

Convocation 2016
Revival: Are There Reasons To Be Hopeful?

Matt 16:13-19

- 13 When Jesus came into the coasts of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Whom do men say that I the Son of man am?
- 14 And they said, Some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elias; and others, Jeremias, or one of the prophets.
- 15 He saith unto them, But whom say ye that I am?
- 16 And Simon Peter answered and said, Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.
- 17 And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Barjona: for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father which is in heaven.
- 18 And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.
- 19 And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. KJV

Introduction:

There are many things in our world that are discouraging and frustrating to the thinking Christian. The churches in many places seems to be aligning themselves with the world, turning themselves into religious entertainment centers and competing with each other for the attention of worldly minded religious people who do not seem to have any real burden or sense of need to be godly, holy, and faithful to Jesus Christ.

There are theologies being taught today, some by respected men, which say that we are living in a time when God is in the process of shutting down the work of the gospel in preparation for the Second Coming of Christ and that the age of the powerful working of the Holy Spirit among men is over, never to return.

And, of course, we see the gospel seemingly having less and less impact in our culture so far as the moral and spiritual condition of mankind is concerned, even while churches grow larger and larger. At least some are. In other places there is a dearth of men to fill pulpits and small churches are collapsing for lack of leadership and growth.

Immorality and perversion are a plague upon us, growing incessantly both in the numbers that they enslave as well as the intensity of the manifest ungodliness. It is almost embarrassing to turn on the TV, the commercials and programs have grown so grossly perverse and unclean. Even those who would lead us are showing themselves to be the most ungodly sorts of people.