

STUDIES IN TITUS

“The Significance of Truth”

Part 21 -- The Church And The Truth

June 14, 2015

1st Tim. 3:15

INTRODUCTION

Fort Knox is the place that tells the true story of America's economic condition. It is said that despite the massive amount of money that is being printed by the U.S., it can only be legitimized consummate to the amount of gold stored there. Similarly, the Church is the place where the truth of the way things really are can be found. Today, we consider the Church as pillar and ground of “the truth”.

I. THE CHURCH IS THE ENTITY GOD IS USING IN THE WORLD TODAY TO REFLECT TRUTH TO THE WORLD.

- A. The apostle Paul gave Timothy instruction concerning how it was necessary for believers to “behave”. 1st Tim. 3:15
- B. The phrase “house of God” is a phrase that is used 88 times in the King James Version of the place where the people of God gathered in both the Old and New Testaments.
 1. The use in the Old Testament denotes a particular location.
 - a) The “house of God” (bah yith Elohim) is used in the Old Testament of a location place to meet God. Gen. 28:17 (of Jacob who had a face to face encounter with Jehovah)
 - b) The term “house of God” is used early in Scripture. 1st Chron 6:48; Jud. 18:31
 2. The term “house of God” is used in the New Testament of wherever the people of God gathers.
 - a) The Church differs from the Old Testament in that the house of God is a spiritual building. cf. 1st Pet. 2:5
 - b) Adding to the spiritual connotation of the house of God is the role the Lord plays as “high priest”. Heb. 10:21
 - c) The reference to judgment beginning at the “house of God” references the people not a location. 1st Pet. 4:17

II. THE CHURCH IS THE “PILLAR AND GROUND” OF THE TRUTH.

- A. “Pillar” is the word stulos is used in a metaphorical sense in the New Testament ***those who serve as an important cog in an entity.***
 1. Several definition give insight into the use of “pillar” in Scripture.
 - a) Thomas Green in his lexicon notes the word means “***persons of influence; a support of true doctrine.***”

- b) Vines Theological dictionary -- ***“that which supports the weight of a building; metaphorically of those who bear responsibility in the churches; of a local church as to its responsibility in a collective capacity, to maintain the doctrines of the faith by teaching and practice.”***
 - c) Strong’s lexicon notes the word is compound word made up of:
 - (1) “Stoo” -- ***to stiffen; properly akin to the base of; a post (“style”), i.e. (figuratively) support -- pillar.***
 - (2) “Los” -- ***a thing of (support)***
 - d) Seminary notes -- ***“a display”***.
2. Scriptural illustrations give insight into the use of the term “pillar” through the metaphorical use of the word.
- a) It is used metaphorically of the leaders in the Church of Jerusalem. Gal. 2:9
 - b) It is used metaphorically of those in the temple of God. Rev. 3:12
3. The church is ***the mainstay, support, from which the truth is displayed.***

B. “Ground” is the word hedraioma

- 1. Several definitions of “hedrai” aids in understanding the word.
 - a) “Hendrai” is a compound word made up of:
 - (1) “Hedra” -- ***“a seat”***
 - (2) The addition of the “ma” ending to hedrai notes ***“the results of an act of a thing being settled, sedentary; steadfast”***
 - b) ***“A seat; sedentary; settled, steady, firm, steadfast, constant.”***
-- Thomas Green cf. 1st Co. 15:58 (of being unmoved by situations); Col. 1:23 (of being settled)
 - c) ***“A support, bulwark, stay.”*** -- Vines Theological Dictionary
- 2. The adjective is used in the english to note ***a sedentary lifestyle -- one that is inactive -- stuck in one position.***

III. THE CHURCH IS THE “PILLAR AND GROUND” OF THE TRUTH TODAY. 1st Tim. 3:15

A. The term “the truth” is used several ways in Scripture.

- 1. It is used to emphasize ***a body of doctrine that teaches believers how to overcome their sin natures.*** cf. John 8:32; 1st Tim. 4:3; 6:5
- 2. It is used to emphasize the way things really are. cf. Rom. 1:18, 25

B. The Church is the entity God is using to support the way things really are in the world today.

1. The truth is associated in Scripture with the Word of God. John 17:17; cf. 18:37; 2 Co. 4:2; Eph. 4:15
2. The Word of God is how believers are fed. cf. Acts 20:28

IV. GOD IS USING THE CHURCH IN THE WORLD TO SHOW FORTH THE WAY THINGS REALLY ARE.

- A. God is using the Church to show forth that He alone has infinite wisdom. Eph. 3:10
- B. God is using the Church to show forth His praises. 1st Pet. 2:9
- C. God is using the Church as a luminary in a dark world. Phil. 2:15

CONCLUSION