

Easter 2005

"Blessed Are Those Who Have Not Seen and Yet Believe"

John 20:24-29

Introduction

Thomas and the scientific method

Our desire for physical proof

Was Thomas the Lucky one?

The riddle of the blessing

The Blessing of Believing Without Seeing

"Joy inexpressible" i **Peter 1:8**

This life as a *prelude* to eternity

In this *prelude* spiritual realities are hard to see: **2 Corinthians 4:18**

The restraint of God

Our cry: show us a sign! **Matthew 12:38**

The desert wanderings (**Exodus**) and the coming of Jesus (**Gospels**)

The purpose in God's restraint

Allowing genuine love for God to germinate and grow

The overwhelming, compelling beauty of God: I **Timothy 6.15,16**

The story of John Blanchard and Holly Maynell

The Unseen Environment is the Best Catalyst for Love

- 0 **Hope** is born and thrives in the unseen: Romans **8:24,25**
Hope generates "patient waiting"
Love requires this ingredient of *perseverance*: I **Cor 13:7**

- 0 **Faith** acts upon the stage of the unseen: : **Hebrews II: I**
- 0 Faith is in essence the laying down of your life
- 0 Love requires this ingredient of *self-sacrificing risk*: **John 15:13**

Concluding

That love is born in the unseen realm is the blessing in Jesus' statement

After this *prelude*, face to Face forever: I **Car 13:12; Revelation 22:4**

Faith and hope will pass away and love will remain: I **Car 13:13**

What, then, His restraint does not mean.

The tangible anchors we have been given in this *prelude*:

- Nature: **Psalm 19:1; Romans 1:19,20**
- History of His words and actions in the Bible: **2 Tim 3:16**
- The resurrection of **Jesus: Acts 2:24**
- His Spirit's actual presence with us: **John 14:16**

The invitation to enter into the blessing of believing without seeing A
symbol of sharing His resurrection life: **Colossians 2:12,13**