

Sermon Notes – July 7, 2024

Welcome to the Pastoral Epistles!

When you think of “The Church,” what comes to your mind? Do you think of beauty and glory and gospel? Or do you think of struggle and sin and problems and splits and bad publicity? What comes to YOUR mind?

This summer we will be visiting the Pastoral Epistles for nine weeks – that’s I & II Timothy and Titus – to think theologically and practically about the Church, the “Big-C Church” of which biblically-faithful local churches are a part.

Some introductory comments:

- ⇒ The Pastoral epistles were written by the Apostle Paul to two young, first-century pastors.
- ⇒ These letters provide lots of good advice about pastoral leadership and caring for people, and, for our purposes this summer, they say a lot about God’s Church.
- ⇒ Our goal this summer is to explore the theme, “The Glory of Christ in His Church,” remembering Christ’s words to the disciples in **Matthew 16:18**, “...I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”
- ⇒ We do not need to be in denial about the human challenges and problems that have attended church life since its inception, BUT...in her brokenness and messiness, Christ’s glory is still seen the Church! In fact, **God loves the Church!**
- ⇒ Our nine preaching themes will include...

Today’s Text: I Timothy 3:14-16

Today’s text takes us right into the middle of Paul’s first letter to Timothy. He has just addressed church leadership, and now he makes a profound and concise statement about the nature of the Church, a statement that serves as well as a starting place.

The Church Is “The Household Of God”

- ⇒ The focus is not on a _____; it is on the redeemed people who make up the Church. In the OT, the focus was on a sacred building inhabited by God. In the NT, we see that God indwells His people, not a special building. The Church is a redeemed people, not the place.
- ⇒ Similarly, the “behavior” is not about running or chewing gum.

I Timothy 3:14-16
The Glory Of Christ In His Church – God Loves The Church
Pastor Jay Mosser

- ⇒ The Church as “the Household of God” is not just an _____ to attend when it is convenient or a ceremony to watch; the Church is made up of God’s redeemed people, and it should be overflowing with “one another” relationships. The NT often speaks of the local church as a _____.

The Church Is “The Church Of The Living God”

- ⇒ The Church is God’s, it is not ours. The Church is not a human institution that is up for reshaping and redesigning according to cultural dictates or shifting sands. _____ change; Substance must not.
- ⇒ God has the prerogative to design, order, describe leadership for, and announce goals for HIS Church. Remember, **God loves the Church!**
- ⇒ God is “the Living God” as opposed to dead gods or merely human philosophies.

The Church Is “The Pillar And Support Of The Truth”

- ⇒ First, please note the existence of “the Truth.” Yes, Virginia, there really is the capital-T “Truth,” that is, Truth that is actually True, regardless of what anyone thinks of it. The statement, “All truth is _____” is logically self-refuting (Is THAT statement true or is it relative as well?), similar to the statement, “There is NO absolute Truth.”
- ⇒ Paul uses two building analogies to describe the relationship of the Church to the Truth. The Church is called to uphold God’s objective, _____ Truth. The Church is called to be the “support” or “buttress” of the Truth. The Church does not _____ Truth; the Church upholds GOD’S Truth.
- ⇒ Note how Paul addresses this topic with Timothy in this letter – **1:3-11, 19-20; 4:1-2, 6 & 16; 6:3-5**. The Church is to “_____ the word of truth” (**II Timothy 2:15**).

Responding to God’s Word

- ⇒ Verse 16 is a beautiful Christological hymn that keeps Jesus Christ in the center of the discussion of Church life and doctrine. The message of the saving gospel of Jesus Christ must be protected and proclaimed! The Church is called to do both. So is every Christian, because **God loves the Church!**
- ⇒ Communion text: **I Peter 2:9-10**

Worship Next Sunday: July 14, 2024

“The Glory Of Christ In His Church: God’s Word Is Our Authority”

(II Timothy 3:16-17) Pastor Jay Mosser

Answer Key: • building • event • family • Forms • relative • revealed • create • rightly handle