



TRUE LIGHT

June 8, 2025

Resurrection 2.2: Sometimes, I Doubt!

Life is hard. People can let us down. Church people can wound us. Our prayers can feel like they go unanswered and ignored. Our physical health can deteriorate. Aging can steal a loved-one's mind before that precious one's body gives out. We grow weary and worn by our circumstances or the monotony of our lives or the lack of joy we meet in each day.

Before long, we can find ourselves beginning to doubt. We can sometimes doubt God's goodness or doubt Jesus' concern for us or doubt the historical reality of Jesus' resurrection. Unfortunately, we fear to talk to anyone about our doubts. We wrestle with them alone. But why are we afraid to admit our doubts? Have we forgotten that we are not alone in having doubts?

When they came back from the tomb, they told all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. It was Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James, and the others with them who told this to the apostles. But they [the apostles] did not believe the women, because their [the women's] words seemed like nonsense (Luke 24:9-11).

The apostles of Jesus doubted the news of his resurrection when they first heard. They were broken, weary, fearful, and shattered by their abandonment of their Lord, the ordeal of his crucifixion, and the horrors of Golgotha. Doubt was much easier to muster than faith or hope.

Why do we give Thomas the nickname "Doubting Thomas"? Didn't he state the obvious? Don't we all know that dead people don't rise from the dead and we're not going to believe resurrection happens until we see it? So, if we watch and listen to the reactions of Jesus' first disciples to his resurrection - if we linger with them in their doubt - then maybe we can find some peace and hope in our doubts!

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).

The first reaction of nearly all of Jesus' closest friends to reports that he has risen from the dead was pretty much like our initial reaction would be: "I doubt it!"

- The women who went to the tomb weren't expecting him to rise from the dead (John 20:1-2; Luke 24:1-6).
- The apostles who heard the women's testimony about Jesus being raised from the dead didn't believe them (Luke 24:9-11).
- Peter and John weren't expecting Jesus to be raised from the dead when they ran to the tomb based on the women's report (Luke 24:12; John 20:3-9).
- The disciples on the road to Emmaus weren't expecting Jesus to be raised from the dead and did not recognize him even as he walked, talked, and taught them (Luke 24:13-35).
- The rest of the apostles were not believers in Jesus' resurrection until he appeared to them in the upper room and ate fish to prove he wasn't merely a vision (Luke 24:36-45).
- Even as Jesus neared giving his final words to his disciples, some still doubted (Matthew 28:6-17).

Skeptics doubting the bodily resurrection of Jesus shouldn't surprise anyone. In fact, our occasional moments of doubt as Jesus' followers shouldn't surprise us. To put the matter simply, our experience makes clear that dead people don't rise from the dead. Funerals are our final farewell to the bodily presence of those we love, not a prelude to their appearance at a dinner party three days later. A buried person's body might appear again for exhumation, but not for conversation at a celebration dinner (Luke 24:36-43) or a beachside picnic (John 21:1-14). Doubters are not bad people, they're just realistic ones.

Those early doubters-turned-to-witnesses, however, become one of the foundations on which we can build our faith. They proclaimed a risen Jesus whom God made both Lord and Christ (Acts 2:33-36). They proclaimed this to the people who first had Jesus condemned and executed (Acts 2:32-36; Acts 4:1-13) - people they feared and from whom they hid in a locked room (John 20:19). They openly proclaimed Jesus' resurrection fifty days after Jesus' resurrection, allowing for anyone who wanted to try and contradict them (1 Corinthians 15:3-7). They wrote about Jesus' resurrection while there were still witnesses around to either confirm or deny their claims and in the places where Jesus was known.

Even more astonishingly, these once timid and fearful folks were so emboldened after their encounters with the resurrected Jesus that they were willing to give their lives for their testimony (Acts 4:18-34; Acts 12:1-4).

Continued on back

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
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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**

BIRTHDAYS/ANNIVERSARIES

June 9 - Darri Thompson
June 12 - Kynlie Allen
 Ethan Ward
June 13 - Scott and Judy Flannery (A)
 Kimberly Ward
June 14 - Jason Shelton



CHILDREN'S HOMES NEEDS

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

Pick Up Date August 18

Contribution for June 1: \$4333

WILLING TO SERVE

June 8, 2025

Morning Worship:

Song Leader.....Ralph Mullins
Opening Prayer.....David Carson
Scripture.....Steve Jones
Prayer.....Zack Tanner
Closing Prayer.....Justin Allen

Evening Worship:

Song Leader.....Rodney Williams
Prayer.....Sam Garner
Scripture.....Justin Allen
Dismissal.....Wayne Reams

Wednesday, June 11, 2025

Song Leader.....Jacob Clayton
Prayer.....Ron Garner
Dismissal.....Jerry McCoy

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

Continued from front

This change may be the greatest testimony of all because their message didn't make sense to their world (1 Corinthians 1:20-25, 30-31; 1 Corinthians 2:1-2). Their proclamation of Jesus' resurrection from the dead wasn't easily received by a world that didn't believe in any form of bodily resurrection (Acts 17:12-16; 30-32; 1 Corinthians 2:3-5). Despite every reason not to proclaim this message of a resurrected Jesus, those early disciples completely reoriented their lives to declare it. Peter was repeatedly arrested and abused for his faith. James became an early martyr for his testimony about Jesus (Acts 12:1-4). Stephen was stoned to death because of his testimony and Saul of Tarsus (who later was known as Paul the apostle) even supervised his execution (Acts 7:54-60; Acts 8:1-4). But after Jesus appeared to Saul on the road to Damascus, Saul completely reoriented his whole life to proclaim his risen Savior (Acts 20:24-26; Acts 26:2-29). Many of those early Christian witnesses paid for their testimony with their lives.

Those disciples of Jesus who were early doubters that turned believers proclaimed the risen Jesus and testified to their conviction with their own blood. Their testimony as a ragtag group of "nobodies" who had denied, betrayed and forsaken Jesus in their fear while he was crucified, changed the world with their message and their sacrifices. I don't know about you, but their doubts turned to sacrificial testimony helps speak to my doubts that the impossible became possible by the power of God now available to us (Ephesians 1:17-20) because:

Jesus is risen from the dead... And we believe!
Phil Ware, www.heartlight.com

Attendance for June 1: n/a

REMEMBER IN PRAYER

Rick Beard was taken to Mercy Hospital in Cape Tuesday with heart related issues and is back home * **Bettie Thurston** suffered temporary loss of her eyesight Monday. She was taken to Mercy in Cape to be tested for a possible light stroke * **Jeanie Buck** (Kent Buck's mother) recently fell and broke her pelvis and will be transferred to a rehab unit when a room becomes available * **Jim Ward** has been sick for several weeks now and has some tests scheduled * **Janie Burleson** is still struggling with illness but is feeling some better * **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:

TODAY: CRC Day for Crowleys Ridge College. There will be a box in the foyer for donations to Crowleys Ridge for Bible major scholarships.

TODAY: Baby shower with the Gideon congregation for Kayli and Kason Lawrence at 2:30 in the fellowship room. They are expecting a baby girl and all ladies of the congregation are invited to attend.

June 10: Ladies Lunch Out at Malden Country Club at 11:30. Since we had no attendees last month, we will try again! There is a sign up sheet on the table in the foyer if you'd like to attend.

June 11: Our Summer Series speaker this week is Kevin Lawrence from the Gideon congregation.

June 12: Ladies Retreat Planning Meeting at 6:30 in the fellowship room.

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

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.

A gravesite service for Marty Watson will be held tomorrow, June 9, at 2 p.m. at the Veteran's Cemetery in Bloomfield.

Bible Trivia:

Because of Achan's sin he was stoned in the valley of? * What was the name of the sorcerer who was struck blind by Paul the apostle? * After Paul's shipwreck he swam to the island of? * What was the name of the wife of both Nabal and King David?

Answers: Achhor (Joshua 7:24-26) * Elymas (Acts 13:6-12) Melita (Acts 27:41-44; 28:1) * Abigail (1 Samuel 25:3, 42)