

**Study Questions for the April 17, 2022 Sermon:
“He Actually Arose From the Dead!”
Acts 2:22-32**

1. Psalm 16: 10 is quoted by Peter (Acts 2:27) and Paul (Acts 13:35) as applying to Jesus. So we know that Jesus' body was not corrupting while in the tomb, and his soul was not left in Sheol.
 - a. Where do you believe Jesus was during the time between his death and resurrection? Support your answer with Scripture.
 - b. Where do you believe YOU will be between your death and resurrection? Support your answer with Scripture.
2. Acts 2:23 seems contradictory. The first half of the verse says that the passion of Jesus was done according to God's plan. The second half of the verse assigns the guilt of Jesus's death to the “men of Israel” (verse 22) to whom Peter was speaking.
 - a. Who was responsible for the death of Jesus, God or the men of Israel?
 - b. Assuming the crowd to whom Peter was speaking was not made-up of either the Romans who crucified Jesus or the Jewish leaders who brought Jesus to the Romans, why would Peter accuse them of crucifying and killing Jesus?
3. Verse 22 states that the *mighty works and wonders and signs* that Jesus performed validated and confirmed Jesus' identity. When people perform miracles, does that always validate and confirm the claims they make?
4. Prior to Jesus's death, he was seen by tens of thousands of people. After his resurrection, he was seen by probably less than a thousand – mostly his closest friends and disciples. Spreading the gospel would have been much easier if the resurrected Jesus would have appeared to as many people as did the per-crucifixion Jesus. Why didn't Jesus appear to more people?

5. Pastor Paul asked us to pray for the opportunity to share the good news. Did you use this year's Easter celebration to:
 - a. Share the Gospel with an unbeliever?
 - b. Encourage a nominal believer to recommit to Jesus?
6. The resurrection of Jesus is an essential component of the Gospel. Is the cross – the instrument of Jesus' death, the best symbol of Christianity? The earliest Christian art emphasized Jesus' resurrection. What might better symbolize our Christian belief?
7. If, last Sunday, you saw friends who have not been to church for a long time, what might you do to encourage them to attend more frequently?