

Pastor Ron Holton – The Hope of Christmas

Scripture Passages: Luke 1:26-27, Romans 15: 4 & 13, Hebrews 10:22-23, Hebrews 11:1

Message: *What is Biblical hope, and what does it mean for us today?*

What is Biblical Hope?

Biblical hope is not wishful thinking—

it is *confident expectation* based on the unchanging character and promises of God.

Three Elements of Hope (*Paul David Tripp*)

Assessment	An honest evaluation of our situation and recognition of your need for God
Object	Person, relationship or thing you put your hope in
Expectation	Looking forward with confidence to what God has promised

Three Types of Hope in Scripture

Type of Hope	Scripture	Meaning
Living Hope	1 Peter 1:3	Assurance because Jesus' life, death and resurrection
Blessed Hope	Titus 2:13	Anticipation of Christ's second advent, redemption & restoration
Hope of Glory	Colossians 1:27	Expectation of the end of all death, suffering, tears and pain

Three Reasons We Can Have Hope

- **God is in us** – *John 14:23*
His Holy Spirit comforts, convicts, teaches and guides us.
- **God is with us** – *Matthew 1:23*
Emmanuel—He is with us in our joy and in our pain. We are never alone.
- **God will return for us** – *John 14:3*
Life with Christ ends not in darkness but in glory and redemption.

5 Practical ways to share our Hope in Christ this week:

1. **Extend a Personal Invitation** Invite someone to Blue Christmas, coffee, or to share a meal in your home.
2. **Pray With Someone — Not Just For Them** Ask, *“Can I pray for you right now?”*
3. **Offer Forgiveness &/ or Ask for Forgiveness**
4. **Give of your time & possessions** Visit a nursing home, bake cookies for a new neighbor, or give something meaningful away.
5. **Share Your Story of Hope** Tell someone how Jesus has changed your life and brought you hope in the darkness. Your testimony may be the hope someone is praying for in this season.

Sermon Discussion Questions
Christ - The Hope of Christmas I Advent Week 2
Pastor Ron Holton | RPC Central
Sunday, December 7, 2025
www.rpc.fm/sermon-library

Have several different people read the passages below aloud, prior to beginning discussion:

Scripture Passages: Luke 1:26-27, Romans 15: 4 & 13, Hebrews 10:22-23, Hebrews 11:1

1. What stood out to you about the difference between wishful thinking and Biblical hope?
2. According to Romans 15:4, how does Scripture give us hope? What is another verse that has strengthened you during a difficult time?
3. Describe and discuss the three elements of Hope, that Pastor Ron mentioned? Why do you think honest assessment is sometimes difficult for us?
4. What are some common “objects” people put their hope in today? How do those fall short compared to Christ?
5. What do we learn about the character of God from Romans 15:13? How do these truths encourage you this week?
6. Of the three types of Biblical hope mentioned—Living Hope, Blessed Hope, Hope of Glory—which stirs your heart most and why?
7. Re-read Hebrews 10:22-23. What are we called to hold fast to, and why? How does the fact that God is faithful, anchor your hope and give you peace?
8. We were given five ways to share hope this Christmas. Which one challenges you the most? What would it take to step out in faith and actually do it?
9. What is one practical way, we as small group can pray, care for &/or serve someone we know who is struggling this season?

For next steps and further application:

- Think of someone who is suffering or lacking hope. Pray for them daily and invite them to our Blue Christmas service on 12/17 @ 5:30pm or to sit with you at a Christmas Eve service.
- Choose a scripture from above you need to cling to in this season and commit to meditating on it daily.
- Choose one person to extend hope to using one of the five practices Pastor Ron offered. Share with your small group who it is and how you plan to follow through for accountability.
- Identify an area in your life where your hope has felt more like wishing than trusting. Journal &/or prayerfully consider what would it look like to shift toward Biblical hope this week?
- Pray for God to reveal one area where you need Him more deeply, then share (optional) with a group leader what step of surrender you feel Him inviting you to take.