

Pastor Roy's Study Questions on "Hope at Christmas" (December 14, 2025)

— *Below are questions to help further our understanding of today's sermon.* —

1. How does the definition of hope as described in Hebrews 11:1 challenge our modern understanding of faith, especially when we cannot see immediate results of our prayers and trust in God?
2. The sermon compares ancient Israel's spiritual decline to America's current trajectory. In what specific ways do you see parallels between these two nations, and what responsibility do Christians have as the remnant in our culture?
3. Helen Keller said that nothing can be done without hope and confidence. How does placing our hope in Christ differ from worldly optimism, and how does this distinction affect the way we face daily challenges?
4. The Israelites demanded a human king because God was not enough for them. What modern equivalents do we see today where people or even believers seek solutions outside of God's perfect plan?
5. Romans 5:3-5 teaches that suffering produces endurance, character, and ultimately hope. Can you share a personal experience where suffering deepened your hope in Christ rather than diminishing it?
6. Mary was chosen to bring the Hope of Israel into the world despite being a young virgin from Nazareth, a place of no reputation. What does this teach us about how God uses the unlikely and overlooked to accomplish His purposes?
7. The sermon describes Jesus being born in a stable among animals rather than in comfort or prestige. Why was it necessary for the Hope of the world to enter in such humble circumstances, and what does this reveal about God's kingdom values?
8. Isaiah 9:2 speaks of people walking in darkness seeing a great light. How can we as believers be bearers of that light in an increasingly dark world without compromising truth or becoming isolated from those who need hope?
9. The homeless man in the Moe Bandy song found his hope not in earthly comfort but in the promise of many mansions. How does this eternal perspective change the way we view material possessions and earthly security?
10. Colossians 1:15-17 declares that all things were created through Christ and for Christ, and in Him all things hold together. How does understanding Christ's preeminence affect your daily decisions, relationships, and sense of purpose?