

**Valley Bible Church**  
**Sermon Notes for November 30, 2008**

**The One Who Conquered Death**  
**John 20:24-31**  
**Dale Whitehead**

The apostle John manifests Christ's complete and total mastery over death in three different ways (John 19:30-20:31). Christ's mastery over death was manifested in His dying (John 19:30-37). Christ's mastery over death was manifested in His burial (John 19:38-42). Christ's mastery over death was manifested in His resurrection (John 20:1-31).

The first exhibit that John presented to support the resurrection was the empty tomb (John 20:1-10). The second exhibit was eyewitness accounts (John 20:11-31).

The first eyewitness account was Mary Magdalene's (John 20:11-18). The second eyewitness account was Christ's disciples with Thomas absent (John 20:19-23).

The third eyewitness account was Christ's disciples with Thomas present (John 20:24-31).

When Jesus appeared to His disciples for the very first time after His resurrection, Thomas was not with them (John 20:24).

Thomas was a pessimist (John 11:16).

According to John 20:25, the disciples, after Jesus had revealed Himself to them and had convinced them that He had risen from the dead, then communicated this good news to Thomas.

The response of Thomas to the report of his fellow disciples that they had seen Christ alive was one of hardened unbelief (John 20:25).

According to John, "eight days" had passed since Christ had appeared to His disciples, which would have meant that Christ's second appearance would have once again been on a Sunday.

The disciples, after the eight days, appear to be in the same room with the doors shut just as they had been before.

Christ, in John 20:20, confronted Thomas at the point of His weakness in order to strengthen His faith.

The response of Thomas to Christ confronting Him at the point of His weakness resulted in him uttering to Christ the following words: "My Lord and My God!"

The word "Lord" (KURIOS) could be used either as a term of respect much like our word "sir" or it could be used to convey "reverence" or "awe."

The word “God” (THEOS) had never been used by any disciple to address Christ prior to this declaration by Thomas here in John 20:28.

Thomas, having seen Christ alive and having been invited to act upon the challenge he had earlier put forth, not only chose to believe Christ had risen but that He was in fact God.

Though the NAS translated the first part of John 20:29 as a question, the NIV, which I believe is the better translation of this verse, translated it as a statement.

Christ, having stated that Thomas had believed after seeing Him alive, then pronounced a blessing upon this who has not seen and yet believed.

Those who saw Christ alive and believed and those who have not seen Christ alive and believed are equally blessed.

John wrote this gospel certainly to strengthen our faith but more importantly he wrote this gospel so that others, in reading it, might come to faith in Christ (John 20:20-21).

May God give us the grace to understand, based on the promise of Christ and His complete mastery over death, that even if we die we will live again in the blessedness of His presence.