

THE CHURCH AND THE TRUTH

I Timothy 3:14-16

Intro:

- A. Paul has instructed Timothy in regard to the offices of the church.
 - 1. The office of a bishop. vs 1-7
 - 2. The office of a deacon. vs 8-13
 - 3. He has also taught Timothy many other truths that have to do with the church.
 - 4. Primarily, he addresses false teachers.

- B. Paul hopes to come to Ephesus shortly.
 - 1. Vs 14 "These things write unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly:"
 - 2. "Shortly" = ΤΑΧΙΟΝ = "fast", "quickly".

- C. If Paul doesn't come to Ephesus very soon, Timothy should use the truths Paul has written and will write as a guide for teaching the Ephesians.
 - 1 "But if I am delayed..."
 - 2. "What your conduct ought to be..." - TENT

I. The Church, The Pillar And Ground Of Truth.

- A. Vs 15 "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God,..."
 - 1. "Tarry long" = βραδυνω = "to be slow", "to hesitate", "to delay".
 - 2. "Know" = οίδα = "the word was used to describe "know-how", that is the knowledge or skill to accomplish a thing".
 - 3. "Behave" = αναστρέφω = "to move about", "to turn around", "to conduct one's self".
 - 4. "House of God" = ΟΙΚΟΣ = "a house", "a dwelling".
 - a. Ephesians 2:19-22
 - b. This is not, "all the saved", it is the church that is in Ephesus.

- B. "...which is the church of the living God,..."
1. "Which is" = ἥτις = "which indeed".
 2. "Church" = ἐκκλησία = "called out for a purpose".
 3. "Living" = ζῶω = "to live" (God).
 4. Is this the universal, invisible church? There is no such church!
 5. Statement of Dr. Jimmy Kirkland.
- C. "...the pillar and ground of the truth."
1. "Pillar" = στύλος = "a column", "a firm support"
 2. "Ground" = ἐδραιώμα = "basis", "foundation", "what is fixed", "settled", "stationary".
 3. "Truth" = ἀληθείας = "the veritable essence".
 4. "The support and foundation of the truth".

II. The Truth As Revealed By The Living God.

- A. Vs 16 "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:..."
1. "Controversy" = ὁμολογευμένως = "by mutual confession", "by common consent".
 2. "Mystery" = μυστήριον = "revealed truth".
 3. "Godliness" = εὐσεβεία = "a real, true, vital, relationship with God", "like God".
- B. "...God was manifest in the flesh..."
1. "Manifest" = φανερώω = "to make visible".
 2. Isaiah 7:14 - "Behold, a virgin shall conceive..."
Isaiah 9:6 - "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given..."
 3. Matthew 1:23 - "...they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us"
 4. John 1:14 - "...And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we behold his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father) full of grace and truth."
 5. "Flesh" = σαρξ = "the flesh of a man", "corporately".

- C. "...justified in the spirit,..."
1. "Justified" = δικαιωω = "to declare righteous", "to vindicate".
 2. The Holy Spirit vindicated the work of Jesus at His baptism. Matthew 3:15 - "suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness."
 3. It vindicated His life at the mount of transfiguration. Mark 9:7 - "This is my beloved son: hear him."
 4. He was vindicated as to His holiness when the Spirit raised Him from the dead.
- D. "...seen of angels..."
1. The angels at His birth. Luke 2:9-14
 2. Angels ministered to Him. Matt 4:11 - "...angels came and ministered to Him."
 3. An angel rolled away the stone. Matt 28:2-3 - "...for the angel of the lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone from the door and sat upon it."
- E. "...preached unto the Gentiles..."
1. Paul was called to this task. Acts 9:15
 2. Paul was true to his calling. Ephesians 3:7-8 - "...that I should preach among the Gentiles the unsearchable riches of Christ."
- F. "...believed on in the world..."
1. Some Jews believed. John 1:11-12
 2. Some Gentiles believed. Acts 16:30-31
 3. At Berea, "many of them believed" Acts 17:12-14
 4. At Thessalonica, "some of them believed"
- G. "...received up into glory."
1. Acts 1:9 - "...while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight..."
 2. He is seated at God's right hand. Hebrews 9:24 - "For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us."

III. We Must Accept Him.

A. We can be:

1. Justified in the Spirit.
2. Received into glory.

B. We must be:

1. Born again.
2. Transformed.

