

## Study 5- 1 Timothy

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-4:16

Much has been written about the “true church.” The concept being, that all believers belong to Christ and are one in Him. Christians were expected to unite with local assemblies and go to work for God. In these verses, Paul shows the importance of the local church and describes it as follows: 1. The house of God. That is, the family or household of God on earth. All believers are children of God, and the church is His family. If the church is God’s family, then certainly it is more important than any other organization on earth. 2. The pillar and ground of truth. This is construction language. The church is what holds up God’s truth in this world. The word “ground” means “foundation”; one translator defines it “basement.” As the local church is faithful to preserve, preach, and practice the truth, God’s work prospers on earth. The unfaithful Christian is weakening the very foundation of God’s truth in the world. 3. The body of Christ. Verse 16 is perhaps an early Christian hymn, memorized by the saints for their worship services. The mystery of godliness is God’s hidden program to bring godliness into the world. The church is important to God and should be important to us.

1 Timothy 4-This chapter deals with the pastor’s spiritual life and labors. Paul hoped to be with Timothy soon after he wrote this letter, but he knew his plans often changed unexpectedly, whether by his own doing, by circumstance, or by God. So as a precaution Paul penned several instructions to Timothy that would help him get the church at Ephesus on the right track. Before he got the specifics, Paul thought it wise to remind Timothy of the glorious Lord they both served. He knew how easy it is to get discouraged when we take our eyes off the source of our strength and success. Yet he also knew how effective we can be when we remind ourselves of the glory of our great God and Savior. From this point on in his letter, Paul shares freely from problem to instruction to encouragement and back again. He rarely goes into great lengths in any of his instruction, for no doubt Timothy had already received solid instruction. Nevertheless, because of the difficult ministry in Ephesus, Paul considered it best to record for Timothy an outline of what it would take to get Ephesus up and running in a way that would honor and glorify God.

Read 1 Timothy 3:14-16

1. Paul gives several names to the church in 1 Timothy 3:15. What does each term add to your understanding of the body of Christ? A. house of God, B. church of the living God, C. the pillar and ground of the truth.

2. 1 Timothy 3:16 is apparently an ancient hymn composed about Christ. What do the following verses of the hymn teach us about Christ?

- a. God was manifested in the flesh
- b. Justified in the Spirit
- c. Seen by angels
- d. Preached among the Gentiles
- e. Believed on in the world
- e. Received up in glory

Read 1 Timothy 4:1-5

3. Where did Paul get his knowledge of “later times”? How certain is this knowledge?
  
4. How did Paul describe the false teachers in 4:2? How did they know that what they were teaching is false?
  
5. What is the main point of 4:4-5?

Read 1 Timothy 4:6-11

6. How was Timothy to respond to these false teachers?
  
7. What is Timothy to avoid in 4:7? What is he to pursue instead? What does this look like for today?
  
8. What comparison does Paul make between “physical training” and “godly training” in 4:8? In today’s world how do we keep that training in balance?
  
9. How is God “the Savior to all men”? What is special to “those who believe”?

Read 1 Timothy 4:12-16

10. Paul notes five viewpoints of a believer’s conduct that are especially important in setting a good example for others. What does he mean by each, and what is important about each of them?
  - a. Speech
  - b. Life
  - c. Love
  - d. Faith
  - e. Purity

11. What was Timothy to devote himself to in Paul's absence? (4:13-14)

12. What reason does Paul give in 4:15-16 for diligence in pursuing the ministry? What did Paul want to see happen? Why was this important?