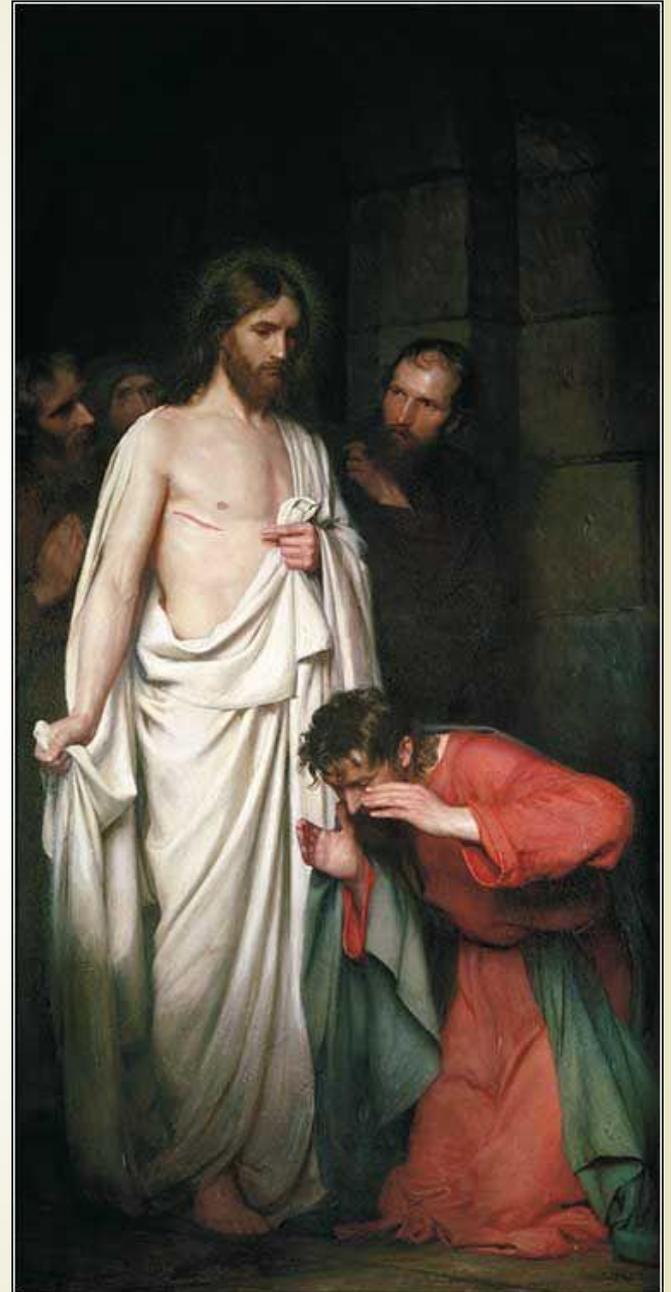


“Unless I see in His hands
the print of the nails, and
put my finger into the
print of the nails, and put
my hand into His side, I
will not believe.”

– John 20:25





Defeating Despair

Part 1

Introduction

- The Lord Christ spent the first week after the Resurrection confirming the faith of the disciples.
- Post-Resurrection appearances
- The Lord wanted to confirm their faith lest they fall into despair



Introduction

- St. Peter
- And the Lord said, “Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat. But I have prayed for you, that your faith should not fail; and when you have returned to Me, strengthen your brethren.” (Lk. 22:31-32)





Introduction



Outline



Important Facts

-  Facts we must know about God
-  When tempted to despair



Important Facts

- What is despair?
- Despair is the devil's ultimate prize
 - When one despairs, he becomes hopeless and defenseless before the devil.
 - Hope is our connection to Life
 - “For we were saved in this hope, but hope that is seen is not hope; for why does one still hope for what he sees?”
(Rom. 8:24)



Godly vs. Ungodly sorrow

- ▶ “Now I rejoice, not that you were made sorry, but that your sorrow led to repentance. For you were made sorry in a godly manner, that you might suffer loss from us in nothing. For godly sorrow produces repentance leading to salvation, not to be regretted; but the sorrow of the world produces death.”
(2 Cor. 7:9-10)
- 



Is despair ever justifiable?

- ▶ Never
 - ▶ God give us countless opportunities to return to Him
 - ▶ Nebuchadnezzar
 - ▶ Therefore, O king, let my advice be acceptable to you; break off your sins by being righteous, and your iniquities by showing mercy to the poor. Perhaps there may be a lengthening of your prosperity.”
(Dan. 4:27)
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Conclusion

- ▶ Important Facts
 - ▶ What is “despair”?
 - ▶ Despair is the devil’s ultimate prize
 - ▶ How do I distinguish godly sorrow from ungodly sorrow (despair)?
 - ▶ Despair is not justifiable

“Do not fall into despair; if the devil brought you down, God is more capable of raising you up.”
(St. John Chrysostom)