

Small Group Notes

Sermon: 19 May 2024

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SCRIPTURE

1 Timothy 3

OVERVIEW

In 1 Timothy 3, Paul defines the Church as a "Pillar and Buttress of the truth." This means that the Church exists to hold up and keep in place the Truth of God.

We explored this definition by looking at 3 points

1. The problem with Truth

The Church in Ephesus where Timothy was serving were facing some problems with the topic of truth. As we saw in Chapter 1, false teachers had come amongst them and began to distort the truth. The problem of truth is an issue of our age too: our culture has moved from seeing truth as objective to subjective. It is becoming increasingly offensive to declare that there is such a thing as an objective truth.

Secondly, truth is viewed as an agent for the powerful to set their narrative and agenda.

2. Holding up the truth

In the face of these challenges, our call is to hold up the truth of the gospel to our world. We saw how there are two key ways we can do that as outlined in chapter 3.

Walking in integrity

We see through the qualifications for overseers (Elders) & Deacons that the character of the leaders in the Church really matters - and so does the character of all those in the church. How we live our lives in response to the truth matters when it comes to holding up the truth.

Proclaiming with Clarity

Elders must be able to teach because the Church needs to be able to declare the truth with clarity to the World. Not compromising or confusing the truth but sharing it with confidence and clarity.

3. The Truth

Finally, we explored Paul's beautiful poem in verse 16 which showed us the Truth that we are called to hold up

"He was manifested in the flesh, (Incarnation & Crucifixion)

vindicated by the Spirit, (Resurrection)

seen by angels, (Victory & Glorification)

proclaimed among the nations, (Evangelism)

believed on in the world, (Salvation)

taken up in glory." (Ascension, Rule & Return)

QUESTIONS

1. What challenges towards truth have you spotted in the wider culture? (Either the larger narrative in the world or with friends & colleagues)
2. Have a look at the qualifications for elders & deacons in chapter 3, recognising that they are also a picture of the life we are all called to live. Which of the qualifications do you feel God is calling you to grow in?
3. How can we grow in confidence in knowing and sharing the truth?