

"THOMAS' CONFESSION"**Introduction**

1. The amazing narrative of Resurrection
2. The varied reactions to it
3. In particular here: of Thomas

1. WE ARE HERE GIVEN AN EXAMPLE OF UNBELIEF

- 1) Thomas was one of the Twelve:
 - (i) he had seen Christ's life for three years
 - (ii) he had witnessed miracles
 - (iii) he had real faith and real love
BUT he here expresses his unbelief
- 2) Thomas knew the character of the brethren:
 - (i) who here confess the Resurrection: v.25
 - (ii) he knew them to be godly + good
 - (iii) he must have heard Peter, John, Mary...
BUT he gives voice to his unbelief
- 3) He had a good deal of knowledge:
 - (i) the wonderful experiences of Enoch + Elijah
 - (ii) cases of resurrection in the OT
 - (iii) cases of resurrection by Christ
YET, in spite of all these things – unbelief.
OBSERVE: Notice – the best of men are very imperfect

2. WE SEE UNBELIEF TRANSFORMED INTO FAITH

- 1) He now has a glorious experience:
 - (i) on the next Lord's Day: v.26
 - (ii) "then came Jesus"
 - (iii) the evidence before his very eyes
NOW: all unbelief is banished
- 2) He makes a wonderful confession:

- (i) "My Lord and my God"
- (ii) He sees the Godhead of Christ
- (iii) He implies belief in the holy Trinity

- 3) There was infirmity in his unbelief:
 - (i) he should have known from the OT
 - (ii) and from Christ's own words
 - (iii) and from the testimony of others
APPLICATION: O do not be slow to believe the truth!
- 4) But in the end Thomas believes:
 - (i) see how people are changed – faith!
 - (ii) faith is what makes people confess
 - (iii) a wonderful confession: "MY Lord..."
APPLICATION: Face the fact of Christ's resurrection.
Are you still holding back from confessing Him openly?
Why do you not?

3. WE ARE GIVEN AND ENCOURAGEMENT FOR TODAY

- 1) Thomas believed because he SAW
- 2) Today we must believe on TESTIMONY
- 3) If we do, we are "blessed" (v.29)
- 4) To be a Christian is to BELIEVE (v.30, 31)
- 5) God expects you to believe His words:
 - (i) the father who half-believed
 - (ii) the Samaritan woman
 - (iii) the man born blind
 - (iv) the warnings against unbelief
- 6) What more could God do to persuade us?
 - (i) your duty is to pray for faith
 - (ii) illustration

CONCLUSION

1. Christ is risen indeed
2. Blessed are believers
3. It is the way to heaven

PSALM

22: 22 – 28

69: 30 -36

110: 1 – 5