
Sermon Notes

March 21, 2021

First Congregational Church of Pomfret

The Church and the Word

1 Timothy 3:14-16

The Big Picture

- ❖ To conclude his outline of what needs to be kept place in order for Jesus' church to run as smoothly and safely as possible, Paul provides a big picture summary of
 - the conduct that characterizes God's church
 - the confession that unites God's people
- ❖ Proper conduct among God's people includes
 - holding onto to solid, Bible teaching (1:1-20)
 - an understanding of appropriate gender roles (2:1-15)
 - solid, spiritual leadership (3:1-13)
- ❖ The confession that unites God's people is rooted in the saving work of the one true God through the one divinely appointed Mediator, Jesus Christ (2:5-6)

How to Behave

- ❖ Paul wants us to know how those who comprise Jesus' church are intended to live out the realities of their faith
- ❖ *The household of God...* every family has its own rules

- all who are God's adopted children through faith in Jesus want to align themselves with God's standards
- the fact that we are family has profound implications
- ❖ *The church of the living God...* God makes His home among His people (*cf.* Ephesians 2:22)
 - the church is the real Temple of God
 - each of us is another brick in the building (1 Peter 2:5)
- ❖ *A pillar and buttress of the truth*
 - buttress = the foundation on which a structure rests
 - pillars hold up or "lift up" the roof
 - the Temple of Diana with its 127 pillars!
 - the church is the "the pillar" that stands on the foundation of God's truth and holds up the truth of God for all to see

A Hymn of Praise

- ❖ In order for the church to be *a pillar and buttress of the truth*, she must keep centered on the truth she is intended to lift up
 - Paul summarizes the truth of who Jesus is and what Jesus has done in a beautiful hymn of praise
 - each line of the hymn describes a different period in or aspect of the life and ministry of Jesus
- ❖ *Mystery* = something long hidden that is now revealed
 - what would God do to make sinners right with Him?
 - the answer is revealed through the ministry of Jesus

Personal Application

- ❖ Jesus has been revealed
 - manifested or “made visible” in a body as Jesus adds humanity to His divinity
 - Jesus is *vindicated by the Spirit* (cf. Romans 1:4) as the Spirit confirms Jesus’ earthly ministry from the beginning (incarnation, baptism, miracles, etc...)
- ❖ Jesus is testified to
 - witnesses in heaven (angels)
 - watch the unfolding of Jesus’ ministry step by step
 - birth announcements, temptation, Gethsemane, resurrection, ascension, worship in heaven
 - witnesses on earth (*proclaimed among the nations*)
 - proclaimed to people of every tribe, tongue, and nation, to Jew and Gentile
 - the responsibility of every faithful follower of Christ
- ❖ Jesus is received on earth and in heaven
 - *He is believed on in the world* (from Pentecost to now)
 - *taken up in glory*
 - ascended, enthroned, exalted in glory
 - Jesus will come again in glory, gather His people to Himself, and bring them to share all the glories of being in His presence forever and ever

1. Read through 1 Timothy 1-3 in a single sitting and be on the lookout for the things that most stand out to you about the conduct that is characteristic of God’s church and the confession that unites God’s people. How well do things in your life align with the observations you have made? Is there anything you need to do differently in order for you to be more fully “in sync” with what God writes here? What will you do about this?
2. In what ways is God using you to be a “pillar and buttress” of the truth?
3. As you read through the hymn that concludes 1 Timothy 3, what aspects of Jesus’ life and ministry are most meaningful to you at this particular moment in life? Spend time praising and thanking Him for what He has done, is doing and will do for you.