

1 Timothy 3:16 The Purpose of the Church
Series 1 Timothy
Reading **1 Timothy 3:14-16** – Nov 5th, 2017

For the last two weeks we have been looking at 1 Timothy 3:15. Paul wrote this verse so that Timothy, and by extension we, can know what God wants from us in the Church. It was written down so that we can always go to the source to see what God said through Paul to us. Secondly we saw that this instruction was to be carried out in a body of believers called a church. It wasn't some solitary exercise, but directions to live together, study together, and worship together as a body. Today we want to get to the last section of this verse. It tells us what the function of the Church is to be. We are to be a pillar and support of the truth. I think there is no greater need in the Church today than for us to realize what that need is. Join us as we look at what it means to be the pillar and ground of the Truth.

“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.” **1 Timothy 3:15 NKJ**

- In the House of God.
 - His authority: Creator...
 - He controls the nations, punishing and lifting up
 - He chooses people and places. He chose Israel and Jerusalem.
 - **Deut. 7:7-9** ⁷ “The LORD did not set His love on you nor choose you because you were more in number than any other people, for you were the least of all peoples; ⁸ but because the LORD loves you, and because He would keep the oath which He swore to your fathers, the LORD has brought you out with a mighty hand, and redeemed you from the house of bondage, from the hand of Pharaoh king of Egypt. ⁹ Therefore know that the LORD your God, He is God, the faithful God who keeps covenant and mercy for a thousand generations with those who love Him and keep His commandments;” (NKJ)
 - **2 Chr. 6:3-6** ³ “Then the king turned around and blessed the whole assembly of Israel, while all the assembly of Israel was standing. ⁴ And he said: Blessed *be* the LORD God of Israel, who has fulfilled with His hands *what* He spoke with His mouth to my father David, saying, ⁵ Since the day that I brought My people out of the land of Egypt, I have chosen no city from any tribe of Israel *in which* to build a house, that My name might be there, nor did I choose any man to be a ruler over My people Israel. ⁶ Yet I have chosen Jerusalem, that My name may be there; and I have chosen David to be over My people Israel.” (NKJ)
 - It is His possession – God claims it out right, we are His people, His house.
 - **Isaiah 44:21-48** ²¹ “Remember these, O Jacob, And Israel, for you *are* My servant; I have formed you, you *are* My servant; O Israel, you will not be forgotten by Me! ²² I have blotted out, like a thick cloud, your transgressions, And like a cloud, your sins. Return to Me, for I have redeemed you. ²³ Sing, O heavens, for the LORD has done *it!* Shout, you lower parts of the earth; Break forth into singing, you mountains, O forest, and every tree in it! For the LORD has redeemed Jacob, And glorified Himself in Israel. ²⁴ Thus says the LORD, your Redeemer, And He who formed you from the womb: I *am* the LORD, who makes all *things*, Who stretches out the heavens all alone, Who spreads abroad the earth by Myself; ²⁵ Who frustrates the signs of the babblers, And drives diviners mad; Who turns wise men backward, And makes their knowledge foolishness; ²⁶ Who confirms the word of His servant, And performs the counsel of His messengers; Who says to Jerusalem, You shall be inhabited, To the cities of Judah, You shall be built, And I will raise up her waste places; ²⁷ Who says to the deep, Be dry! And I will dry up your rivers; ²⁸ Who says of Cyrus, *He is* My

shepherd, And he shall perform all My pleasure, Saying to Jerusalem, You shall be built, And to the temple, Your foundation shall be laid.” (NKJ)

- **Isaiah 54:1-6** “¹ Sing, O barren, You *who* have not borne! Break forth into singing, and cry aloud, You *who* have not labored with child! For more *are* the children of the desolate Than the children of the married woman, says the LORD. ² Enlarge the place of your tent, And let them stretch out the curtains of your dwellings; Do not spare; Lengthen your cords, And strengthen your stakes. ³ For you shall expand to the right and to the left, And your descendants will inherit the nations, And make the desolate cities inhabited. ⁴ Do not fear, for you will not be ashamed; Neither be disgraced, for you will not be put to shame; For you will forget the shame of your youth, And will not remember the reproach of your widowhood anymore. ⁵ For your Maker *is* your husband, The LORD of hosts *is* His name; And your Redeemer *is* the Holy One of Israel; He is called the God of the whole earth. ⁶ For the LORD has called you” (NKJ)
- New Testament – Gentiles
 - **Isaiah 49:6-7** “⁶ Indeed He says, It is too small a thing that You should be My Servant To raise up the tribes of Jacob, And to restore the preserved ones of Israel; I will also give You as a light to the Gentiles, That You should be My salvation to the ends of the earth.”
 - “⁷ Thus says the LORD, The Redeemer of Israel, their Holy One, To Him whom man despises, To Him whom the nation abhors, To the Servant of rulers: Kings shall see and arise, Princes also shall worship, Because of the LORD who is faithful, The Holy One of Israel; And He has chosen You.” (Isa. 49:6-7 NKJ)
 - **Matthew 16:16-21** “¹⁶ Simon Peter answered and said, You are the Christ, the Son of the living God. ¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed *this* to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it. ¹⁹ And **I will give** you the keys of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven. ²⁰ Then He commanded His disciples that they should tell no one that He was Jesus the Christ. ²¹ From that time Jesus began to show to His disciples that He must go to Jerusalem, and suffer many things from the elders and chief priests and scribes, and be killed, and be raised the third day” (NKJ)
 - Not episcopal authority, but authority to the church to reveal truth.
 - **Matt. 18:15-20** “¹⁵ Moreover if your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault between you and him alone. If he hears you, you have gained your brother. ¹⁶ But if he will not hear, take with you one or two more, that by the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. ¹⁷ And if he refuses to hear them, tell *it* to the church. But if he refuses even to hear the church, let him be to you like a heathen and a tax collector. ¹⁸ **Assuredly, I say to you, whatever you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you loose on earth will be loosed in heaven.** ¹⁹ Again I say to you that if two of you agree on earth concerning anything that they ask, it will be done for them by My Father in heaven. ²⁰ For where two or three are gathered together in My name, I am there in the midst of them.” (NKJ)
 - **1 Cor. 3:9-10** “⁹ For we are God's fellow workers; you are God's field, *you are* God's building. ¹⁰ According to the grace of God which was given to me, as a wise master builder I have laid the foundation, and another builds on it. But let each one take heed how he builds on it.” (NKJ)
 - Summary – It is His building, redeemed by his hand, set apart for His glory, and under His control.
 - The purpose? It is to be the pillar and ground **of the truth**.
 - What is the truth?
 - **Matthew 16:16** “...You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.”
 - **John 20:31** “but these are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God, and that believing you may have life in His name.” (NKJ)

▪ **Peter**

- **Acts 2:22-23** “²² Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know-- ²³ Him, being delivered by the determined purpose and foreknowledge of God, you have taken by lawless hands, have crucified, and put to death;” (NKJ)
- **Acts 2:32-37** “³² This Jesus God has raised up, of which we are all witnesses. ³³ Therefore being exalted to the right hand of God, and having received from the Father the promise of the Holy Spirit, He poured out this which you now see and hear. ³⁴ For David did not ascend into the heavens, but he says himself: The LORD said to my Lord, Sit at My right hand, ³⁵ Until I make Your enemies Your footstool. ³⁶ Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ. ³⁷ Now when they heard *this*, they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men *and* brethren, what shall we do?” (NKJ)
- **John. 14:6** “⁶ Jesus said to him, I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (NKJ)
- Pillar and support – This is our job. To declare what is true. We don’t have to argue, there is no argument. We stand on God’s earth, we breathe God’s air, We have God’s breath in us giving us life.
 - **Isaiah 42:5-8** “⁵ Thus says God the LORD, Who created the heavens and stretched them out, Who spread forth the earth and that which comes from it, Who gives breath to the people on it, And spirit to those who walk on it: ⁶ I, the LORD, have called You in righteousness, And will hold Your hand; I will keep You and give You as a covenant to the people, As a light to the Gentiles, ⁷ To open blind eyes, To bring out prisoners from the prison, Those who sit in darkness from the prison house. ⁸ I *am* the LORD, that *is* My name; And My glory I will not give to another, Nor My praise to carved images.” (NKJ)

We declare this. We stand for it. If we miss who Jesus is, what He came to do, how to be saved, we are missing The truth, the purpose He came for. WE are not responsible to convince men to believe. They are dead in transgressions and sins. We are to declare that God saves... We are to call to them to come to Jesus for forgiveness. We are to point to the broken body of Christ on the Cross as there redemption. We are to study this truth, live this truth, preach this truth, trust this truth. Let’s close with a section from Revelations

Rev. 3:7-11 “⁷ And to the angel of the church in Philadelphia write, These things says He who is holy, He who is true, He who has the key of David, He who opens and no one shuts, and shuts and no one opens:”

“⁸ I know your works. See, I have set before you an open door, and no one can shut it; for you have a little strength, have kept My word, and have not denied My name.”

“⁹ Indeed I will make *those* of the synagogue of Satan, who say they are Jews and are not, but lie-- indeed I will make them come and worship before your feet, and to know that I have loved you.”

“¹⁰ Because you have kept My command to persevere, I also will keep you from the hour of trial which shall come upon the whole world, to test those who dwell on the earth.”

“¹¹ Behold, I am coming quickly! Hold fast what you have, that no one may take your crown.” (NKJ)

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