

## Pillar and Ground

---

*But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God the pillar and ground of the truth.*

*– 1 Timothy 3:15 –*

---

Pontius Pilate asked our Savior – “What is truth?” Had Pilate inquired with a childlike heart, we can rest assured he would have found the answer (which ironically was standing Personified before him). Understanding the nature of truth is as vital to apprehending it as the truth itself.

Truth is singular. There can by definition exist no plurality in *the* truth. Yet the postmodern concept of relativism has deceived many into believing that truth can exist in multiplied quantities or in multiple versions. Millennial notions of “my truth” and “your truth” are meaningless, though. If truth is not exclusive, then falsehood does not exist. (The child who stole the cookie from the cookie jar and has the evidence all over his mouth yet protests that he did not eat the cookie is simply living in “his truth”. There is need for neither punishment nor amusement at his assertion because “his truth” is no less valid than the parent’s suspicion of his crime.)

Truth is also weighty. It carries with it a transformative authority that cannot be gainsaid. It may be hidden, but it cannot be destroyed. Truth testifies to itself. If it is to be known, it must be sought. Once it is found, it exposes every falsehood. Once it is embraced, it makes every path clear.

Under the old covenant, God vouchsafed His oracles, His law, and His exclusive sacerdotal system of worship to a peculiarly unique people – the seed of Abraham, the nation of Israel. Likewise, under the new covenant, He has entrusted an assembly of individuals from every tribe, nation, and tongue – the Church of Jesus Christ – with the salvific message of the gospel, the completed canon of Scripture, and an ongoing ambassadorship to a hostile world. That gospel, that canon, and that embassage comprises the distinctive transformative treasure that mankind desperately needs but is so very reluctant to seek and embrace – “the truth”.

Our text asserts that the Church of Jesus Christ is the pillar and ground of the truth. Pillars are often thought of as structures that uphold a building. Architecturally speaking, however, they are actually distributive members, *designed to transmit the weight they bear from above safely and equitably to the remainder of structure beneath*. And the “ground” of a building is the firm foundation whereupon the entire structure rests, *the integrity of which dictates the degree to which the building will remain sturdy and fixed throughout its days*.

What the church is collectively, each member is microcosmically and individually. Our Master intends for us to be pillar and ground. The doctrines of the faith – the Triune Godhead, the depravity of fallen man, vicarious atonement, salvation by grace alone through faith alone, the eternal destinies of man, *et. al.* – are weighty things that can either decimate or circumvent the hearts of fallen men. The truth, therefore, must be carefully and evenly transmitted to their consciences in order that the God of truth might begin His work therein. Once transmitted, unsaved men must also be granted hope that they, too, can be transformed from the reeling and unstable ways of sinful existence into grounded and settled trophies of divine grace. Every blood-bought Christian is that hope.

Our God desires to use us today as both distributive and steadfast agents – “pillar and ground.” He has graciously entrusted us with “the truth.” It is our commission until He comes. May we know it, live it, and wield it skillfully.