

# HOPE + LIFE

**Craig Rees**  
**Not As Planned**

4/23/2017

***NOTE: There are more questions below than you are expected to answer. Please just choose a few that are relevant for your personal reflection & application.***

1. What was your major takeaway from the message this morning?
2. “The end we aim at must be known before the way can be made” (Jean Paul). What is the end that the Christian aims at?
3. If to plan is to impose our will – or God’s will – on the future, in what areas is God calling you to impose your will on the future?
4. Proverbs 13:19 warns us that we can set our heart on something and lose our ability to be objective. Can you think of a time when a desire for something blinded you or someone you know to such an extent that it undermined the way you/they responded to reality?
5. Ephesians 1:9-10 says that God’s plan cannot be understood apart from Christ. How has knowing Christ either changed your plans or the way you plan?
6. In Exodus 12:11 God prepares His people for their freedom by asking them to make a public profession of faith. Describe a time when God asked you to take a public step of preparatory faith.
7. Pastor Craig told the story of a little boy gathering pennies. To receive a breakthrough, we often need to be emptied of the less important things we are chasing after. This is called self-discipline (Hebrews 12:11-13). In what areas do you need to be more disciplined to prepare for the breakthrough you need?
8. Spiritual preparation is an essential part of any journey into the future. Ezra 8:21 describes the preparation God’s people made to prepare for their future. How do prayer and fasting fit in to the Christian’s spiritual preparation? How does it fit into your current spiritual preparation practices?