

Recap of 4/22/18 (1 Timothy 3:14-16)

1. Donald Guthrie says of 1 Timothy 3:14-16: “This [is] the culminating doctrinal point and indeed the key to the Pastoral epistles. In 3:14-16 Paul gives the reason for his instructions and ... a reminder of the wonder of the Christian revelation which must never be divorced from practical arrangements.” In other words the profound truth of the gospel (as seen in vs. 16) should lead to right living; and right living is a testimony to that truth.
2. Paul calls the church a “household” emphasizing that it is a family, not a physical building or temple. Warren Wiersbe points out that just as a family must be fed, disciplined, and encouraged so should the church be. “Because the local church is a family, it must be fed; and the only diet that will nourish the people is the Word of God....Like a family, a church needs discipline, in love....Children also need encouragement and example (1 Thes. 2:7-12).
3. The Greek word translated “church” is the word “ecclesia,” which means “a called-out assembly.” It is not used of a building but of an assembly of people. The New Testament teaching is that a church is not a building but rather “church” refers to an assembly of believers.
4. Paul also calls the church the pillar and foundation of the truth, meaning that the church displays and supports the truth. William Barclay gives us some cultural perspective to this: “The church is the pillar of the truth. In Ephesus, to which these letters were written, the word pillar would have a special significance. The greatest glory of Ephesus was the Temple of Diana or Artemis.... One of its features was its pillars. It contained one hundred and twenty-seven pillars, every one of them the gift of a king. ...It may well be that the idea of the word pillar here is not so much support—that is contained in [foundation] - as display....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.” Concerning the church as a foundation, Barclay writes: “The Church is the buttress of the truth. The buttress is the support of the building. It keeps it standing intact. ...the Church holds [the truth] up for all to see....[and] supports it against all who would seek to destroy it.”
5. The truth to which Paul refers is seen in vs. 16, as translated in the Contemporary English Version: “Here is the great mystery of our religion: Christ came as a human. The Spirit proved that He pleased God, and He was seen by angels. Christ was preached to the nations. People in this world put their faith in Him, and He was taken up to glory.”