

Chesswood Baptist Church

Where Everybody is Somebody

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MINISTRY OF THE WORD

CHURCH OF THE LIVING GOD, THE PILLAR AND GROUND OF THE TRUTH

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SUNDAY EVENING OCTOBER 7, 2018

SCRIPTURE READING: **1 TIMOTHY 3:12-16**

1 Timothy 3:15, *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. BACKGROUND

- a. Several Sundays ago, I preached from the **Book of Ephesians**. This book is one of four of Paul's "Prison Epistles." the others include, **Colossians, Philipians** and **Philemon**
- b. These Epistles were written from prison in Rome while Paul was awaiting a hearing from Nero, the Emperor of Rome at that time.
- c. Today I am preaching from **1 Timothy**, one of the three of Paul's "Pastoral Epistles."
 1. These three Epistles are **1 and 2 Timothy**, and **Titus**.
 2. **1 Timothy** was written by the Apostle Paul between AD 64 and AD 62.
 3. These "Pastoral Epistles" provide instructions concerning the creed, conduct and overall function of the local church.
- d. In the **Book of Ephesians**, the Apostle Paul speaks of the church as a body of believers who are in Jesus Christ, constituting the glorious church which is the Bride of Christ. **2 Corinthians 5:17**, *Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new.*
- e. The Bride of Christ manifested itself in invisible form on Earth, as we see local assemblies and congregations throughout.
- f. As the church manifests itself on Earth, there are several requirements. We will be looking at those today.
- g. These three Epistles; **1 and 2 Timothy**, and **Titus** were written to two young preachers who were associates of the Apostle Paul.
 1. Timothy and Titus were the fruit of the Apostle Paul's labour. He led them to Christ and they were associated with him in the ministry.
 2. They were his helpers, and he instructed them in the operation of the local church.
 3. As Paul instructs these two young preachers, he deals with two things concerning the local church.
 - a. The creed of the church.
 - b. The conduct of the church.
- h. For the church within, the worship must be right.
- i. For the church without, good works should manifest themselves.
 1. The worship is inside the church. The work must be done outside.
 2. This is something very difficult to get across to local churches.
 3. With sweet fellowship and love we must move from within the church to the outside of the church as we go into the highways and hedges inviting people to come to Christ.
 4. Paul deals with the aforementioned topics in each of these three Epistles.
 - a. The Book of **1 Timothy** is all about the faith and doctrine of the church.
 - b. **Chapter two** is the order of the church.
 - c. **Chapter three** concerns the offices of the church.
 - d. **Chapter four** describes the apostasy that will come into the church.
 - e. **Chapter five and six** tells of the duties of the officers in the church.

- f. In **2 Timothy chapter 1**, Paul deals with the affliction of the church.
 - g. In **2 Timothy chapter 2**, Paul deals with the activities of the church.
 - h. In **2 Timothy chapters 3 and 4**, he deals with apostasy and allegiance of the church.
 - i. In the **Book of Titus** there is the same basic theme.
 - j. **Chapter 1** tells of the order of the church.
 - k. **Chapter 2** is about the doctrine of the church.
 - l. **Chapter 3** is about the good works of the church.
- j. As we have said before, the Church today manifest itself in local assemblies and congregations similar to the Church of Ephesus. This is one of the churches in Asia Minor reflected in the **Book of Revelation**.
- k. In order to be a local assembly, a church needs to have certain things that would characterize it.
1. The creed and doctrine must be accurate and rightly divided in accordance with the Word of God.
 2. In Paul's message, he summarizes this in **1 Timothy 1:3**, *As I besought thee to abide still at Ephesus, when I went into Macedonia, that thou mightest charge some that they teach no other doctrine,*
 3. **2 Timothy 3:16**, *All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness:*
- l. **It is very important and vital that the church doctrine is correct.**
1. As stated before, **if one little iota of apostasy or false doctrine enters into the church, it will not be long before the whole church is in apostasy and false doctrine will certainly be most prevalent.** **1 Timothy 3:15**, *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.*
 2. Notice this says *the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.*
 3. It says we are not to go outside to formulate our doctrine; it must be a true doctrine from the Bible rightly divided that is expressed and practiced in the local assembly. **Ephesians 4:14**, *That we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive;*
 4. **In order for the church to function it must have leadership.** This leadership must come from the Senior Pastor who is the *under shepherd of the church.*
 5. **This Senior Pastor should be reporting directly to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.**
 6. The church should function in an orderly manner and manifest itself in the community by its good works.
- m. From these "Pastoral Epistles" we arrive at the type of church government where we are able to do things decently and orderly. **1 Corinthians 14:33**, *For God is not the author of confusion, but of peace, as in all churches of the saints.*
1. The type of government that exists at Chesswood Baptist Church is called a 'congregational' form of government taken from Paul's instructions here in **1 Timothy**.
 2. **This means that the people are the ones to make the decisions and are actually in control of what happens in the local church as guided by the Scriptures and the Holy Spirit.**
 3. The entire church votes on taking in members and on everything else that concerns the direction of the local church.
 4. The method that we use at this local church is the same representative form of government used in America.
 5. The early colonist did not want a King.
 6. They were familiar with that form of government and they did not want it to exist.
 7. Strangely enough our founding fathers used the Word of God to formulate many of our governmental procedures and concepts.
 8. You wonder how we have gone so far from the original intent of Scripture. Contrary to popular belief, America was founded on Christian principles.
- n. There is no question the Apostle Paul is telling us that the form of government is important.
1. He is also telling us the caliber and character of individuals who hold various positions are extremely important.
 2. As we look in detail at this passage, there are two basic requirements for leadership.
 3. One, the individual must be spirit filled, guided by the Word of God and is following the leadership of the Holy Spirit to guide him into all truth. **John 16:13**, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit*

- of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.
4. Secondly, the individual must exercise love in every aspect in the ministry. **1 Corinthians 13:1-6**, *Though I speak with the tongues of men and of angels, and have not charity, I am become as sounding brass, or a tinkling cymbal. 2: And though I have the gift of prophecy, and understand all mysteries, and all knowledge; and though I have all faith, so that I could remove mountains, and have not charity, I am nothing. 3: And though I bestow all my goods to feed the poor, and though I give my body to be burned, and have not charity, it profiteth me nothing. 4: Charity suffereth long, and is kind; charity envieth not; charity vaunteth not itself, is not puffed up, 5: Doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, is not easily provoked, thinketh no evil; 6: Rejoiceth not in iniquity, but rejoiceth in the truth;*
 5. When we speak of the word 'spiritual' we are talking about nothing more than a man must have faith in the Lord Jesus Christ as His Saviour and be motivated by love.
 6. Unless these two characteristics are operating in a man or woman's life they cannot function well in the local church.
 - o. **At Chesswood Baptist Church, we must never allow the local church to be controlled by any entity inside or outside that will usurp the will of the body.**
 1. Chesswood Baptist church is an independent body of believers that are trying to follow the will of God and the leadership of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
 2. The people of the church must make the final decisions and take final actions in accordance with God's will.
 3. This must be done in accordance with what our Head; the Lord Jesus Christ is telling us.
 4. **Christ is the head of the church. Ephesians 5:23**, *For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church; and he is the saviour of the body.*
 5. **We must be led by the Holy Spirit**, who is the one responsible for leading, guiding and directing all aspects of the ministry. **John 16:13**, *Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.*
 6. Leadership must always be in the will of Christ and not in the will of man.
 7. The unscriptural leader is always a problem that causes the machine to bog down in the local church. **1 Timothy** deals with the nitty-gritty of the local church and emphasizes that the character and caliber of her leaders will determine whether the church is really a New Testament church founded by the Lord Jesus Christ.
 8. The local church is not about any particular individual but about the Lord Jesus Christ and what He has called us to do.
 9. We know He has called us to work the ministry, to perfect the saints, and to edify the body of Christ. **Ephesians 4:12**, *For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ:"*
 10. We are then equipped to carry out the Great Commission. **Mark 16:15**, *And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature.*
 11. We must be mission-minded in the local church; taking on mission projects as the Lord prospers us.
 - p. The Lord Jesus Christ, speaking to our heart states in **Luke 6:46**, *And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?*
 - q. A lot of people today want to call Him Lord, but they do not want to follow Him, they want to follow their own pernicious ways and do their own will. **2 Peter 2:2**, *And many shall follow their pernicious ways; by reason of whom the way of truth shall be evil spoken of.*
 - r. We must be willing to stand up and be counted and realize that Christ as the head of the church will provide directions for us.
 - s. A couple of themes from the book of **1 Timothy**:
 1. **There is only one true doctrine.**
 2. **Only true, committed Christians are capable of living within the true doctrine.**
 3. **What we really believe as doctrine will be exhibited by our attitude and actions.**
 4. **Age is no barrier to being used mightily by God.**
 5. **True leadership is God given, not man-made.**
 6. As an athlete must train; so, a Christian must exercise and discipline his faith.
 - t. With that Background, let's see what God has to offer us today.

2. INTRODUCTION

- a. Please refer to the October 7, 2018 Morning Message for the Introduction.

3. FOUR POINTS TO THE MESSAGE

k. Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife.

1. **1 Timothy 3:12**, *Let the deacons be the husbands of one wife, ruling their children and their own houses well.*
2. God sets forth the personal qualifications here.
3. We know this has to do with one wife, not with two. This has to do with keeping our children and instructing them. **Proverbs 22:6**, *Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.*
4. God expects us to be in charge of our family.
5. One of the things that we must understand is God sets down a blueprint. Husbands love your wives. **Colossians 3:19**, *Husbands, love your wives, and be not bitter against them.* Wives are to be in subjection to their own husband. **1 Peter 3:1**, *Likewise, ye wives, be in subjection to your own husbands; that, if any obey not the word, they also may without the word be won by the conversation of the wives;* And children are to obey. **Ephesians 6:1**, *Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right.*
6. When all these things are set in order, everything is fine. We must not forget that the lead part of this is the husband and wife submitting themselves unto God. **James 4:7**, *Submit yourselves therefore to God. Resist the devil, and he will flee from you.*

l. For they that have used the office of a deacon well.

1. **1 Timothy 3:13**, *For they that have used the office of a deacon well purchase to themselves a good degree, and great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*
2. The Bible speaks here of using the office of a deacon well. Being submissive to the Lord Jesus Christ. This is a desire to do His will and do His work.
3. When we have become spiritual as He wants us to be, we grow in grace in the knowledge of Jesus Christ.
4. If we have used the office well, we have “*purchase to themselves a good degree*” – this gives us liberty to speak for our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.
5. “*great boldness in the faith which is in Christ Jesus.*” – It is a man who knows what he believes and why he believes it. He is able to be sound in the faith; he knows the doctrine. **John 7:17**, *If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself.*

m. Church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

1. **1 Timothy 3:14-15**, *These things write I unto thee, hoping to come unto thee shortly: 15: 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.*
2. Paul is telling young Timothy that he plans to see him shortly, but if he tarries, he has written these things that he may know how to behave himself in the house of God.
3. The local church which Jesus Christ has ordained and commissioned is the pillar and the ground of the truth.
4. Pillar means it is there to stay, the foundation if you will. The bedrock, the place where the truth is to be given out and propagated.
5. Any church that is not given forth the truth of the Word of God is not a New Testament Church.
6. The Bible indicates we must know the truth. **John 8:32**, *And ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free.*
7. We must be very careful that we know how to behave ourselves in the house of God.
8. There should be no division among us. **1 Corinthians 1:10**, *Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment.*
9. We should all be on one accord. **Acts 2:46**, *And they, continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, did eat their meat with gladness and singleness of heart,*

10. Paul wants to make sure that Timothy understands this issue. He tells him that if he carries he is giving him these words so that he knows how to behave himself in the house of God.

n. And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness.

1. **1 Timothy 3:16, And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:** *God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.*
2. This verse constitutes the creed of any local church.
3. Without controversy means it is obvious.
4. *"great is the mystery of godliness:"* - We will never understand God in His entirety., What He intends for us to grasp, is the plan of salvation – the fact that He paid the penalty for our sin.
5. He gives righteousness for our belief.
6. *"God was manifest in the flesh,"* - This very beautiful Scripture is teaching about the Lord Jesus Christ in His miraculous conception, the virgin birth, the fact that He existed before His incarnation, His existence before He was human.
7. He was in the form of God and He was equal with God. **Philippians 2:6, *Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:***
8. Hebrews speaks of Christ being the brightness of His glory.
Hebrews 1:3, *Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;*
9. The Lord Jesus Christ is God in the Spirit. **John 4:24, *God is a Spirit: and they that worship him must worship him in spirit and in truth.***
10. **Psalms 45:6, Thy throne, O God, is for ever and ever: the sceptre of thy kingdom is a right sceptre.** **Psalms 110:1, The LORD said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool.**
11. There is no question that this verse sets forth the Lord Jesus Christ in beautiful terms and emphatically declares that He is God
12. When He was born in manger – He was God. When He walked the face of the earth – He was God. He is God now that He is seated at the right hand of the Father. **Colossians 1:16, *For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: John 1:3, All things were made by him; and without him was not any thing made that was made.***
13. **John 1:14, *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.***
14. God has manifested Himself in the flesh to identify with sinful mankind. The moment we receive Christ as personal Saviour we are baptized by the Holy Spirit which fully identifies the believer with Him. **Romans 6:3, *Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death?***
15. *"justified in the Spirit,"* - He was justified in the Spirit and manifested in the flesh. His Deity and His humanity were intact.
16. He never used both of them at the same time.
17. He came to give forth the Revelation of God. He is the mediator between God and man. **1 Timothy 2:5, *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;***
18. There were angels at His virgin birth. His glory was seen at His baptism and at His transfiguration.
19. At the time of His arrest the things that occurred at the crucifixion caused the centurion to say truly this was the Son of God. **Matthew 27:54, *Now when the centurion, and they that were with him, watching Jesus, saw the earthquake, and those things that were done, they feared greatly, saying, Truly this was the Son of God.***
20. We have reflected on this in great detail during the morning message. Do not forget He was sown a natural body and raised a spiritual body. **1 Corinthians 15:44, *It is sown a natural body; it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.***
21. No enemy laid his hand on Jesus Christ after He was bodily resurrected. He showed Himself alive by many infallible proofs for forty days.
22. He appeared unto 500 brethren at one time.

23. He was seen of the angels. This does not mean He was an angel. He is not Michael and Michael is not Jesus. Jesus is the Son of God.
24. Jesus was preached unto the Gentiles. When the nation Israel rejected the Gospel, it went to the Gentiles.
25. Paul was obligated to take the Gospel to the Jew first then it went to the Gentiles.
26. We are grafted in. **Romans 11:17**, *And if some of the branches be broken off, and thou, being a wild olive tree, wert grafted in among them, and with them partakest of the root and fatness of the olive tree;* Not as Jewish proselytes but to the body of the Lord Jesus Christ and He gives us His righteousness.
27. *"received up into glory."* – this speaks of His ascension. One of these days, just as He ascended from the Mount of Olives, He will come back to the Mount of Olives but this time as King of kings and Lord of lords. **Acts 1:11**, *Which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*
28. Before He does that, He is going to call us up in the air. **1 Thessalonians 4:1**, *Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord.*
29. He tells us to not let our heart be troubled. **John 14:1-3**, *Let not your heart be troubled: ye believe in God, believe also in me. 2: In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. 3: And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.*

4. CONCLUSION

- a. Do you know the Saviour? If you do not know Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour, today needs to be your day of salvation.
- b. The Bible says in **Matthew 11:28-29**, *Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. 29: Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls.*
- d. The Gospel is very plain and straight forward. **1 Corinthians 15:3-4**, *For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; 4: And that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures:*
- e. **Romans 3:23**, *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;*
- f. **Romans 3:10**, *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*
- g. **Romans 10:9-10**, *That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. 10: For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.*
- h. Would you please stand?

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