

**Sermon Notes – June 21, 2015**  
**“I Will Build My Church” – Jesus**  
**Matthew 16:13-18**  
**Pastor Bill Hoffman**

**When you consider the future do you tend to be more optimistic or pessimistic?**

- What is the basis for your attitude toward the future?
- In the above passage and also Peter's later reflection in 1 Peter 1:3-9, why might the original hearers not be hopeful about the future for followers of Jesus?
- How do these passages show that the biblical notion of hope is more than wishful thinking?

**What are some concrete ways that you have seen “the gates of Hades/hell” being assaulted as the Lord builds his church?** (You might want to think in terms of the themes of this year's Vacation Bible School!)

**Foundational to our participating in Jesus' work of building his church is making Peter's confession (verse 16) our own and living in light of it.**

- What does Peter – and this whole passage – say or imply about who Jesus is?
- About what it means to follow him?
- What hinders people from making Peter's confession their own?
- How can these barriers be overcome?