

LIFE THROUGH HIS NAME

John 20:23-31

John 20:23

Remit: to send, to send forth, to forgive, to forsake, omit, yield up.

Retain: to become master of, to obtain, take hold, seize.

The scribes got it right

Mark 2:5-7 ... *Son, thy sins be forgiven thee*

Jesus followed up

Mark 2:10 *But that ye may know that the Son of man hath power on earth to forgive sins, (he saith to the sick of the palsy,)*

Symbolic statement

Phillips: *It is the Holy Spirit who does the work. The function of the church in the world is to be the instrument through which the Holy Spirit deals with people about sin, righteousness, and judgment. ...*

About Hymenaeus and Alexander:

1 Timothy 1:19-20 *Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck: 20 Of whom is Hymenaeus and Alexander; whom I have delivered unto Satan, that they may learn not to blaspheme.*

How much authority church have?

1 Corinthians 5:1-8 Matthew 18:15-20

Hend: *...declaring that someone's sins are either forgiven or retained (unforgiven).*

Context: *...receive ye the Holy Spirit....*

Apostles cannot act independently of Holy Spirit.

Today, Holy Spirit works through the Word of God. 2 Tim 3:16-17

Hend: *Absolutions pronounced arbitrarily have no standing in heaven. Only then has the Church, acting through its officers, the right to declare sins forgiven or retained when it acts in harmony with the Spirit-inspired Word.*

But when its actions are in conformity with the Word (which demands that discipline be exercised in the spirit of love), then this power is very real, and has reference to anyone (whoever he may be) whose sins are declared to be either forgiven or retained.

Grammatically: John 20:23 *Whose soever sins ye remit, they are* (they already have been and continue to be; hence, are) **remitted unto them;** (they already are forgiven) **and whose soever sins ye retain, they are** (have been, and continue to be; hence, are) **retained**

John 20:24-25

Where is Thomas?

1. In seclusion—personal time alone.

2. In neglect--purposely chose not to be with others.

Phillips: *Thomas reminds us of all those believers who for one reason or another absent themselves from gatherings of God's people....*

Thomas: willing to believe under certain conditions.

Thomas not a wimp or a coward. Jn 11:16

He was sincere

He said what he thought.

Some believe Thomas making a statement for whole world.

Prove it and I will believe.

Unless I see the marks of Calvary on Him, I will not believe.

Let me see the evidence of Calvary in your life. Then, I will believe.

The world doesn't care about what we believe.

They ask, *is it real? Has it changed your life?*

John 20:26-27

Be not faithless, but believing.

Don't continue to become faithless... .

Phillip: *Thomas was in peril of becoming a hardened unbeliever.*

Jesus heard words Thomas uttered.

Jesus hears every word we speak, in private and public.

John 20:28

Seeing Jesus and understanding omniscience of Jesus all he needed.

My Lord and my God.

First post-resurrection confession of deity of Christ.

My Lord—puts Christ on throne of his life and heart.

My God—puts Christ on throne of universe

Jesus gave Thomas 8 days to think about this.

Thomas' first reaction was to reject the truth...

Hughes: Thomas may have been slow to believe, but not slow to grasp implications of Christ's resurrection.

Evidence--palpable, substantive, and clear.

John 20:29

Statement related to all apostles.

John not believe until saw Jesus (Jn 20:8).

Blessed: fortunate, happy, well-off...

Apostolic age ceased by time John wrote gospel.

Visibly seeing Jesus now thing of past.

Sight replaced by faith.

Thomas: right confession, wrong process.

He believed. Had to have sight before belief.

Today, not able to see Jesus in person. Gift of healing has ceased.

Sign gifts ceased.

Now, understand “*faith cometh by hearing and hearing by the Word of God*”
Rom 10:17.

Phillips: *Those who insist on signs, wonders, and miracles can have them—at a price. Satan is only too willing to oblige. After the church age when God once more takes up direct dealings with the nation of Israel, signs and miracles will resume.*

John 20:30

John selected 8 to record.

John 20:31

Jesus is the Christ.

Gnosticism. Dualism.

Separating spirit from flesh.

Spirit good/flesh bad.

Asceticism and celibacy.

Some emphasizing deity at expense of humanity

Others emphasizing humanity at expense of deity.

The Son of God. God in the flesh.

Want real life?

and that believing ye might have life through his name

Life: Fulness of life...abundant life... real life...eternal life.

Through His name:

Through

All name represents.

All He did

All He was

All He promised.

His character, reputation, purpose.

His life, death, and resurrection.

Believing: through putting faith and trust in Jesus and finished work on cross.

So What?

Evidence of the death, burial, and resurrection is still just as reliable and capable of being touched and believed as it was to Thomas and the apostles.

Today we have the testimony,

of resurrection us,

of fulfilled prophecy (Psa 22)

of changed lives.

Where is your confidence? Sight or Faith.

What have today as basis of our faith? The Word of God.