

"Blessing from Believing"

Text: John 20:24-31

Scripture reading: II Corinthians 4

I. The hardness of unbelief - vv. 24-25

A) The danger of _____ - vs. 24

B) The burden of _____ - vs. 25 - (Gal. 6:1-2)

II. The encounter for belief - vv. 26-29

A) _____ presentation - vv. 26-27 - (Jn. 6:37)

B) _____ confession - vv. 28-29
(I Cor. 12:2; Heb. 11:6; I Pet. 1:8-9)

III. The testament for belief - vv. 30-31

A) _____ witnesses - vs. 30

B) _____ - _____ purpose - vs. 31

Conclusion:

1. Life with Christ is life with _____.

2. Life with Christ is life in _____.

3. Life with Christ begins with _____.

"Never to be absent from God's house on Sunday, without good reason, -never to miss the Lord's Supper when administered in our own congregation, -never to let our place be empty when means of grace are going on, this is one way to be a growing prosperous Christian. The very sermon that we needlessly miss may contain a precious word in season for our souls. The very assembly for prayer and praise from which we stay away, may be the very gathering that would have cheered, and stablished, and quickened our hearts. We little know how dependent our spiritual health is on little, regular, habitual helps, and how much we suffer if we miss our medicine."

-Bishop J. C. Ryle

Sermon quotes:

I. The hardness of unbelief

A) - vs. 24

Unnamed author writing on Thomas,

"His heart was with the lifeless body on the cross, and he could not bear to see the friends of Jesus or speak with those who had shared his hopes, but buries his disappointment and desolation in solitude and silence."

II. The encounter for belief

B) - vv. 28-29

James Montgomery Boice,

"I believe He is speaking, not of subjective faith, but of satisfied faith. He is speaking of faith that is satisfied with what God provides and is therefore not yearning for visions, miracles, esoteric experiences, or various forms of success as evidence of God's favor. More than that, He is saying that a faith without these things is not inferior to but actually superior to a faith based upon them."

Conclusion:

1.

Arthur Pink,

"The more we love Him (Christ), the more shall we love His people."

"If we were more in fellowship with Christ, we should have more heart for His wayward and wandering sheep."