

## Who is Jesus?: Peace-Giver Pt.2

John 20:24-29

### Introduction

- Christ is Peace and He gives Peace.
- Make no mistake PEACE has a PURPOSE!

### Disbelief – The Absence of Peace & the Peace-Giver (vv.24-25)

- Thomas the Twin
  - Aramaic (Thomas) and Greek (Didymus) - twin
  - **John 11:16**
  - **John 14:3**
- The Testimony of his friends was not enough
  - Imperfect tense – They persisted in telling him and he persisted in being obstinate
- **Application:**
  - Many doubt and are in disbelief as self-professed followers of Christ, but are out of step because they are not in the company of believers
  - Some of you are like these friends. Don't lose heart. They cannot change until they "see" Christ for themselves

### Belief – The Presence of the Peace-Giver (vv.26-28)

- In the Presence of Others
  - Fear appears to subside some – their testimony has extended beyond the doors
  - Together...Behind locked doors
- The Presence of Christ
  - Christ appears to bring peace to Thomas
  - Will not lose one...Will save the one
  - Mercy

- The Presence of Sovereign grace
  - Christ came to Thomas
    - Knew what hindered Thomas
  - Gave him what he had not warranted (condescending grace)
    - Notice that while Christ had finished the work on the cross to atone for Thomas' sin, He showed great mercy in the means given Thomas to experience the joys of that finished work!
  - Gave him a command
    - Imperative to quit distrust / disbelief
    - Joined imperative to believe / trust
    - The command to repentance is always two-fold
- The Presence of Belief
  - No indication Thomas followed through with touching Christ...What's clear is his confession!
  - True Belief Confesses: "My Lord and my God"
    - Kyrios - The Master of Me (landowner, estate owner, slave owner) – dispense His pleasure as He sees fit
    - Theos - The God of Me (singular object of worship)
    - Immanence & Transcendence (both are statements of Christ's deity)
    - **Rom.10:8-10**
  - The Place of Belief in John's Gospel
    - Concluding account representing the main purpose for the Gospel being written
      - And how appropriate the last personal testimony of belief comes from Thomas knowing that John's Letters, which we'll study this summer (**1,2,3 John**) deal with assurance of salvation
    - The key component in this belief is confessing that Jesus is the Christ and John has faithfully put Christ's deity on display

- A person (like Thomas) may not understand the full gravity of their confession, but it is their initial confession nonetheless
- **Application:**
  - Do you want peace for others? Introduce them to Christ and have them in your midst. Show mercy to those who doubt (**Jude 22**).
  - Unbeliever, what are you looking at? You're looking for evidence, but He shows you Himself.
    - Look to creation and see such order in seasons, animals and especially the miracle of being human
    - Look to the church, although often hypocritical and frail, she has remained. Men, Kings, Armies have sought to destroy her, but even the gates of hell do not prevail
    - Look upon great saints who have been willing to die for the gospel and cause of Christ
    - Look to the Scriptures that have endured scrutiny for centuries and have remained with us
    - Look upon Him, experience His mercy, and obey His command to believe!

by God in Christ Jesus and that is the kind of faith that He finds acceptable!

- **1 Peter 1:8-9**
- We have something more sure than hands on experience with Christ
  - **2 Peter 1:1,16-21**
- **Application:**
  - While on a fleshly level it may appear that the opposite of peace is fear, what we see ultimately is that the opposite of peace is disbelief. So, true peace is rooted in believing that Jesus is the Christ and rejoicing in that belief!
    - That He is God
    - That He is Alive
    - That He has finished His Saving work
    - So, what can man, job loss or cancer do to you?
    - Peace is knowing that the Peace-Giver knows you!
    - ARE YOU AT PEACE?

**Joy – The Result of Believing in the Peace-Giver (v.29)**

- Seeing is Believing vs. Believing is Seeing
  - This is the key verse in believing
  - The tie between seeing and believing is clear
  - Faith is a gift of God (**Eph.2:8-9**) and not appropriate by human evidence or reason, otherwise we would boast in our powers of reason and understanding
- Happy are they who see as a result of believing
  - Makarios - Not mere happiness. Denotes acceptance by God.
    - Knowing that Faith has been born in us by the Spirit of God, our evident joy is rooted in knowing that we have been forever accepted