

THE CHURCH – THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH

Introduction

- 1) **1 Timothy 3:15** – “...the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth”
- 2) **Pillar** (*stulos*) – “a column supporting the weight of a building”...to maintain the doctrines of the faith by teaching and practice (Vine); duty to display and demonstrate the truth (Barclay) (see also Gal. 2:9)
- 3) **Ground** (*hedraioma*) – “a support, bulwark, stay” (Vine); supports the truth against all who would seek to destroy it (Barclay) (see also 1 Cor. 15:58; Col.1:23)

I) **How This is Accomplished**

- A) The church of Christ is not an “institution” that does this separate from its members
 - 1) “I pay the dues and the board/leaders take care of the duties” – wrong!
 - 2) The members *are* the church – collective and individual duties as a pillar and ground
- B) Each Christian must display, demonstrate, uphold, and hold firm the truth
 - 1) **Collectively** with those of like precious faith
 - 2) **Individually** in my particular walks of life
- C) God will make known His manifold wisdom in us that we may glorify Him in the church by Christ Jesus (Eph. 3:10, 21)
 - 1) This must be accomplished by every member in their everyday lives (“24/7/365”)
 - 2) Must characterize every thought, decision, word, action, and result (2 Cor. 10:5)

II) **Truth We Must Support and Hold Firm Today**

A) ***God as Creator and His Absolute Truth***

- 1) God exists and is the creator of all things (Gen. 1:1; Psa. 14:1)
- 2) Truth is not unknowable, relative, subjective, or up for vote (Psa. 119:89; Jn. 17:17)
- 3) Truth has been revealed and can be known (Jn. 8:31-32; Jn. 16:13; Col. 1:5-6)

B) ***The Bible as the Word of God***

- 1) The Bible is the complete and sufficient word of God (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
- 2) It is to be believed from Genesis to Revelation
- 3) We must learn to rightly divide the truth for accurate understanding (2 Tim. 2:15)

C) ***The Need for Godly Living***

- 1) Walk decently (properly, morally) through life (Rom. 13:13-14)
- 2) Sober, righteous, godly living (Titus 2:11-12)
- 3) Avoid drinking alcohol, dancing, drugs, gambling, immodesty, fornication, etc.

D) ***Jesus as Christ, One Church, Salvation in Christ, and True Worship***

- 1) One body [church] (Eph. 4:4), built on Jesus as Christ, Son of God (Matt. 16:18)
- 2) Salvation in Christ – faith, repentance, confession, baptism (Gal. 3:26-27)
- 3) Worship in spirit and in truth (Jn. 4:24); avoid doctrines of men (Matt. 15:9)

III) **Flimsy Walls and Sand Foundations of Error** (Ezek. 13:9-16; Matt. 7:26-27)

- A) Walls and sands of ***evolution and relativism*** – deny the creator and absolute truth
- B) Walls and sands of ***skepticism and doubt*** – not trust Bible, but trust human wisdom
- C) Walls and sands of ***worldly ungodliness*** – rejects moral standards with situation ethics
- D) Walls and sands of ***religious division*** – ignores the unity Jesus desires and His authority

Conclusion

Organizations built on the doctrines of men have crumbling walls and foundations – they do *not* hear the words of Jesus to obey them (Psa. 127:1; Matt. 15:13). Hear and understand the truth so that you can be part of God’s immovable house/church founded on the Jesus the rock, and there be a solid support and bulwark steadfast for the truth!