



	<b>sermon notes</b>
<p>“Mary at the End”            November 29, 2020            Pastor John Speight  <a href="http://CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS">CHRISTCHURCHVA.ORG/SERMONS</a></p>	

**The Season of Advent**

- Four Sundays leading up to Christmas
- Designed to remind us of the real meaning of Christmas
- Advent is the prescription for our spiritual amnesia

**Why look at Jesus’ life through the eyes of his mother, Mary?**

- No one was closer to Jesus than Mary
- She shaped his life more than any other
- No one knew him better
- Doubtful that anyone loved him more
- No one suffered more from his birth, life and death

**Why do our Roman Catholic and Orthodox friends give Mary far more attention, and seem to know so much more about her than we Protestants?**

- After the resurrection of Jesus, there is only one mention of Mary recorded in the Bible.

*“They all joined together constantly in prayer, along with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with his brothers.”*

Acts 1:14 (NIV)

- Church leaders in the 2<sup>nd</sup> century craved more information about Mary and her life, so in 150 A.D. stories were written (some likely in fact and others based on legends) to fill in the gaps.
- One of books written primarily about Mary was the Protoevangelium of James. “Proto” meaning “first.” “Evangelium” meaning “gospel.”

**How the story of Mary developed through the years**

Roman Catholic Doctrine	Date Doctrine Officially Defined	Asserts
Perpetual Virginit of Mary	4 <sup>th</sup> century	Mary was a virgin “before, during and after giving birth”
Immaculate Conception	Pope Pius IX (1854)	Mary was preserved immaculate from Original Sin
Assumption of Mary into Heaven	Pope Pius XII (1950)	Mary was taken up into heaven “body and soul” at her death

### Questions:

- **Are these teachings true?** We have no writings that confirm these doctrines written by eyewitnesses during the first century.
- **What are we to make of these teachings?** Whether or not these teachings are true, they are not necessary to our faith, nor are they necessary to our salvation.

There is one thing that Protestants, Catholics and Orthodox churches agree upon, and that is the **resurrection of the dead**.

*“For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the LORD, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”*

Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV)

Here is a four-word definition of hope: \_\_\_\_\_.

*And now, dear brothers and sisters, we want you to know what will happen to the believers who have died so you will not grieve like people who have no hope. For since we believe that Jesus died and was raised to life again, we also believe that when Jesus returns, God will bring back with him the believers who have died... For the Lord himself will come down from heaven with a commanding shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trumpet call of God. First, the believers who have died will rise from their graves. Then, together with them, we who are still alive and remain on the earth will be caught up in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air. Then we will be with the Lord forever. So encourage each other with these words.*

1 Thessalonians 4:13-14;16-18 (NLT)

### Answer key

Here is a four-word definition of hope: **GOD IS IN CONTROL**.