

The Shocking Focus of the Church

The HOUSE RULES for Faith Bible Church, 1 Timothy 3 14-16 Chris Mueller 12-17-2017

Introduction:

Titus 1:5 For this reason I left you in Crete, that you would set in order what remains and appoint elders in every city as I directed you

14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; **15** but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. **16** By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

#1 The MENTORING of Timothy for _____

14 I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long;

15 but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself.

#2 The MASTER of the CHURCH is the _____

15 in the household of God, which is the church of the living God,

Ephesians 2:19 ... you are ... of God's household

#3 The MISSION of the CHURCH is to proclaim _____

15 the pillar and support of the truth

William Barclay: One of its features was its pillars. It contained one hundred and twenty-seven pillars, every one of them the gift of a king. All were made of marble, and some were studded with jewels and overlaid with gold. The people of Ephesus knew well how beautiful a thing a pillar could be. It may well be that the idea of the word pillar here is not so much support—...—as display. Often the statue of a famous man is set on the top of a pillar that it may stand out above all ordinary things and so be clearly seen, even from a distance. The idea here is that the Church's duty is to hold up the truth in such a way that all men may see it.

John MacArthur: The truth is the divine revelation, including the truth of the gospel, the content of the Christian faith. It is the solemn responsibility of every church to unwaveringly uphold the truth of God's Word. The church does not invent the truth, and never alters the truth = only at the cost of judgment. The Church is to support and safeguard the truth. The Truth of God's Word is the sacred treasure given to sinners for their salvation, and to believers for their sanctification, that they might live for the Glory of God. The church has the stewardship of Scripture, the duty to guard it as the most precious possession on earth. Churches ...that tamper with, misrepresent, depreciate, relegate to secondary place, or abandon biblical truth... destroy their only reason for existing ...all the while they experience impotence and judgment.

Hearing and **Heeding** the Word **Matthew 13:9** He who has ears, let him hear.

Handling the Word accurately **2 Timothy 2:15** Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, accurately handling the word of truth.

Hiding the Word in your heart **Psalms 119:11** Your word I have treasured in my heart, That I may not sin against You

Holding the Word forth as the Word of Life **Philippians 2:16** holding fast the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I will have reason to glory because I did not run in vain nor toil in vain.

#4 The MESSAGE of the CHURCH is _____

16 By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations, Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.

1 Corinthians 1:23 we preach Christ crucified, to Jews a stumbling block and to Gentiles foolishness,

1 Corinthians 2:2 For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

2 Corinthians 4:5 *For we do not preach ourselves but Christ Jesus as Lord, and ourselves as your bond-servants for Jesus' sake. Galatians 6:14 may it never be that I would boast, except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ...*

1st The first couplet is how Christ was _____
16b *He who was revealed in the flesh, Was vindicated in the Spirit,*

Kent Hughes *Christ stood at the rim of the universe and dove headlong past a billion stars, through the Milky Way and into the womb of the Virgin Mary, where he grew until his birth... on that cold winters night.*

Romans 1:4 *...was declared the Son of God with power by the resurrection from the dead, according to the Spirit of holiness...*
8:11 *But if the Spirit of Him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, He who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through His Spirit who dwells in you.*

2nd The second couplet sings of the _____ of Christ
16c *Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations,*

3rd The third couplet sings of the _____ given to Christ
16d *Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.*
1 Timothy 1:15... *Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all.*

A. Is Christ your _____ love?

Revelation 2:4 *I have this against you, ... you have left your first love.*
5 *'Therefore remember from where you have fallen, and repent and do the deeds you did at first; or else I am coming to you and will remove your lampstand out of its place—unless you repent.*

B. Is your life marked by _____ or by intention?

C. Are you _____ on God's Word?

1 Peter 2:2 *like newborn babies, long for the pure milk of the word, so that by it you may grow in respect to salvation...*

D Are you coming here for _____ ?

QUESTIONS FOR GROWTH IN CHRIST

1. Why are so many churches ORDERED differently? Why do churches need ORDER? Can you describe a biblical ORDER for the church?
2. How can a Christian and a Church PROVE that God is the LIVING GOD who is ALIVE? Come up with at least ten sure ways...
3. How does the Church and its members UPHOLD the truth of God's Word? How can you be better at being a spiritual PILLAR?
4. Describe the process for Christians to grow Godly and mature in Christ? What are difficulties? What are the benefits?
5. What was the point of Paul listing an early church hymn in verse 16? Why is it there and what can we learn from it?
6. What does it look like when a Christian loses their first love? What should they do about it and why?
7. What steps will you take this week in order to grow more like Christ?

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