

# BIBLE BAPTIST CHURCH OF ERIE

## SERMON OUTLINE

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The Book of 1 Timothy Series # 10

### 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Now in this 3<sup>rd</sup> chapter Paul has been dealing with the qualifications and standards of the leadership of the church concerning the offices of Pastor/ Elder and Deacons. These officers and the church family need to be reminded of what the local church really is.

In this message we are going to examine the three essentials of the church. We will examine **our manner, our mission and our message**. Folks, this is the **Bible. You are the church**. These are our essentials.

#### **I. THE MANNER OF THE CHURCH (vv.14-15a).**

First, Paul says, “These things I write to you though I hope to come to you shortly.” Paul is telling us his purpose in writing this epistle. “**These things**” refers back to everything Paul has written so far and the rest of the letter as well.

His purpose is to teach believers their manners, their conduct or their proper behavior in God’s house. The general theme of 1 Timothy is the conduct or manner of the church. Our conduct is so important because the world is watching us.

#### **II. THE MISSION OF THE CHURCH (v.15b).**

In the first half of verse 15, Paul gives us our manner, we are to “conduct” or behave ourselves properly. In the latter half of verse 15, he tells us why, because of our mission.

**He describes our identity and our mission in three metaphors.** We are “the house of God,” “the church of the living God” and “the pillar and ground of the truth.”

- ◆ **We are the House of God.** The word for “house” is the common word *oikos* and can refer to a physical building made of bricks or wood. However, the word can also be used to describe the inhabitants of a house, thus a household or family.
- ◆ **We are the Church of the Living God.** Secondly, Paul describes us as “the church of the living God” or more literally “the living God’s church.” We sometimes act as though the church belongs to us. We speak of “our church.” However, if it is really “our church” it is not a true church.

We are God’s “church” or *ekklesia*. *Ekklesia* literally means “**the called out ones**.” The church of the living God is made up of genuine believers who are called out of the world to follow after Christ and be His disciples. When we come here, let’s not act like a bunch of tired Christians but like “the church of the living God.” **AMEN!**

- ◆ **We are the Pillar and Ground of the Truth.**

In Ephesus where Timothy lived was the temple of the goddess Diana (or Artemis). Its appearance was so spectacular it was one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It contained one hundred and twenty-seven pillars. It may well be that the idea of the word pillar here is not so much support... as display.

Of course “**the truth**” here refers to God’s revelation of Himself, God’s Word, the Bible. Though we do not worship the Word of God, we uphold the Bible in everything.

#### **III. THE MESSAGE OF THE CHURCH (v.16).**

These are lines of Greek poetry and probably a stanza of an early Christian hymn.

**Verse 1 – THE REVELATION OF JESUS**

**Verse 2 – THE WITNESS OF JESUS**

**Verse 3 – THE RECEPTION OF JESUS**

What an exciting challenge it is for BBC of Erie as a local N.T. church to be a witness of Jesus Christ to lost sinners at home and around the world!