

“Why Even Bother?”

preached by Bro. Mahlon T. LeCroix on 6/13/2021

Series Title: “Real Church; Study Through 1 Timothy” **Main Passage: 1 Timothy 3:14-16**

Opening discussion about a Frank Sinatra song titled, “My Way” that speaks to the internal rebel within us all.

- According to latest polls/census the fastest growing demographic in America is known as the “Nones”, meaning they claim no religious affiliation.
 - Most people in America now consider themselves regular attenders of a Church if they attend one or two services a month, where a generation ago it was one or two services a week.
 - A growing belief is that gathering with the Church is simply no longer important or needed.
 - Church is a gathering of a Body of local believers who serve, worship, and live life in a covenant relationship. (ref: Eph 4:16)
- 1) First, the main purpose of this entire letter is revealed. (vs 14-15)
- Paul wrote this letter to make sure the “Church” would function correctly in his absence.
 - In this passage Paul gives 3 descriptions of the Church that teach us the critical importance/role a Church has in the life of believers, community, and world.
- 1) Church is to be a Household for believers. (vs 15)
- The New Testament is filled with “family” language in reference to the Church Body, but Paul uses it consistently in this particular letter while structuring the Church. (ref: 3:4, 3:15, 5:1–2, 5:4)
 - A Church, like a family, is supposed to give intentional support and encouragement to others in the Household of God. (ref: Heb 10:25; Gal 6:10)
 - We should take care of and help raise new believers spiritually as if they are children. (ref: Heb 6:1; 1 Cor 3:-2)
 - According to Jesus, the world will know who He is and that we, the Church, belongs to Him through our love and unity. (ref: John 13:34-35, 17:23)
- 2) Church belongs to the living God. (vs 15)
- God dwells with the gathered Church in unique and special ways. (Eph 2:21-22; Matt 18:19)
 - We do not worship, nor belong to a worthless dead idol of the past, but a loving, living, and active God who cares about the condition of His Bride/Church.
- 3) Church is to be a pillar and buttress of the truth.
- The church is the pillar that lifts the truth of Jesus for all to see.
 - The church, like a buttress, is to preserve and stabilize the truth of Jesus in the ever-changing lives of believers and culture.
- What is this truth we should lift up and be supported by? (vs 16)
- Verse 16 was a common hymn/creed that the Church would have repeated/sung often.
- “He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit,”
- Truth about the birth and resurrection of Christ.
- “Seen by angels, Proclaimed among the nations,”
- Truth seen, believed, and declared in both Heaven and Earth.
- “Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.”
- Truth about the way of salvation and Christ ascension and permanent position.
- In closing...**
- The gathering of the Church is not optional, but critical for believers and this fallen world.