

## John 20:22-31

### That You Might Have life Through His Name

**REVIEW:** The resurrected Jesus appears to His disciples, speaks peace to them and commissions them for their life long mission...

**V:21** ... "PEACE" instead of "rebuke" ...

- The goal and purpose of Jesus' life was to accomplish a mission for God the Father...
  - Peace with God "*Rom 5:1*" ...
- NOW, it is the same for Jesus' Apostles...
- Do you know it is also the same for YOU?

"And He Himself gave some *to be* apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, and some pastors and teachers, for the equipping of the saints for the work of ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ, till we all come to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to a perfect man, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ;" Ephesians 4:11-13, NKJV.

**V:22** THIS is when the Apostles were **born again!**

**Remember how God gave life to Adam?**

"And the LORD God formed man *of* the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living being." Genesis 2:7, NKJV. ...

**NOW Jesus gives the 2<sup>nd</sup> birth in a similar way...**

Some will dispute this truth, saying that they were born again at Pentecost.

**But no, Pentecost is when they received power! ...**

“But you shall receive **power** when the Holy Spirit has come **upon** you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.” Acts 1:8

## How does someone get “born again” today?

“And you also were included in Christ when **you heard the word of truth**, the gospel of your salvation. **Having believed**, you were **marked in him with a seal, the promised Holy Spirit**, who is a deposit guaranteeing our inheritance until the redemption of those who are God’s possession--to the praise of his glory.” Eph 1:13, 14, NIV.

“... if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation. For the Scripture says, “Whoever believes on Him will not be put to shame.” Romans 10:9-11, NKJV.

**V:21-22** The Sent One (Jesus) has now become the Sender, commissioning his followers to serve as his messengers and representatives.

All three persons of the Godhead are involved in this commissioning: as the **Father sent Jesus**, so **Jesus sends his disciples** (20:21), **equipping them with the Holy Spirit** (v. 22).

**V:23** A troubling verse for some...

**Go DEEP FOR OUR CATHOLIC FRIENDS...**

i.e. The Catholics apply this to priestly authority...

**(EXPLAIN...)**

**(Believer’s Bible Commentary)** John 20:23 is another difficult verse, about which there has been a great deal of controversy...

(1) **One view** is that Jesus actually gave His apostles (and their supposed successors) the power to forgive sins or to retain sins. This is in direct contradiction of the Bible teaching that only God can forgive sins (Luke 5:21).

(2) Gaebelien quotes a **second view**: “The power promised and authority given is in connection with the preaching of the Gospel, announcing on what terms sins would be forgiven, and if these terms are not accepted, sins would be retained.”

(3) **A third view** (which is similar to the second), is that the disciples were given the right to declare sins forgiven.

Let us illustrate this third view. The disciples go out preaching the gospel. Some people repent of their sins and receive the Lord Jesus. The disciples are authorized to tell them that their sins have been forgiven. Others refuse to repent and will not believe on Christ. The disciples tell them that they are still in their sins, and that if they die, they will perish eternally. (**My comments?**)

### **More scripture to consider...**

“Confess your trespasses to one another, and pray for one another, that you may be healed. The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.” **James 5:16**

**This does NOT say to confess to a PRIEST!**

As a matter of fact there is no mention of “priests” in the NT in any positive way except for Jesus being our one and only High Priest!

“Therefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our confession, Christ Jesus,” Hebrews 3:1, NKJV.

Hebrews 4:14-16 “Seeing then that we have a great High Priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast *our* confession. For we do not have a High Priest who

cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but was in all *points* tempted as *we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need." Hebrews 4:14-16

### **More on Confessing our sins TO GOD...**

"If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." 1 John 1:9

Christians must confess (their) sins TO GOD, initially to receive salvation and THEN to maintain fellowship with God and with one another.

"I acknowledged my sin to You, And my iniquity I have not hidden. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the LORD," And You forgave the iniquity of my sin." Psalms 32:5

### **WHO are we ultimately accountable to?**

"But why do you judge your brother? Or why do you show contempt for your brother? For we shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written: "As I live, says the LORD, Every knee shall bow to Me, And every tongue shall confess to God." So then each of us shall give account of himself to God." Romans 14:10-12, NKJV.

Personally, I believe that the Catholic Church has adopted their particular view to keep people enslaved to them and their authority... (Fear tactics) ...

V:23 lays down the duty of the church to proclaim forgiveness to the penitent believer, and the duty of the church to warn the unbeliever that they are in danger of forfeiting the mercy of God. - **Guzik**

Jesus gives His disciples AUTHORITY TO ANNOUNCE forgiveness and to warn of guilt, as authorized by the Holy Spirit...

**Much later, the Apostle Paul put it this way...**

“Now all things *are* of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore *you* on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin *to be* sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.”

2 Corinthians 5:18-21, NKJV.

**V:24** “The twin”?

Much speculation, but we don’t really know...

Most likely, you are his twin... the doubter in you...

We all have a bit of Thomas in us....

Honestly, it’s not a bad thing... It’s the part of our nature that protects us from being too gullible...

Luke records that the other apostles were somewhat skeptical even after Jesus appeared to them...

“And He said to them, “Why are you troubled? And why do doubts arise in your hearts? “Behold My hands and My feet, that it is I Myself. Handle Me and see...” When He had said this, He showed them His hands and His feet. But while they still did not believe for joy...” Luke 24:38-41, NKJV.

**V:25** Thomas has received much criticism for this...

But he was only asking to experience the same evidence as the others have...

We already know so much about Thomas to give us cause to love and appreciate him...

**When Lazarus was sick and dying... (EXPLAIN) ...**

“Then Thomas... said to his fellow disciples, **“Let us also go, that we may die with Him.”** John 11:16

**Thomas was a very devoted disciple...**

(At the last supper) – Thomas was the one who spoke up when he didn’t understand something...

“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. “And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to Myself; that where I am, *there* you may be also. “And where I go you know, and the way you know.” **Thomas said to Him, “Lord, we do not know where You are going, and how can we know the way?”** Jesus said to him, “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me. “If you had known Me, you would have known My Father also; and from now on you know Him and have seen Him.” John 14:2-7 NKJV.

You always knew when Thomas didn’t get something. He was unpretentious. **“Honest Thomas”**

Thomas went as far as saying, *“I will not believe”* ...

His doubt was based upon genuine sorrow and loss.

He was afraid to be hurt again...

He legitimately loved Jesus...

**V:26** *“After 8 days”!* ...

That must have been a long week for Thomas! ...

Did he have to listen to the others all week? ...

We don't always get what we want immediately...

There is a "Waiting in faith" ...

- Thomas would later rise up and be a mighty missionary.
- He would go east when the others went West.
- He would go on to India and become a martyr at the point of a spear...
- But before his death he would lead thousands to faith in Christ. His impact is still felt today...

**V:26** READ ... FEEL IT!

Once more Jesus appears in their midst in spite of locked doors...

**V:27** Observe Jesus' loving willingness to lower Himself to Thomas' inspection... For faith sake...

No rebuke... No railing judgmental attitude...

**We should follow Jesus' example when our kids or grandkids doubt or ask questions...**

- How do we know evolution isn't true? ...
- How do I know we have the right religion? ...
- How do we know we can trust the Bible? ...
- How do we know Jesus is the only way? ...

**V:28** A declaration of Jesus' deity! ... (Comments?)

(A little bit of apologetics can go a long way!)

**V:29** Who might Jesus be referring to? ☺

**V:30-31** There is much more to the story of Jesus...

**More miracles**... 36 total recorded in all the Gospels

John only records 7 (8?) for us...

John – with every miracle records a teaching / lesson.

“And truly Jesus did many other signs in the presence of His disciples, which are not written in this book;” John 20:30

**Many more wise sayings**...

John is saying that what have I given you is enough...

One collects everything possible about a dead prophet; it is all one has of him. But one only tells enough of a living person to introduce one's hearers to him. John trusts that a personal relationship with Jesus will reveal more to the believer. - **Guzik**

John is declaring here that everything he has recorded here for us is for one purpose...

“... these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that **BELIEVING** you may have life in His name.” John 20:31, NKJV.

**Tense** – Present, Active, Mood – Participle (ing)

“But these are written so that you may believe {Some manuscripts read *may continue to believe.*} that Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of God, and that by believing in him you will have life.” John 20:31, NLT.

**END**