

DOCTRINE

PILLARS IN THE PEWS

In his first letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul writes to urge Timothy to remain in Ephesus, at the church that Paul had planted, so that he “may charge certain persons not to teach any different doctrine” (1 Tim 1:3).

Paul was concerned that “certain people” at Ephesus would teach error, and therefore the church in Ephesus would miss out on the goal of sound biblical doctrine, which was (and still is), “love that issues from a pure heart, and a good conscience, and a sincere faith (1 Tim 1:5). Failure to do this has already led to “certain persons” that are “desiring to be teachers of the law, without understanding either what they are saying of the things about which they make confident assertions.” (1 Tim 1:1-6).

Sound doctrine is not simply details that lack practical application in life that people in seminary learn so they can argue about. Rather, the church that teaches and practices sound doctrine is the pillar and buttress of truth (1 Tim 3:15). Ultimately, the purpose of sound doctrine focuses on God; that his name would be honored and not reviled (Titus 2:1-5).

This Going Deeper, we will see how each member of the church is a “pillar and buttress” of the truth.

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1. QUESTIONS? Are there highlights, questions, or comments from the text or the message regarding discipleship?

2. TERMS AND DEFINITIONS. What was the definition given this morning for “sound doctrine?” What is the significance of this definition?

3. THE CHURCH? Read 1 Timothy 3:14-15. Specifically, what does the word “church” mean here? A building? A gathering of people in a coffee shop? all people, all time, in all history? A local group of people?

4. PLEASURE. Read Psalm 111:1-2. What does this psalm say the motivation of Bible study is?

4. PLACE. Read Ephesians 3:8-10. Why is it important to be a pillar in a specific church? What is the principle of pillars that makes the metaphor of pillars reasonable?

5. PURPOSE. Read 1 Tim 1:5; 3:14-15. What is the goal, in each of these verses, of sound biblical doctrine? Why should this be a motivation to care for, study, and teach others sound biblical doctrine?

6. PRAY. How can we pray for each other to be a pillar and buttress of truth at Fireside today?