

WHERE HOPE COMES FROM

STATE OF THE CHURCH

Reflections on 2016 / Directions for 2017

January 8, 2017

Pastor Brian

“Where then is my hope? Can anyone find any? No, my hope will go down with me to the grave...” (Job 17:15–16, The Living Bible)

Matthew 16:13–19 (NLT)

¹³ When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, **“Who do people say that the Son of Man is?”**

¹⁴ “Well,” they replied, “some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets.”

¹⁵ Then he asked them, **“But who do you say I am?”**

¹⁶ Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

¹⁷ Jesus replied, **“You are blessed, Simon son of John, because my Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. ¹⁸ Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means ‘rock’), and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven.”**

1. THE CHURCH IS FOUNDED ON HOPE.

“Praise God, the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. God is so good, and by raising Jesus from death, he has given us new life and a hope that lives on.” (1 Peter 1:3, CEV)

“God has put all things under the authority of Christ and has made him head over all things for the benefit of the church. And the church is his body; it is made full and complete by Christ, who fills all things everywhere with himself.” (Ephesians 1:22–23, NLT)

2. THE CHURCH IS A FAMILY OF HOPE.

“All honor to God, the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ; for it is his boundless mercy that has given us the privilege of being born again so that we are now members of God’s own family. Now we live in the hope of eternal life because Christ rose again from the dead.” (1 Peter 1:3, The Living Bible)

“...I want you to know how people who are members of God’s family must live. God’s family is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.” (1 Timothy 3:15, GW)

3. THE CHURCH FULFILLS HOPE.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, telling people about me everywhere—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.” (Acts 1:8, NLT)

Great Commandment

*“You must **love the LORD** your God with all your heart, all your soul, and all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. A second is equally important: **‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’**” (Matthew 22:37–39, NLT)*

Great Commission

*“Go and **make disciples** of all the nations, **baptizing** them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. **Teach** these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:19–20, NLT)*

The DREAM of ORBC

- D**esign worship services lost people love.
- R**each the hurting and recover the broken.
- E**ngage people in spiritual growth.
- A**ctivate them in a ministry.
- M**obilize our members to change the world!

“And his name will be the hope of all the world.” (Matthew 12:21, NLT)

ACTION:

SIGN AND TURN IN YOUR RECOMMITMENT COVENANT.