



Liberty Baptist Church May Newsletter

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Pastor's Paragraph

May 2025

"Lessons from Doubting Thomas"

One of Christ's special appearances after His resurrection is recorded in John 20:24-29. This appearance was for the personal benefit of the apostle Thomas, who has been remembered through the ages as "doubting Thomas." This negative label overshadows his bold confession when he saw the visible evidence of the risen Lord: "My Lord and my God." Take a moment to read and reflect on the text:

John 20:24-29 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. 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.

This passage highlights a few things. First, we see the reluctance of Thomas to believe Christ has risen. The report of Christ's resurrection seemed too good to be true. Thomas insisted on first-hand proof before he would believe. He wasn't gullible, nor was he skeptical; he just needed to be sure. We also see Christ's gracious appearance, eight days later, for the sake of Thomas. With loving concern, Christ invited Thomas to touch the scars in His hands and side, and He urged him to believe. Christ's words and visible evidence of His suffering immediately convinced Thomas and evoked his memorable confession of faith: "My Lord and my God." All of us should be deeply grateful for Christ's reply. Thomas saw and then believed, blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed. Christ was speaking of believers today, you and me.

Pastor's Paragraph May 2025

“Lessons from Doubting Thomas”

Yes, we are blessed indeed because Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures. He was buried, and He rose again the third day according to the scriptures (1 Cor. 15:3-4). Even though we have not seen Christ visibly and personally, like Thomas and the other apostles, we still believe in Christ, and we confess Him as our Lord and God, and therefore we are saved by Him. Our faith in Christ is based on the solid testimony of Scripture. By grace alone we are saved through faith alone in Christ alone. If you, like Thomas, are struggling with any doubts about Christ, take your Bible and read the Gospel of John, and commit your soul to the Lord. Then you will be saved and sure.

Easter celebrations and services are behind us, but the reality of Christ's resurrection and the blessings of our salvation will continue to inspire our daily lives and weekly service and worship. After seeing and believing in the risen Lord, Thomas continued to believe in Him and live for Him, and we have the same privilege. So let's be faithful and fruitful until we see Christ for ourselves in all of His glory.

With love and appreciation for you,
Pastor Stan



“Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” John 20:29

A Word from Rev. Josh Bowman

May 2025

“Messengers”

Many people have many different messages to share. An investor will share their message of the next great company to invest in. A basketball star will share their next great workout. An architect will share their next great design. But what about the Christian? What is it that we should be sharing? I think we all know the answer to this, and it is the message of the Gospel. We are called by God to share the very same lifesaving message that was shared with us. With this thought in mind, let's be reminded of what Christ tells us in the book of Acts. He says in Acts 1:8 “But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” When we study this verse, we can really break it down into two main Parts: 1) The Messenger & 2) The Mission. I want to briefly discuss both of these thoughts.

First, let's consider “The Messenger”. We must understand that Christ was speaking to the disciples in the first part of Acts chapter one and in verse four. He commands them to NOT depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the “promise of the Father” which we know, is the Holy Spirit. So, the “Messengers” here are the disciples. Now the word “disciple” in its most basic form means “a follower” and since the underlying principle of Acts 1:8 is evangelism once the Spirit has come upon you, all true followers of Jesus Christ can and should be considered the messengers Christ is speaking to. The amazing thing is that we are no ordinary messengers, we are Spirit Empowered messengers. The Greek word used for “power” in Acts 1:8 is where we get our English word “dynamite” from, and can be defined as “force, might, or miraculous power.” So, the messengers, who are us, have been given dynamite power through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit to share the best message of all eternity which is the Gospel!

Next, let's consider “The Mission”. In the second part of verse eight, we see the mission field broken up into four sections: Jerusalem, all Judaea, Samaria, and the uttermost part of the earth. If you look at a first century map, these four areas make up the entire known world at that time! So, the mission field is every single person dwelling on the earth we live, and the mission is to evangelize them! Christ said in Acts 1:8 “ye shall be witnesses unto me”. This is both a great command and a great promise because Christ is both commanding messengers to share the Gospel, but at the same time He is promising that His messengers WILL be His witnesses!

In closing, I pray that each of us will commit to sharing the Gospel with at least one person a week this month. If we will be faithful to do this, our Sovereign God will bring the increase that He planned in eternity past, our church will be fulfilling its purpose, and maybe, just maybe, God would lead some of the new converts our way so we can minister to and disciple them for years to come.

A Word from Rev. Josh Bowman

May 2025

“Messengers”

(continued)

C.H. Spurgeon said, “When we preach Christ crucified, we have no reason to stammer, or stutter, or hesitate, or apologize; there is nothing in the gospel of which we have any cause to be ashamed.” May we all lovingly, boldly, and unashamedly preach “Christ crucified” to a lost and dying world!

Your fellow evangelist,
Rev. Josh Bowman



“But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth.” Acts 1:8

Please be sure to fill out the questionnaire that was given out to student families on Wednesday, April 23rd and return it by Sunday, May 4th. This questionnaire will help with the planning and facilitation of all student/family activities and church mission/outreaches for the summer. We want to focus our time and energy on things that both honor the Lord and that you and your family are passionate about and committed to. If you did not receive a questionnaire, please pick one up at the Welcome Desk in the lobby. We are looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us this summer. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Josh or Mary Bowman.

“Training Students to know, love, and serve the Lord!”

UPCOMING EVENTS

MAY

May 4

Lord's Supper AM Worship Service
VBS Luncheon for Leaders/Helpers

May 5

Food Pantry @ 12:30 PM
Volunteers arrive @ 11:30 AM

May 11

Mother's Day

May 12

Pastors Fellowship @ 10 AM

May 17

ladies Banquet @ 11 AM

May 18

Graduation Recognition AM Worship Service

May 21

Adventure Club Awards Ceremony @ 7 PM

May 24

Church Work Day 9 AM-1 PM Lunch Provided

May 25

Memorial Day Service AM Worship Service
Worship in the Park 5 PM- No evening activities

May 26

Memorial Day-Office Closed

May 27

Haven of Rest Service @ 7:30 PM
Speaker: Dustin Daugherty

May 28

VBS Kickoff @ 6 PM

LIBERTY NEWS

“The Singing Church”

FIRST, IS MUSIC AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE CHRISTIAN'S WORSHIP? BEING A PASTOR FOR SIXTY YEARS, I ALWAYS THOUGHT THAT WHAT WAS ALL IMPORTANT WAS THE PREACHING, OR THE SERMON, AND THE MESSAGES GIVEN. THEN I CAME TO LIBERTY BAPTIST CHURCH. DON'T GET ME WRONG; BEING THE HUSBAND OF A GREAT MUSICALLY TALENTED WIFE MEANT THAT EVERY CHURCH WE WERE PRIVILEGED TO SERVE AS A TEAM IN MINISTRY HAD GREAT MUSIC, SO I NEVER REALLY THOUGHT DEEPLY ABOUT THE SUBJECT. THAT IS, UNTIL HELPING TO START THE GREAT CHOIR THAT SINGS EACH SUNDAY HERE IN OUR CHURCH. THEN I STARTED GETTING SERIOUS ABOUT MUSIC, I FOUND ON THE INTERNET A SERIES OF LECTURES BY FRANK GARLOCK THAT ENERGIZED MY THINKING. I WAS INTRODUCED TO THE FACT THAT GOD SINGS. THE STARS IN THE HEAVENS SING. THE MOUNTAINS AND THE HILLS HAVE A SONG. EVERY ANIMAL HAD BEEN GIVEN A SONG BY THEIR CREATOR GOD. AND IT IS MY BELIEF THAT EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS BEEN GIVEN THEIR OWN SONG. WHALES IN THE SEA HAVE A SONG, AS DO OTHER FISH. BIRDS IN THE HEAVENS SING. HAPPY CHURCHES HAVE GREAT SINGING. ALL ONE HAS TO DO TO VERIFY THIS FACT IS TO LOOK FOR GRACE CHURCH WHERE JOHN MACARTHUR IS THE PASTOR AND LISTEN TO THAT CHURCH BODY SING. LOOK ON THE INTERNET. DID YOU KNOW THAT THE BIBLE CONTAINS OVER 100 REFERENCES TO SINGING? THE FACT THAT THE EARLY HEBREW WORSHIP OF GOD CONTAINED SINGERS (SOME 250 SINGERS) VALIDATED THE FACT THAT SINGING WAS IMPORTANT TO THE GOD OF HEAVEN WHO WE WORSHIP. CONSIDER THAT THE BIBLE CONTAINS MANY SONGS. THE PSALMS (150) AND MANY MORE. I HAVE NOT HEARD THAT INDIVIDUALS AT WORSHIP IN THEIR CHURCH DO NOT HAVE A SONG SERVICE AS PART OF THEIR WORSHIP. SO, WHEN YOU ATTEND WORSHIP AT LIBERTY BAPTIST, IT IS MY EARNEST DESIRE AND PRAYER THAT YOU WILL SING. IT DOESN'T HAVE TO BE ON PITCH, OR IN TIME, BUT SING AND MAKE MELODY TO THE LORD AND JOIN THE SINCERE WORSHIP OF OUR TRIUNE GOD. -Doc Davis, Choir Director & Worship Leader

Women's Ministry

Ladies, As we are coming into May fastly approaching, our hearts and minds will probably be thinking of our mothers, maybe some lady who has touched your life in a special way or reflecting on your life as a mother and those precious lives entrusted to you. Mother's Day can be a joyful time, a sad time, a fun time, a thankful time, or a time of remembrance. Each of us had or has a special lady in our life that we have learned from, helping to train us and mold us, but what about women we may not know personally but have been introduced to from the pages of Scripture and other books? We must start at the beginning....all the way back to the first wife and mother, Eve. She was the fairest of all creation, but she was the first to fall.... Sarah, she was asked to leave everything she had known and follow her husband, as God had called Abram to leave Ur. She faced famine, fear, she had to learn to trust the Lord again and again, believing in His promises. What about Jochebed, she was faced with a frightening dilemma? The Pharaoh had ordered death to all Hebrew sons. What was she to do? Obey God or pharaoh? We will look at her courage and faith as she trusted in the Lord. Or what of Dorcas? She died....but God had a different plan or what of Anna Reinhard Zwingli? She was called the "Reformations weeping mother" But how did God use her trials? We will look at these remarkable women and the Sovereign God that we serve and how God used them and will use us...ALL FOR HIS GLORY! Join us on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at 11:00 am as we will hear the messages from these women to us. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the response form.

Jodi Leonard, Women's Ministry Leader

Worship in the **PARK**

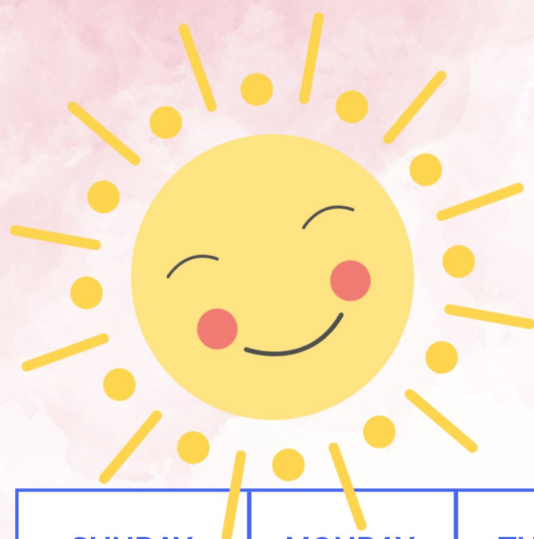
- Sunday, May 25th -



FAMILY FUN / YUMMY FOOD/ WORSHIP SERVICE

5:00 PM @ STEELE CREEK PARK -SHELTER G

BRING A DESSERT TO SHARE/ \$2.00 PARK FEE



May 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WED	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				1 Benjamin Bowman- Royston Kevin Denton	2	3
4 Martha Worley	5 Dan Darby	6 Jim Beverly	7	8	9 Millie Leonard	10 Jeff Rhoten
11 Everleigh Housewright	12 Will Johnson	13 Doug Hurd Marie Jenkins Tanner Smith	14 Amanda Musick	15 Teresa Sherman	16 Danny Hill	17
18	19	20	21 Justin Stout	22	23 Jubilee Darby	24
25 Jed Darby Alyssa Trent	26	27	28	29	30 Peggy F Stout	31

Happy Birthday!! We love you!!