

THE ORTHODOX WEEKLY BULETIN VESTAL, CLIFFWOOD, NEW JERSEY

CHRIST IS RISEN! INDEED HE IS RISEN!

SEEING IS BELIEVING

Seeing is believing. We have all heard that age old adage, haven't we? It is quite possible that this saying originated with the story of St. Thomas, who expressed a similar philosophy proclaimed in regards to Christ's asserted Resurrection: "*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.*"

We know of course, that Thomas got his wish, for Christ appeared to the Apostle eight days later when the doubting disciple was in their midst. He received sufficient proof to cry out with the others: **My Lord and My God!** *Thomas SAW . . . Thomas BELIEVED.*

In reality, however, "believing" has absolutely nothing to do with 'seeing.'" When we experience something visually, we are dealing within the realm of *FACT* and *KNOWLEDGE*. Faith does not enter the picture at all if something is proved to us beyond a shadow of a doubt. This is precisely why the words of our Lord in response to Thomas are so significant to us:

"BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HAVE NOT SEEN, AND YET STILL BELIEVE."

We all fall into this category. We have not been blessed with "first-hand" knowledge of our Saviour. His words never directly touched our ears. Our eyes never witnessed His miracles. We neither saw His Crucifixion, nor experienced His Resurrection. Still we continue to believe! We have shown FAITH in the writing of those who had KNOWLEDGE of our Lord. And for this, we will be rewarded, for the Gospels were written ". . . that you may believe that *Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God*, and that

BELIEVING YOU MAY HAVE LIFE IN HIS NAME."