

Series **A Resurrection Trilogy****Part** **3**

The study of God's Word is for the purpose of growing in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.

- If you have never placed your faith in Christ as your Savior, that is your present need.
- On the Cross, all sins were placed on the humanity of Christ and judged; full payment was made for the sins of mankind.
- Salvation is offered freely to each person by simple faith in the finished work of Christ.
- He did all the work to satisfy the Righteousness of God; ours is merely to receive it by faith.
- That one act of faith, directed toward the Person and Work of Christ, brings eternal life, a permanent relationship with God as His child.

John 3:16**John 1:12****Acts 16:31**

Jn 3:16 *For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life. NASB*

Jn 1:12 *But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name. KJV*

Acts

16:31 *Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved ... KJV*

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As a believer in Christ, it is imperative that the Word of God be approached with no unconfessed sin in one's life. This permits the filling of the Holy Spirit; thus He can fulfill His teaching ministry in us.

- The filling of the Spirit is a grace provision that restores a believer to *fellowship* that had been broken because of sin.
- Upon the confession of sin, the believer is now ready to study the Word of God and God the Holy Spirit can make it spiritually discernable.
- Scripture reveals, specifically, this grace provision that places us in a posture to learn the Word of God and then apply it.
- Only in the filling of the Spirit, is God able to work in us to His glory.

Psalm 32:5***I John 1:9***

Ps 32:5 *I acknowledged my sin to Thee, And my iniquity I did not hide; I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD"; And Thou didst forgive the guilt of my sin. Selah. NASB*

I Jn 1:9 *If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. NASB*

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The Hands of Resurrection

- when ascribing to God physical features, such as ears, eyes, feet, or hands, these are called anthropomorphisms
- it is not that God possesses hands, eyes, arms, etc., for God is a Spirit; however, Scripture speaks of God in terms of hands, feet, eyes or arms, so that we may understand, with our vocabulary and thinking, various aspects of God's character and His working in human history

*Isaiah 52:10**Psalms 11:4**Psalms 34:15*

Isa 52:10 *The LORD hath made bare his holy arm in the eyes of all the nations; and all the ends of the earth shall see the salvation of our God. KJV*

Ps

11:4 *The LORD is in his holy temple, the LORD's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men. KJV*

Ps

34:15 *The eyes of the LORD are upon the righteous, and his ears are open unto their cry. KJV*

- while Deity does not possess physical features, the second member of the Trinity, Christ, took upon Himself humanity; as true humanity, he possessed the physical features of a man
- Paul speaks of God becoming flesh in his letter to the Philippians

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Philippians 2:5-8

2:5 *Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus:*

6 *Who, being in very nature God, did not consider equality with God something to be grasped,*

7 *but made himself nothing, taking the very nature of a servant, being made in human likeness.*

8 *And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death — even death on a cross NIV*

- this passage deals with the Doctrine of Kenosis
- a proper understanding of this Truth is necessary, for false teachings surfaced in the first century and are still with us today
- one false teaching stated that Jesus was only a man, and God came upon him, but left him upon his physical death
- another false teaching stated that Jesus was not real person, just a figment of man's imagination
- then there are those who taught that he was a son of God, who became a god; these teach that through righteous works people can become gods

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- a false teaching of Kenosis claims that Christ ceased to be God when he entered the human race
- quite the opposite was true
- a correct understanding of Kenosis is that God is always God, and that God took on human flesh
- the second member of the Trinity, Christ, entered the human race as true humanity, choosing to set aside His privileges and power as Deity, and function in His humanity dependent on the Father and Holy Spirit
- He did not set aside His Deity, for Deity can not divest itself of its essence
- the essence of Christ upon entering the human race was both God and man in one person
- in this state of hypostasis, Christ is always God and He is always man in one person, the union being permanent and without conflict of essence or function
- thus Jesus Christ, his very name, speaks of His Person -- Jesus, the name given to his humanity, Christ, His name as Deity
- since the union is permanent, that means that at the present time, the risen Savior is seated in heaven as the God-Man, and in resurrection body does possess hands, feet, eyes, and flesh
- we will examine just one aspect of the God-Man in resurrection -- His hands
- we begin in the gospel of John

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John 20:19-21, 24-25

- 20:19** *Then the same day at evening, being the first day of the week, when the doors were shut where the disciples were assembled for fear of the Jews, came Jesus and stood in the midst, and saith unto them, Peace be unto you.*
- 20** *And when he had so said, he shewed unto them his hands and his side. Then were the disciples glad, when they saw the Lord.*
- 21** *Then said Jesus to them again, Peace be unto you: as my Father hath sent me, even so send I you.*
- 24** *But Thomas, one of the twelve, called Didymus, was not with them when Jesus came.*
- 25** *The other disciples therefore said unto him, We have seen the Lord. But he said unto them, 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. KJV*

- our first observation of Thomas tells us that he is a doubter
- he is one of these who would say “show me and I’ll believe it”
- he operates in the spiritual life on the basis of sight and not by faith
- he is one of thousands of believers who put experience, feelings or something that they witness over what the Word of God says

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- our second observation of Thomas tells us that he is also a pessimist

John 11:11-16

11:11 *Our friend Lazarus sleepeth; but I go, that I may awake him out of sleep.*

12 *Then said his disciples, Lord, if he sleep, he shall do well.*

13 *Howbeit Jesus spake of his death: but they thought that he had spoken of taking of rest in sleep.*

14 *Then said Jesus unto them plainly, Lazarus is dead.*

15 *And I am glad for your sakes that I was not there, to the intent ye may believe; nevertheless let us go unto him.*

16 *Then said Thomas, which is called Didymus, unto his fellow disciples, Let us also go, that we may die with him.*
KJV

- Thomas makes the wrong conclusion from hearing the Lord speak of Lazarus' death
- his doubting tendency, lack of faith, interferes with his spiritual perception
- he is out of fellowship, though, no doubt, a sincere, devoted follower of Christ
- therefore, Thomas blurts out, -- if Jesus let Lazarus die, we might as well all die also

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- our third observation of Thomas reveals that he was not only a doubter and a pessimist, but that he was also a skeptic

John 14:1-5

14:1 *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me.*

2 *In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you.*

3 *And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

4 *And whither I go ye know, and the way ye know.*

5 *Thomas saith unto him, Lord, we know not whither thou goest; and how can we know the way? KJV*

- while Thomas expresses his sentiments on the eve of the crucifixion, he is somewhat typical of the other disciples, like those on the road to Emmaus

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Luke 24:24-26

24:24 *"And some of those who were with us went to the tomb and found it just exactly as the women also had said; but Him they did not see."*

25 *And He said to them, "O foolish men and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken!"*

26 *"Was it not necessary for the Christ to suffer these things and to enter into His glory?" NASB*

- but before we leave Thomas, let's see his change of thinking that turns him into a great evangelist, who is said to have carried the gospel message to India, and where one of the earliest manuscripts of Matthew's gospel was discovered

John 20:26-29

20:26 *And after eight days again his disciples were within, and Thomas with them: then came Jesus, the doors being shut, and stood in the midst, and said, Peace be unto you.*

27 *Then saith he to Thomas, 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.*

28 *And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God*

29 *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. KJV*

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- the risen Christ speaks the very words that Thomas had uttered to the disciples
- God the Holy Spirit will use those words to convict and convince Thomas that he is in the presence of the resurrected Christ
- what a change occurs in the thinking of Thomas upon seeing the hands of the risen Christ
- those nail prints, visible, then and for all eternity, are a memorial to the saving work of Christ on the Cross
- those nail prints were not only for Thomas, but for Israel, as a reminder that what had been promised, prophesied and covenanted to her would be fulfilled; Scripture concerning the God-Man would be fulfilled to the letter; the God of Israel, the Lord Jesus Christ, was not finished with His people, the Jews
- had not the Hebrew Scriptures stated specific occurrences on the Cross – the forsaking of the humanity of Christ by God, the piercing of his hands and feet, no bones to be broken?

John 19:33-37

19:33 *But when they came to Jesus, and saw that he was dead already, they brake not his legs:*

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John 19:33-37 continued

Psalm 22:16

19:34 *But one of the soldiers with a spear pierced his side, and forthwith came there out blood and water.*

35 *And he (John) that saw it bare record, and his record is true: and he knoweth that he saith true, that ye might believe.*

36 *For these things were done, that the scripture should be fulfilled, A bone of him shall not be broken.*

37 *And again another scripture saith, They shall look on him whom they pierced. KJV*

Ps *For dogs have compassed me: the assembly of the wicked have inclosed me: they pierced my hands and my feet. KJV*

- “dogs” is a reference to Gentiles -- the Romans in power at the time of the Cross
- hands and feet pierced were unknown at the time of this prophecy; yet 1000 years later, crucifixion would be the primary mode of execution -- God’s Word was fulfilled exactly, and this would give hope, in the future, to the Jews during the Tribulation
- if that prophecy was fulfilled, then other prophecies would be fulfilled, like the one found in Zechariah which states that the nation of Israel would turn back to Messiah in faith

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Zechariah 12:10

12:10 *And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn. KJV*

- Isaiah gives us some insight into the significance of the palms of His hands as an expression of the Lord's tender care and compassion for Israel

Isaiah 49:16

49:16 *"Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands; Your walls are continually before Me. NASB*

- the hands of resurrection speak to Israel -- let the enemy roar and rant in its boast to destroy you off the earth -- **but** they have to go through my hands to do so, and that will not happen
- the Lord is saying --- Israel, your safety, your walls, are my responsibility; you are safe in the palms of my hands
- when all hope seems lost, and Satan motivates the nations in the Tribulation to destroy Israel, the Lord instructs His people to look for their deliverance -- the Second Advent/Coming of Christ

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Rev 1:7

1:7 *Behold, he cometh with clouds; and every eye shall see him, and they also which pierced him: and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him. Even so, Amen. KJV*

- but the hands of resurrection go beyond just that of protecting Israel

John 10:28

10:28 *And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. KJV*

- these are the hands of resurrection that secure our eternal destiny
- these are the hands of resurrection that provide eternal life
- these are the hands of resurrection that hold us so that we can never lose our salvation
- these are the hands of resurrection of the God-Man who is the One with the Father

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John 10:29-30

10:29 *My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand.*

30 *I and my Father are one. KJV*

- the hands of resurrection are the hands of God's faithfulness and His unfailing love toward us

Ps 111:7-10

111:7 *The works of his hands are faithful and just; all his precepts are trustworthy.*

8 *They are steadfast for ever and ever, done in faithfulness and uprightness.*

9 *He provided redemption for his people; he ordained his covenant forever — holy and awesome is his name.*

10 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom; all who follow his precepts have good understanding. To him belongs eternal praise. NIV*

- PRAISE GOD FOR HIS UNSPEAKABLE, INDESCRIBABLE GIFT – JESUS CHRIST !!!