

MY LORD AND MY GOD

Recorded in John 20, we read of the historical event in which the disciples told Thomas, also one of the original 12 disciples, the good news that Jesus had risen from the dead. Unfortunately, their eyewitness account – “We have seen the Lord” (John 20:25) – was not enough to convince Thomas. Thomas responded, “Except I shall see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and thrust my hand into His side, I will not believe.” Later, Thomas and other disciples were “upbraided” or scolded by Jesus because of the disciples’ “unbelief and hardness of heart, because they believed not them which had seen Him after He was risen” (Mark 16:14). Jesus offered Thomas the opportunity to “reach hither thy finger, and behold My hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into My side: and be not faithless, but believing” (John 20:27). Thomas, seeing the evidence, proclaimed, “My Lord and my God” (John 20:28).

Unlike Thomas, we do not have the opportunity to see, with our eyes, the physical evidence of the pierced hands and side of the risen Savior. Jesus expects us to believe the credible and trustworthy eyewitness accounts of the inspired writers of the New Testament just as He expected Thomas to do the same. Thomas was chided by the Lord for being “faithless” because he refused to acknowledge the words of those hand-picked apostles of Christ. John 20 ends with these words, “And many other signs truly did Jesus in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book: But *these are written, that ye might believe* that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through His name” (20:30-31, emphasis B.G.). The apostle Peter states, “for we have not followed cunningly devised fables, when we made known unto you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were *eyewitnesses* of His majesty” (2 Pet. 1:16, emphasis B.G.). Again, John records, “that which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked upon, and our hands have handled, of the Word of life...That which we have seen and heard declare we unto you” (1 John 1:1, 3). The evidence has been recorded by inspired men of God in God’s Holy Book. The evidence is clear, powerful, and undeniable. The evidence, being so overwhelming, should lead us to exclaim, “my Lord and my God.” Those who deny the written evidence which has been providentially preserved unto this day, as well as the “invisible things of Him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead” will be “without excuse” (Rom. 1:20).

To many, claiming Jesus as Lord is nothing more than a ritualistic act. They make the claim, but do nothing else. Jesus asks, “why call ye Me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say” (Luke 6:46)? Those who love Jesus, will keep His commandments (John 14:15). So what does it mean to say, “my Lord and my God?” It means that I have no other Lord but Him (Exo. 20:3-5). To call Jesus, *Lord*, is to submit to His supreme authority and rule over our lives (Mat. 28:18). It means that we only teach and practice such things as are authorized by Jesus and His Word (Col. 3:17). It means that we crucify our selfish desires and will and live for Christ (Gal. 2:20). It means that we worship God according to His will and not our own (Col. 2:23). It means that I will conform or mold my life around the example of Jesus and not that of the world around me, “for I [*Jesus*] have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you” (John 13:15; cf. Rom. 12:1-2). It means that we will follow God and not man (Acts 5:29).

Have you acknowledged, based upon the facts and evidence, that Jesus is Lord and God? Or have you simply made the claim without doing the things which He says? Let us follow after

Christ and teach and practice only the things which He authorizes. Let us submit wholly to the power and authority of Jesus, our Lord and our God.

- *Brad Green*