

**John 20.28** Thomas answered and said to Him, "My Lord and my God!"

Here we have a clear confession of faith by Thomas who had previously doubted the resurrection of Jesus. There can be no question that he calls Jesus, "my Lord and my God." However, is this to be understood in an ontological [of or relating to substance] or representative [Jesus represents God to us] sense? To say that the resurrection proves that Jesus is God is counterintuitive, because God cannot die (1 Timothy 1.17); since only dead people are resurrected, the resurrected one cannot be God. Furthermore, the phrase "my lord" is never applied to God and is represented in Hebrew as *adoni* (a title exclusively used of those who are not God). In effect, calling Jesus "my lord" is equivalent to saying that he is not God Almighty. Either Thomas was confessing that he in fact was now seeing God in Christ (cf. John 14.7-11), or he was calling Jesus God in a representative sense like Moses, the Judges of Israel, and the King of Israel were called God (Exodus 7.1; 21.7; 22.8-9; Psalm 45.6; 82.6). Jesus himself spoke of the judges of Israel being called Gods in this representational sense when the religious leaders accused him of claiming to be God (John 10.33-36).