

THE CHURCH

THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH

Introduction:

1. The New Testament uses many terms and concepts to describe the church of Christ.
2. As members of the church, it is important for us to know what the church is – and what the Lord expects it to be.
3. Thus, as we study these divine descriptions of the church, we will learn how we are to conduct ourselves individually and as a congregation of God's people.
4. The role of the church in God's plan of redemption...
 - a. Eternal purpose
 - b. Connected to the crucifixion
 - c. Result of the resurrection
 - d. Established on Pentecost
5. Descriptive Designations of the Church:
 - a. "The Called Out"
 - b. The Body of Christ
 - c. The Bride of Christ
 - d. The Kingdom of Christ
 - e. The Saved
 - f. The House of God
 - g. The Temple of God
 - h. The Husbandry of God
 - i. The Army of God
 - j. The Pillar and Ground of the Truth

I. Definition of Terms

- A. What is Truth? (cf. John 18:38)
 1. The Word of God (John 17:17; Titus 1:2; Heb. 6:18; 2 Pet. 1:3)
 2. The Word (2 Tim. 4:2-4) – *sound doctrine, the truth*
 3. The Gospel (Heb. 1:1; 2:3-4; Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-2)
 4. The Faith (Jude 3; Gal. 1:23; Acts 6:7)
 5. Not subjectivism; not emotionalism; not relativism
- B. What is a "pillar"?
 1. The Greek word for 'pillar' means refers to a column that supports the weight of a building.
 2. It is defined as, "A column, post, or pillar; a prop or support."
 3. Thus, the church is to uphold the Truth that it may shine forth into the world (illus., lighthouse; cf. Phil. 2:15-16).
- C. What is the "ground"?
 1. The Greek word for 'ground' means, "Support, prop, or stay."
 2. Thus, it has a similar meaning to the word pillar, but with a focus on stability.
 3. However, the emphasis here seems to be on the church's role in protecting and defending the Truth.
 4. The adjective form of this word is found in 1 Cor. 7:37; 15:58; and Col. 1:23.
- D. Thus, the church is to uphold and steadfastly defend the Truth of the Gospel.

Biblical Description of the Church

Lesson Fourteen

1 Timothy 3:15

- II. Demand of Trustworthiness
 - A. To serve as a pillar of truth demands faithfulness on the part of every Christian.
 - B. To support the Truth, one must **know** it (John 8:31-32; 1 Tim. 4:3).
 - 1. This requires study.
 - 2. This requires continual study!
 - C. To support the Truth, one must **believe** it (2 Thes. 2:12; Heb. 4:2).
 - 1. If we do not believe it, we will not teach it.
 - 2. If we do not believe it, we will not defend it.
 - D. To support the Truth, one must **obey** it (1 Pet. 1:22; Gal. 5:7)
 - 1. How else can it be demonstrated to the world?
 - 2. How else can we ask others to obey it?
 - E. To support the Truth, one must **love** it (2 Thes. 2:10; John 3:19-21; Rom. 1:16).
 - F. To support the Truth, one must **speak** it (Eph. 4:14-15; Gal. 1:6-9; Acts 20:27).
 - 1. Handling it aright (2 Tim. 2:15).
 - 2. Speaking in love (Eph. 4:15).
 - G. To support the Truth, one must **defend** it (Gal. 2:5).
 - H. To support the Truth, one must **live** it (Titus 2:10-12).
 - I. Each Christian must be faithful and trustworthy in his duty of upholding the Truth of God.

- III. Defense of Truth
 - A. Christians are commanded to “earnestly contend for the faith” (Jude 3).
 - B. “It was needful” for Jude to write concerning this matter.
 - 1. Literally, “I was held by constraint.”
 - 2. There was a threat to the church that must be addressed.
 - C. To ‘earnestly contend’ means, “To struggle for; to agonize for; to wrestle.”
 - D. It means that Christians are to put forth extreme effort in fighting for the faith!
 - E. Matt. 18:15-17; Acts 13:6-11, 45-46; 15:1-2; Rom. 16:17-18; 1 Cor. 5:4-5, 9-11; Gal. 2:4-5, 11-14; 2 Thes. 3:6, 14-15; 1 Tim. 1:19-20; 5:20; 6:3-5; 2 Tim. 3:5; Titus 3:10; 2 John 9-11
 - F. It is the responsibility of the church to stand for and to defend the Truth.