

## *“What Must I Do To Be Saved?”*

Acts 16:30

### **Learn The Gospel**

John 6:45; Romans 10:17; James 1:22-25

### **Believe On GOD In CHRIST**

Hebrews 11:6; John 3:16; James 2:14-26

### **Confess CHRIST**

Romans 10:9-10; Matthew 10:32-33; 7:21

### **Repent Of Sin**

Acts 3:19; Matthew 3:8

### **Be Baptized Into CHRIST**

Mark 16:16; Romans 6:3-6; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 3:21

## *“Let The Word... Dwell In You Richly”*

Colossians 3:16

The current memory assignment is: *“Blessed are you when they revile and persecute you, and say all kinds of evil against you falsely for My sake”* (Matthew 5:11).

Read, write, listen to, and recite this passage.

# *“Sound Doctrine”*

Titus 2:1

## *“THOMAS... WAS NOT WITH THEM”*

Bryan Matthew Dockens

Thomas was an apostle of Christ (Luke 6:13-16), one of the twelve personally selected by Jesus to spread the gospel (Mark 3:13-19). So devoted to the Lord was this man that he was prepared to accompany Him in death: *“Thomas, who is called Didymus, said to his fellow disciples, ‘Let us also go, that we may die with Him’”* (John 11:16). He was a sincere student, with an innocent desire to gain understanding: *“Thomas said to Him, ‘Lord, we do not know where you are going, and how can we know the way?’”* (John 14:5).

These virtues notwithstanding, the apostle will forever be known as “doubting Thomas” for this infamous statement: *“Unless I see in His hands the print of the nails, and put my finger into the print of the nails, and put my hand into His side, I will not believe”* (John 20:25). This he said in reply to the other disciples who had informed him, *“We have seen the Lord”* (John 20:25).

His moment of doubt was precipitated by this fact: *“But Thomas, called Didymus, one of the twelve, was not with them when Jesus came”* (John 20:24). One week prior, Jesus had appeared to the disciples when they were assembled (John 20:19), but Thomas was not among them. His disbelief in the resurrection was occasioned by his previous absence. Had he been with them that day, his faith would not have faltered and his reputation would remain intact.

If absence from even one assembly so distorted the faith of an apostle, how shall we do better (Hebrews 10:24-25)?

## *“The Assembling Of Ourselves Together”*

Hebrews 10:24-25

### **Sunday**

10:15 am.....Worship

Las Vegas Library  
833 Las Vegas Boulevard North

### **Tuesday**

7:00 pm.....Ladies' Study

Rachel Dockens residence

### **Wednesday**

7:00 pm.....Various Studies

Jerry & Beverly Dockens residence

## *“Give Attention To Reading”*

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 4:13

**Sunday**...Psalm 10:12-18; Genesis 36:20-38:5;  
Matthew 12:46-13:23

**Monday**...Proverbs 7; Genesis 38:6-40:8;  
Matthew 13:24-43

**Tuesday**...Psalm 11; Genesis 41:9-41:49;  
Matthew 13:44-14:12

**Wednesday**...Psalm 12; Genesis 41:50-43:10;  
Matthew 14:13-36

**Thursday**...Proverbs 8; Genesis 43:11-44:34;  
Matthew 15:1-28

**Friday**...Psalm 13; Genesis 45:1-46:34;  
Matthew 15:29-16:12

**Saturday**...Psalm 14; Genesis 47:1-48:22;  
Matthew 16:13-17:8

## *Vegas Valley Church Of CHRIST*

Romans 16:16

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## CONFORMITY

Bryan Matthew Dockens

All are under command to *“not be conformed to this world, but be transformed”* (Romans 12:2). Christians are expected to be different than the world because *“all that is in the world – the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life – is not of the Father but is of the world. And the world is passing away”* (1<sup>st</sup> John 2:15-16).

Christians are not, however, expected to be different than the world because God is especially fond of weird people. It seems some folks are under the impression that to satisfy the Lord's expectations of nonconformity they must shun societal norms, disregard community standards, and embrace their own personal uniqueness.

Not so. Far from it, in fact. Observe the example of the apostle Paul. He wrote, *“For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a servant to all, that I might win the more; and to the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might win Jews; to those who are under the law, as under the law, that I might win those who are under the law; to those who are without law, as without law (not being without law toward God, but under law toward Christ), that I might win those who are without law; to the weak I became as weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. Now this I do for the gospel's sake, that I may be partaker of it with you”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 9:19-23). Without compromising his moral uprightness, Paul did all that he could to accommodate others in order to gain the most influence for Christ and His gospel. He taught, *“Give no offense, either to the Jews or to the Greeks or to the church of God, just as I also please all men in all things, not seeking my own profit, but the profit of many, that they may be saved”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:32-33).

Godly people do not expect the world to change to suit us. That is selfishness. *“Love... does not seek its own”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 13:4-5), therefore *“Let no one seek his own, but each the other's well-being”* (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:24). The only changes we can reasonably ask of the world are those pertaining to truth against error and right versus wrong. In matters of moral indifference, we should be the ones to yield.

## GOD BELIEVES IN YOU

Bryan Matthew Dockens

You find yourself over and over again succumbing to the same temptation. It may be tobacco addiction, sensual lust, filthy language, or some other sin. You pray persistently that God would remove this temptation from your path (Matthew 6:13; 26:41), yet it continues to plague you.

You trust that *“the Lord knows how to deliver the godly out of temptations”* (2<sup>nd</sup> Peter 2:9), yet the temptation continues to arise and you continue to yield. You begin to doubt whether the behavior in question is in fact sin, thinking God would not allow you to continue feeling as you do, after praying so much, if it were actually wrong. Yet, the scriptures are very plain in condemning the behavior – and this you know very well.

The conflict remains unsettled in your troubled mind until you finally realize what you've been overlooking. You remember that God, knowing what's best for you, sometimes answers prayers in the negative (2<sup>nd</sup> Corinthians 12:7-10). You also remember that God will never allow you to be tempted beyond your ability to endure it (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:13). These facts never really escaped your attention, but it took a while to sink in – God trusts you more than you trust yourself. If the temptations continue, yet God promises to never allow you to be tempted beyond your ability to overcome, then God believes you are strong enough to resist Satan's advances.

Maybe you thought that God forsook you, or you may have wondered if your sin really wasn't so bad after all, but all along, God had greater confidence in you than you had in yourself. That's why the temptations persisted – because God knew you could withstand them even when you thought otherwise.

Remembering the words of Paul – *“I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me”* (Philippians 4:13) – you finally begin to break the stranglehold of Satan.

*“Blessed is the man who endures temptation; for when he has been approved, he will receive the crown of life which the Lord has promised to those who love Him”* (James 1:12).