

The Pillar & Ground of the Truth

*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.
1 Timothy 3:15*

The Text

1. The church is God's house - the place where God reveals His truth.
2. The church is the pillar & ground of the truth - it upholds & maintains the truth.

The Source

1. God gives truth to whomsoever He will, & men should be thankful for it as Jacob - Gen 32:10
2. Truth only comes from God by His gracious mercy - 2Thes 2:13
3. God conceals truth from some & reveals it to others - Matt 11:25-27
4. Truth is a privilege not a right; we chose to believe lies in Eden. God is just in allowing us to believe lies & giving them to us.

The Importance

1. Truth is essential & necessary to worship God acceptably - John 4:19-26
2. God demands worship according to His revelation - Matt 28:19-20
3. Anything other than God's proscribed way is cursed - Gal 1:6-12

The Threat

1. There have been departures from the truth in the past - Isa 59:12-15
2. The NT warns us of more to come - 1Tim 4:1-3
3. Paul told the Corinthians to expect heresies among themselves - 1Cor 11:19

The Enemies

1. Tradition: doing things the way men have always done it - Mark 7:1-13
2. Popularity: doing things to please men - Matt 7:13-14
3. Peer Pressure: doing things to please my friends - 1Cor 15:33
4. The Devil: He is bent on seducing believers - 2Cor 11:1-4, 13-15
5. Ignorance: being spiritually lazy & slothful - Heb 5:12-14
6. Judgment: sent by God for disobedience - 2Thes 2:9-12

The Roles

1. The church protects & promotes the truth - Heb 3:12-13
2. Bishops defend & teach the truth - Tit 1:9
3. The church withdraws from every brother espousing false doctrine - 2Thes 3:6
Tit 3:10-11
4. Men teach their wives & children - 1Cor 14:34-35
5. Mothers reinforce teaching - 2Tim 3:15 1:5

The Pillar & Ground of the Truth

The Methods

1. Prove all things by Scripture - 1Thes 5:21 Acts 17:11 Isa 8:20
2. Members must know a reason for their hope - 1Pet 3:15
3. Believers must supply the certain words of truth - Pro 22:17-21
4. Members should be striving to be teachers - Heb 5:12-14
5. Total confidence & devotion to Scripture is essential to know & keep truth - Ps 119:128
6. We test those who bring anything different - 1John 4:1
7. We must separate from those walking disorderly - 2Thes 3:6

Based on a message of the same name preached by Brother Jonathan Crosby on 04/16/06.

The full outline can be found here:

<http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/pdf/pillar-and-ground-of-the-truth.pdf>