**THE BIBLE – HOPE FOR ALL**

**Scripture Reading** Matthew 16:13-20

**Theme** Confessing and living with hope

**Summary / purpose** To highlight the importance of hope, rooted in our confession of faith

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Sermon outline

**1 The identity of Jesus affirms our only hope**

* Jesus accepted these words
* Messiah – Old Testament background:
  + Expect to get rid of the Roman oppressors
  + Expect to restore the Kingdom of Israel
  + Expect to restore the true worship in the Temple
* This revelation comes from God –

**TODAY:**

* Who is Jesus personally for you?

**2 The faith community enlarge our hope**

* Blessed are you – see 13:11, 16; 11:25-26; Beatitudes in Mt 5
* Initiative from God –
  + Father revealed it to Peter –
  + 1st to be called,
  + often representing the disciples,
    - even when they are little of faith 14:31
    - or deny their relationship with Him 26:69-75
* “Rock”
  + either Peter (Eph 2:20) or
  + his confession
* “Church”
  + LXX = Congregation of Israel
  + Greek circles = assembly of free, voting citizens in a city – Ac 19:32,38, 41.
  + Disciples (learners) learning from Jesus and commanded to teach others Mt 28:19
  + Pauline epistles -
* “Keys”
  + Peter on Pentecost unlocking door of Kingdom of God to Jews and proselytes
  + Peter unlocking later the door of the Kingdom of God to the Gentiles (Ac 10)
* “Bind/loose” to announce guilt / innocence after forgiveness

**TODAY:**

* When alone, the Bible assures us of the presence of the living Hope
* When suffering, the church is present to uplift our hope and faith

In our town/city/Province/ Country:-

* The Bible is the only book where the Author is always present – eternal Hope
* The Church is the instrument to share this hope-filled Presence to the world
* The BSSA takes hands with the church as church to show the way to an endless hope!