead unless he saw the marks on Jesus’ body left by the nails, and spear.

How do we come to Believe in Christ?

I. Believing is supported by **Eyewitnesses.** vv.24-29

II. Believing is supported by all that’s been **written.** vv.30-31

1John 1:1-4; 5:13

III. Believing is supported by your own **personal testimony.** v.31

Romans 8:16

1John 3:24

1Peter 1:8-9