**Discussion Questions for Christ's Resurrection: The Basis of Our Assured Hope (Apr. 5, 2015)**

1. Read about the resurrection of Lazarus in John 11:38-39. Martha literally says that Lazarus is a “four dayer.”  The Jews believed that official decay began on the fourth day (Yebamot 16:3). Compare with Peter’s sermon in Acts 2:29-32. With the above data, why was it significant that Christ was raised on the third day?
2. Paul calls Jesus the “first-fruits of the resurrection (1 Cor. 15:20). How can Jesus be the “first fruits” if Lazarus was raised from the dead before Jesus was? (Hint: Did Lazarus die again? Compare with the resurrection body of 1 Cor. 15:42, 54).
3. Read Matt. 12:38-42; Luke 16:19-31. What is the only sign that is given to this age so that people would believe the gospel? Why does Jesus say “if they won’t listen to Moses and the Prophets, neither will they be persuaded even if someone rises from the dead?
4. If the resurrection is the “only sign given,” and Paul was the last of the Apostles to see the resurrected Christ, how can the resurrection be a sign to everyone today? (Hint: How do we know about the resurrection?)