



TRUE LIGHT

RESURRECTION 2.3: UNLESS...!

June 15, 2025

SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

SUNDAY

Sunday School :
9:30 a.m.
Worship:
10:15 a.m.
5:00 p.m.

WEDNESDAY

Bible Study.....7:00PM

MINISTER

Stan Dauck
573-293-5620

ELDERS

David Burleson
573-820-0329
David Carson
573-276-5567
Stan Dauck
573-293-5594

DEACONS

Wayne Reams
Rodney Williams

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Bernie church of Christ

"This is the day the Lord has made. Let us rejoice and be glad in it."

Psalms 118:24

**We Welcome You
To All Of Our
Services**

Unless... We must not rush past Thomas' demand for proof!

We must not confuse Thomas' demand with uncertainty or doubt. His "Unless..." would have never been uttered if he hadn't demanded to know for certain that Jesus was alive. After all, the Jesus Thomas had loved, the Jesus he had followed, was the Jesus who had died so gruesomely, utterly rejected and humiliated, leaving Thomas and his friends devastated, fearful, and without hope.

While some view Thomas as far less than a hero, I love Thomas' reaction to the other disciples:

Now Thomas (also known as Didymus), one of the Twelve, was not with the disciples when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord!" But he said to them, "Unless I see the nail marks in his hands and put my finger where the nails were, and put my hand into his side, I will not believe" (John 20:24-25).

For some, belief in Jesus' resurrection sure seems to be easy for them. For others, trust in Jesus' resurrection was a faith into which they were born and raised. For others, however, faith in Jesus' resurrection seems impossible, or at best, very hard to believe.

I am so thankful for Thomas. He doesn't mention doubt. There is nothing said about Thomas doubting in the Bible. "Doubting Thomas" is our title for him. The truth is far harsher: Thomas didn't doubt. Thomas wouldn't believe. *Unless...* Don't rush past Thomas' demand for proof! He needed more than a few friends getting all excited about an idea before accepting their idea as his reality. He wanted hard evidence that Jesus was raised from the dead before he would have a faith he owned for himself.

We live in a day when so few people look at anything critically. We will buy almost any story on the internet if it supports our biases. We want to be part of groups that share our prejudices. We want to connect with ideas and movements that excite us and attach us with others who are like us. Thomas could have acquiesced to the opinion and pressure of his buddies. He didn't. He wouldn't!

We will buy almost any story on the internet if it supports our biases.

Unless... Thomas said. He had to know for sure that Jesus triumphed over death and was alive. If Jesus had defeated death through resurrection, then this new reality would call for Thomas to radically reorient his life. The truth of a resurrected Jesus meant that Jesus was even higher than the person Thomas had followed for over three years. This reality - and the resurrected Jesus behind it - would call him to give up everything to help others know Jesus and who he was. He was ready to do that if he could know it was true. But he wouldn't believe it.

Unless... We can be thankful that Jesus helped him with his demand!

A week later his disciples were in the house again, and Thomas was with them. Though the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, "Peace be with you!" Then he said to Thomas, "Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side. Stop [disbelieving] and believe" (John 20:26-27).

I know the word "disbelieving," that is in brackets in the verses above, is "doubting" in nearly every translation you've ever read. But the word Thomas used is not the word for doubt, but the word for unbelief. In fact, the word for believing is *pistos*, and the word for disbelieving is *apistos*. That "a" (or alpha in Greek) on the front end of the word makes the word mean the opposite of believing.

In my world, there is a big difference between doubters and those who won't believe. There is a harder edge toward faith when someone has chosen not to believe. Thomas emphatically said he *certainly would not believe* (John 20:25): he had made a choice, a commitment, not to believe.

So, Jesus gave Thomas undeniable proof that he was alive after being dead. He gave him similar proof to what he had given the other disciples when he had asked those disciples to touch him and then ate fish with them after his resurrection (Luke 24:36-43). Jesus told Thomas, *Put your finger here; see my hands. Reach out your hand and put it into my side.*"

Why am I making such a big deal about disbelieving and believing? Because of Thomas' reaction to Jesus who demonstrated that he was alive, triumphant over death and the grave. Once he realized that Jesus was truly alive, this was his reaction:

Thomas said to Jesus, "My Lord and my God" (John 20:28).

John had told us at the beginning of his good news story of Jesus that Jesus was God - creator, eternally existent, the source of light and life (John 1:1-13). John also told us that Jesus was God walking among those he created and making known to them how the eternal and almighty God loves us and cares for us (John 1:14-18).

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BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

June 16 - Judy Flannery
 June 17 - David & Cindy Burleson (A)
 Mike & Judy Duley (A)
 Jacie McGowan
 June 21 - Marty Howard
 June 22 - Houston Neely
 Brian & Valerie McGowan (A)



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

Instant Rice * Muffin Mixes * Pretzels *
 Pasta (Bow Tie, Penne, Rotini) * Paper
 Towels * Ibuprofen/Acetaminophen

Pick Up Date August 18

Attendance for June 8: 124
Contribution for June 8: \$3576

WILLING TO SERVE

June 15, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
 Opening Prayer.....Jon Neely
 Scripture.....Ryan Young
 Prayer.....Jason Karnes
 Closing Prayer.....Jess Lecroy

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....David Carson
 Prayer.....Justin Allen
 Scripture.....Ron Garner
 Dismissal.....David Burleson

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
 Prayer.....Ron Garner
 Dismissal.....Matt Ward

June 22, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
 Opening Prayer.....David Carson
 Scripture.....Steve Jones
 Prayer.....Zack Tanner
 Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Chase Burch
 Prayer.....Sam Garner
 Scripture.....Justin Allen
 Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

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John wanted everyone to know that any title given to Jesus, any description of Jesus as a great teacher, a powerful spiritual being, or a great man, is an insult to Jesus. Such depictions fall far short of Jesus and his true identity!

The resurrected Jesus demonstrated that he was alive to Thomas. His victory over sin, death, and hell show us that he is both "Lord and God"! So, the real question for you and me is whether or not each of us will join Thomas and call Jesus *My Lord and my God*.

We must not limit Jesus to being a mascot for our faith. He must not be someone we say we believe and yet ignore his example and his teaching. If Jesus is Lord and God, he must be THE authority for our spiritual decisions and the way we live our lives each day. How Jesus treated people must be how we treat people. The truth that Jesus taught must be our truth. We must filter all of our interpretations of Bible understanding through the ultimate truth we find in Jesus. We can never be right about what we say is important to us as Christians if we say it or portray it or treat people in a way that isn't consistent with what Jesus said and did. We can't water our morality down merely because it doesn't fit our modern culture if Jesus taught a higher morality. We cannot hold prejudices against other peoples, races, or cultures if Jesus reached out to them, included them, and cared for them. If Jesus is Lord and God, then we must change our lives and align our priorities with him!

If we truly believe in Jesus' resurrection, we are called to confess and live with Jesus as our Lord and God! Like Thomas, we must know that a resurrected Jesus calls us to see him differently than religion has portrayed him to be. A resurrected Jesus demands that we honor Jesus differently than those who want to be their own god and water Jesus down to be who they want him to be. A resurrected Jesus demands that we must not pigeon hole him into a spiritual authority that only supports our group to the exclusion of others or allows us to ignore the lost, broken, and forgotten around us he spent his life trying to save.

However, if we dare join Thomas and hold Jesus as our Lord and God, we are promised God's blessing.
 Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Darlene McGowan is in room 5020 at Winchester Place and is on hospice care following a blood clot blocking blood flow to her GI tract * **Janie Burleson** is currently in St Louis University Hospital and is expected to be moved to Dexter for rehab following a severe stroke last week * **Misty Owens Franklin** (daughter of Karen Franklin) has been diagnosed with cancer that has spread to her bones * **David Burleson** had a doctor's appointment Thursday * **Cody Boyt** had an appointment Friday in St Louis for stomach issues * **Rick Beard** doing better after a recent stay in the hospital for heart related issues * **Bettie Thurston** is back at Winchester after a hospital stay for a light stroke and other issues * **Jeanie Buck** (Kent Buck's mother) has been moved to a private residence in Dexter for rehab * **Jim Ward** has been sick for several weeks now and has some tests scheduled * **Cathy Provance** still waiting for hip replacement surgery *

Continue praying for these members of our church family: Cody Boyt * Jerry Burleson * David Burleson * David Carson * Pat Cooper * Sue Flowers * Karen Forkum * Patsy (Hardy) Gregg * Darlene McGowan * Helen McGowan * Jeff McGowan * Donna McKuin * Gloria Moore * Bettie Thurston * Woody Wood

Those dealing with cancer/other illness (non congregational) :

Melinda Akers * Chastity Beard * Cathy Bennett * Rodney Britt * Scott Burleson * Roxanne Carson * Sherry Chambers * Tammy Clark * Randy Cravens * Barbara Denson * Bill Fitzpatrick * Audrey Galloway * Emily Garner * Patricia Greninger * Stan Goodman * Renee Goodman * Nolan Hollowell * LeAnn Jacques * Tommy Jacques * Pam Jeralds * Holly Johnson * Kristin Meadows * Jerry Mickey * Connie Lemmons * Ponna Mahan * Betty Nicholson * Keagan Owens * Nikki Reif * Bobby Thornton * Mindy Tomah * Joe Vincent * Alan Woodward

Our Shut Ins

Pat Cooper * Sue Flowers * Bettie Thurston *

Looking Ahead:

June 18: Our Summer Series speaker will be Mitchell Rogers, minister for the Green Forest congregation.

June 22: Potluck style bridal shower following morning worship for Luke Tanner and Caris Foriester. They are registered at theknot.com.

June 27-29: Gospel Meeting at Central church of Christ with guest speaker Glenn Colley. The theme is "Things that Matter Most." more information can be found on the bulletin board by the nursery.

June 28: Youth Rally at Green Forest church of Christ with guest speaker Joe Wells. The theme is "Rooted." More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

June 29: Seniors Rally at Valley View in Jonesboro with guest speaker John W. Smith. More information is posted on the bulletin board by the nursery.

July 6: Session 3 of Bootheel Youth Camp begins. Forms will be available soon.

July 20-23: Vacation Bible School. Our theme this year is "Untangled: Wild About God's Plan." We will need lots of help and lots of cookies. Be praying and planning for a successful VBS.

WANTED:

We are in need of lots of brown kraft paper - the type that is used in packing and shipping - for VBS this year. If you have any please drop it into the box in the foyer or give it to Amy Thomason. Wrinkled paper is fine!

It's a "treat" worshipping with fathers of faith. Dads, please stop by the table in the foyer and help yourself to a sweet treat today.

Happy Father's Day!