

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3

Series on Church: #8

Singing: 368:1-5 – 276:1-4 – 237:1-3 – 356:1-3

Intro: The Pastoral Epistles: *Directories to Guide His Church for all times!*

A. To God there is no more sacred thing in this world than Christ's Church

1. Because it is His Body: Acts 9:4; Eph. 1:22-23
2. Because it is His nursery to prepare saints for heaven: Eph. 2:10; 4:12-16
3. Because it is His Kingdom on earth: Matt. 4:17; Col. 1:2, 4, 12-13
4. Because it is His means to gather His elect: Matt. 28:18-20

God wants us to think right about His Church so we behave right

I. God's call is that we 'behave ourselves' rightly in His Church (14-15a)

II. God reminds us of what His Church is to Him (15b)

A. The local church is the 'dwelling place (house) of God'

1. in OT: *tabernacle and temple* were God's house (John 2:16; Mark 11:15-17)
2. in NT: *His people united to Christ and connected in His Body are His House*
 - a. 1 Cor. 3:16-17 – 2 Cor. 6:16 – Eph. 2:19-22 - 1 Peter 2:5, 9 - Heb 3:6

B. The local church is the 'household of God' (compare 1 Tim. 3:4, 5, 12)

1. The Church is God's family on earth: 2 Cor. 6:18; Gal. 4:3-7; Eph. 3:14-15
2. As 'head of the family' Jesus' legislates what is His will (Matt. 28:20)

C. The local church is 'the church of the living God' (1 Peter 2:5, 9-10)

1. 'Church' is *those called out of ... and into'* (ecclesia)
 - a. The 'living God' builds His church with 'living stones' (1 Peter 2:5)

2. Therefore His church is the dearest possession of Triune God (Ps. 87:1)

III. God reminds us of what the purpose of His Church is within our world

A. The purpose of His Church: *you are the pillar & ground of the truth*

1. Besides the *salt* and *light* of the world, church is the *stability of world*

B. What are the functions of the *pillar and ground of the truth* practically?

1. Proclamation of the Word of God (2 Tim. 4:2-5)

2. Sanctification of God's saints: Eph. 4:12-16

3. Protection against false teaching: 1 Tim. 3:16ff

4. Foundation within shifting winds of culture: 1 Tim. 4:1-11; 2 Tim. 3:16-17

Conclude: Reflect on two takeaways:

A. How will being part of God's temple and family make you live?

B. How will you handle the trust of being the 'pillar and foundation of truth'?