

Title: **Our Risen and Ascendant King: Proofs (Part 2)**  
Text: **Acts 1:1-3**  
Date: **February 12, 2023**

Find the sermon manuscript to follow along with online at [mercyhillchurch.org](http://mercyhillchurch.org).



## Big Idea

Our culture pushes back on the testimony of these apostles concerning the resurrection of Jesus. Some say it's all just a myth. Others chalk it up to mischief on the part of these men. Still others claim they were well-meaning but must have misapprehended the facts. But, when we truly commit ourselves to follow the facts, we come out at last with a sense that Jesus really is who they claim him to be. He's the Messiah, the King, our Savior, Lord, and God!

We need to see that according to Jesus here, our faith is actually reasonable. Faith and reason are not pinned against one another as our culture would have us believe. In the culture, faith and reason are seen as mortal enemies. To the degree that you give sway to faith, well you have to forsake and even crucify your reason. But if you get enlightened and purpose to use your mind, well faith will fall victim and die a quick death.

But this is a false dichotomy. In the church and in the world, faith and reason actually go together. They are inevitably and invariably joined at the hip. The secular unbelieving person has a lot of faith tucked up behind all their reasons. And the Christian has (or should have at least) a lot of good reasons tucked up behind their faith. Their faith is built on "many proofs." We don't know everything, to be sure, we don't have all the answers, but we do have sufficient evidence, reasons, proofs. And we're going to need it, if we're going to hold strong, if we're going to stand in the face of all the skepticism and unbelief that's rampant round about us these days—both outside and inside the church.

## Proofs for Us (Continued): His Body

This evidence of Jesus' body, it's not going to work for us in the same way that it worked for the apostles. They actually saw it. They touched it. They could know he's not a ghost. They're not seeing

things. He has risen. For us, this evidence comes to us necessarily now in a secondhand sort of way. Because Jesus is now risen and ascended, we're not going to see his body the way that these first apostles and witnesses did (at least not until he returns!). Nevertheless, we're still called to base our faith on their testimony, that they saw his body—that he truly is alive. But all of this begs the question then: Can we trust their testimony? Did they really see and touch his resurrected body? How can we know? What proof do we have, if any?

### Three Common Pushbacks

Pushback #1: **Myth** – Here is the claim that the Jesus of history, if he even existed at all, is certainly not the one Christians purport he is today. He's buried under embellishment, legend, and myth. Against this we could push back with three reasons in particular: (1) Explicit Claims; (2) Internal Content; and (3) Early Composition.

Pushback #2: **Mischief** – Here is the claim that the early disciples were actually disingenuous. They were not honestly promoting what they thought to be true. They were knowingly deceiving. But there is one massive problem with this hypothesis, and it's simply this: If these disciples were knowingly spreading lies about this Jesus as risen . . . why in the world would they be willing to die for it?

Pushback #3: **Misapprehension** – Here is the claim that these disciples were genuine and honest about what they thought to be true, but they simply, and sadly, got it all wrong.

### One Reasonable Conclusion

This is not myth, it's not mischief, it's not misapprehension. All signs are pointing to the fact, instead, that Jesus really is the **Messiah**. He really is who these apostles are claiming he is. He's the crucified and resurrected King of all! The only question remaining: is he your King?



## Reflection Questions

- Which of the three common pushbacks listed above do you hear most often from people out in our culture? How have you responded to their skepticism?
- Which of the three would you say you've personally struggled with most and why? What "proofs" have helped you see Jesus as the Messiah—your Savior, Lord, and God?

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## Our Mission & Values

*Mercy Hill Church exists to help restore us to God, neighbor, and city through the good news of Jesus Christ.*

**FAITH:** The Way Back to God | We are redeemed to enjoy intimate presses our church *upwards* in love

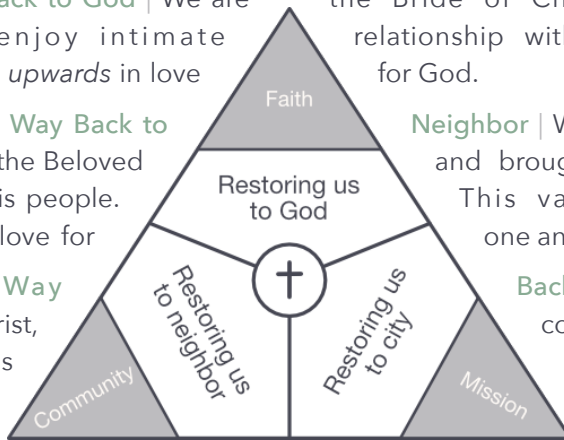
the Bride of Christ, created and relationship with him. This value for God.

**COMMUNITY:** The Way Back to Christ, adopted in the Beloved relationship with his people. church *inwards* in love for

**Neighbor** | We are the Family of and brought into covenantal This value presses our one another.

**MISSION:** The Way the Embassy of Christ, Savior to be his value presses our in love for the

**Back to City** | We are commissioned by the ambassadors. This church *outwards* unbelieving.



## Your Next Steps

When approaching the Christian faith and life, it can be confusing to know where to even begin. Come find us at the Next Steps Table after the service—it would be our joy to help you along in the journey! And if you're a visitor, we have a special gift bag for you. Don't miss it!



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Welcome to Mercy Hill Church.  
We are so glad you've joined us today!

## Announcement Spotlight

### Join Us in the Prayer Room!

Each Wednesday from noon to 1:00pm, Mercy Hill has a time of prayer on Zoom. We share our prayer needs and pray for those plus we pray for the church, our city and county, and issues happening in the world. You are invited to join whenever you are able (feel free to bring your lunch). Come to be blessed and to be a blessing to others!

Scan the QR code below for more information and to find a link to join.

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to us at [info@mercyhillchurch.org](mailto:info@mercyhillchurch.org).

### New City Catechism - This Week's Q&A

#### Question 7

#### What does the law of God require?

*Personal, perfect, and perpetual obedience; that we love God with all our heart, soul, mind, and strength; and love our neighbor as ourselves. What God forbids should never be done and what God commands should always be done.*

Scan the QR code below to learn more.

For clickable content and more announcements,



scan this code to head to our Communications Hub!

Or find it online at [mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub](https://mercyhillchurch.org/communications-hub).