

The Church of the Living God

1 Tim 3:14-4:5

¹⁴ I am writing these things to you, hoping to come to you before long; ¹⁵ but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one should act in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth. ¹⁶ Beyond question, great is the mystery of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,
Was vindicated in the Spirit,
Seen by angels,
Proclaimed among the nations,
Believed on in the world,
Taken up in glory.

⁴ But the Spirit explicitly says that in later times some will fall away from the faith, paying attention to deceitful spirits and teachings of demons, ² by means of the hypocrisy of liars seared in their own conscience as with a branding iron, ³ who forbid marriage and advocate abstaining from foods which God has created to be gratefully shared in by those who believe and know the truth. ⁴ For everything created by God is good, and nothing is to be rejected if it is received with gratitude; ⁵ for it is sanctified by means of the word of God and prayer.

Having defined the leaders and servants in God's kingdom, Paul now turns to the church itself.

1. Paul wants to come to Ephesus (14)

- in the next letter, he asks Timothy to come to him (2 Tim 4:9,21)
- if he can't make it, he wants Timothy to know how conduct in the church is to be:

- (a) _____
- (b) stopping _____
- (c) taking care of _____
- (d) dealing with _____ elders

There is a God given—proper way things are to be done

If Paul was inspired, why didn't he know if he was coming to Ephesus or not?

2. Three Descriptions of the church

- (a) _____ of God (same as v. 4, 12)
 - (b) Church of the _____
 - (c) _____ and _____ of truth
- Notice: the church doesn't determine truth

3. Mystery of Godliness (16)

- six statements about Jesus in chronological order

- Revealed in the Flesh (John 1:14; Col 2:9)
- Proven (vindicated) by the Spirit: miracles
- Seen by angels: birth, temptation, garden, tomb, ascension
- Proclaimed among the nations: preached in all the world
- Believed on in the world: Gal 3:26-28
- Taken up in Glory: ascension

4. Dark Days Ahead (4:1-5)

- Later Days (2 Tim 3:1; Heb 1:2) some will reject the truth that the church supports

- lies, hypocrisy, seared conscience

- (a) two causes of falling away

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Why are some not content with the way God has said things?

