

1 Timothy 3:15-16 Written So That We Can Know

Series 1 Timothy

Reading 1 Timothy 3:14-16 – October 29, 2017

Today we are going to look at the closing of chapter 3. This is a beautiful passage of scripture that is rich with practical applications. It is something that we must know and understand so we are going to take at least two weeks to go over it. Paul is leaving a legacy, yet more than that. He is leaving words of truth for us to cling to. It is written for us, for our advantage and profit. Let us not miss the importance of these closing verses. Why did Paul write this? So that we would know and be able to follow. Today we will be looking at the close of this passage. What does it mean by “pillar and support of the truth?”

(1Ti 3:14-15) “¹⁴ These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; ¹⁵ but if I am delayed, *I write* so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.”

- History
 - Paul has just given us the requirements, those characteristic of the men who are appointed to lead.
- **Verse 15:** ... *I write* so that you may know – The importance of writing in ancient times.
 - **Daniel 6:8** “Now, O king, establish the decree and sign the writing, so that it cannot be changed, according to the law of the Medes and Persians, which does not alter.”
 - **1 Peter 1:23-25** “²³ having been born again, not of corruptible seed but incorruptible, through the word of God which lives and abides forever, ²⁴ because All flesh is as grass, And all the glory of man as the flower of the grass. The grass withers, And its flower falls away, ²⁵ But the word of the LORD endures forever. Now this is the word which by the gospel was preached to you.”
- You may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God...
 - The Reformation was named this because they wanted to reform the Church.
 - 5 Solas – Sola Scriptura... Foundation scripture alone was to be our authority.
 - Written down, enduring forever. Held by God’s power. Outside of the world.
 - Paul is writing so that there would be knowledge of **how** to conduct ourselves in the house of God.
 - Sola Scriptura vs. Solo Scriptura – Scripture alone vs. Scripture only.
 - This is a battle for our day. Homeschooling has brought this to the front. We educate ourselves, why can’t we also “church” ourselves. A good question: What makes a Church different than a home group of two or three families meeting together?
 - First it is not about location... China has home churches...
 - What it is about is priorities and authority.
 - Largest error with most home churches is that **God is not the priority**, but part of education.
 - Same error in most churches! We place other things in front of God. God is viewed as an add-on / an extra. Sports, entertainment, schooling, business, money power pride...
 - **1 John 2:15-17** “¹⁵ Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. ¹⁶ For all that *is* in the world-- the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life-- is not of the Father but is of the world. ¹⁷ And the world is passing away, and the lust of it; but he who does the will of God abides forever.”
 - This lack of priority of love for God is the greatest common sin and error in all of us.
 - Priority of love – Where does it come from?
 - **1 Timothy 1:3-7** “³ As I urged you when I went into Macedonia-- remain in Ephesus that you may charge some that they teach no other doctrine, ⁴ nor give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which cause disputes rather than godly edification which is in faith. ⁵ Now the purpose of the commandment is love from a pure heart, from a

good conscience, and from sincere faith,⁶ from which some, having strayed, have turned aside to idle talk,⁷ desiring to be teachers of the law, understanding neither what they say nor the things which they affirm.”

- Love is love for God first and foremost in our life, our brothers secondly and the lost.
- This love grows out of the correct understanding of God. “charge some that they teach no other doctrine...” causes disputes rather than edification...
- Correctly teaching God’s word is what edifies us and bring us to a love out of a pure heart, a good conscience and from a sincere faith.
- **John 13:34-35** “³⁴ A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another; as I have loved you, that you also love one another. ³⁵ By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another.”
 - This was the sign to the world... In Israel, Palestinian Arab’s and Israelis worship together.
 - In Kenya, a racially divided land, our church would have 3 to 5 tribes at the least on any Sunday.
- **John 17:21-23** “²¹ that they all may be one, as You, Father, *are* in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. ²² And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: ²³ I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”
 - This love and unity in the assembly is a sign to the world of the reality of Christ.
 - It is the result of sound biblical preaching and teaching. A unity under truth!
- The second error is missing where the authority is and how it is used.
 - The reformation happened because the Roman Catholic Church took an authority that was higher than God’s word.
 - They read, and taught in a Latin, a foreign language to keep the word of God hidden.
 - The Pope claimed the right to interpret scripture and to speak with the voice of God.
 - Yet the other extreme is as bad, a view that the Church has no authority, only what I believe and think is right.
 - **2 Peter 1:19-21** “¹⁹ And so we have the prophetic word confirmed, which you do well to heed as a light that shines in a dark place, until the day dawns and the morning star rises in your hearts; ²⁰ knowing this first, that no prophecy of Scripture is of any private interpretation, ²¹ for prophecy never came by the will of man, but holy men of God spoke *as they were* moved by the Holy Spirit.”
 - **Hebrews 10:23-25** “²³ Let us hold fast the confession of *our* hope without wavering, for He who promised *is* faithful. ²⁴ And let us consider one another in order to stir up love and good works, ²⁵ not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as *is* the manner of some, but exhorting *one another*, and so much the more as you see the Day approaching.”
 - This is why Dad, I and this church teach truth can stand examination. Our job is study the word of God, examine it in light of other relevant passages and try to understand the sum of it.
 - The authority is not one person, but as we look and understand God’s word together, we encourage, support, correct and rebuke.
 - **2 Ti 3:16-17** “¹⁶ All Scripture *is* given by inspiration of God, and *is* profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness, ¹⁷ that the man of God may be complete, thoroughly equipped for every good work.”

So the question is this: Have we heard the word of God? Is it drawing us to the truth and bringing that unity that Christ desired and promised? If it isn't, than maybe we have missed the truth as real truth will produce this love and unity.

Grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Love of God and the Fellowship of the Holy Spirit be in abide with each of you