**The Pillar and Ground of the Truth**

*1 Timothy 3:15*

**Introduction**

1. The pillar and ground of the truth is the church.
* Paul talking about conduct in the church (v. 15a).
* The church is made up of people. More specifically “the called out” (*ekklēsia*).
* The conduct is both on an individual, and collective level.
	+ While the church is the whole, it is made up of individual believers.
	+ Our occupation as the pillar and ground of the truth is not only at the level of the church, but of individual members.
1. Pillar – a post, that is, support. Ground – support; basis; foundation; steadfast.
* Paints a picture of the grave responsibility the church has of standing for, contending for, and preaching the truth at all costs.
* The pillars failed against Samson’s strength given by God (cf. Judges 16:28-30).
	+ As a result the temple fell.
* Solomon made two bronze pillars to support the temple (cf. 1 Kings 7:21).
	+ Jachin – He shall establish.
	+ Boaz – In it is strength.
	+ We must be like Jachin and Boaz in supporting the truth! Deriving strength from God in His word to uphold the truth He has given to us!
1. Know the truth.
* Diligence in study
	+ 1 Timothy 4:13, 15, 16 – In order for Timothy to fulfill his responsibility as an evangelist he had to study.
	+ Hebrews 5:12-14 – By neglecting to study, some Hebrew Christians could not fulfill their obligation of being the pillar and ground of the truth. Why? Because they did not know it themselves.
		- The church has a system of mutual edification. This can only work in strengthening the church if there is individual effort (cf. Ephesians 4:16).
1. Live the truth.
2. Holiness
* 1 Peter 1:13-16 – Those who are the “called out” are called by One who is holy. The call is to holy living!
* 2 Peter 2:2 – When people who outwardly claim to follow Christ participate in things contrary to Him the truth is blasphemed.
1. Unity
* Ephesians 4:1-6 – The truth does not divide. We must endeavor to keep the unity of the Spirit if we are to be the pillar and ground of the truth.
1. Teach the truth.
2. Disciples make disciples.
* Matthew 28:18-20 – The church experienced exponential growth because of the willingness of Christians to teach others.
* Acts 18:24-28 – Aquila and Priscilla convert Apollos.
	+ He knew of Jesus and the coming of the kingdom. He was not taught fully the gospel of Christ – only up to the point of the baptism of John.
	+ Aquila and Priscilla – disciples of Christ – made Apollos a disciple by being pillars of the truth – they upheld the truth.
1. Support the teaching of the truth.
* 3 John 5-8 – By being hospitable to preachers of the gospel, Gaius contributed to the success of the truth.
	+ Support for the truth can also be shown by participating in/attending other peoples/congregations gospel efforts.
1. Contend for the truth.
2. Inerrant
* Psalm 19:7 – The word of God is complete and without blemish. Why? Because it is God’s word! 🡪
* 2 Timothy 3:16-17 – Scripture is inerrant because it is from God. Only the unadulterated truth benefits the man of God.
* Because it is inerrant and from God it is…🡪
1. Authoritative
* Matthew 16:19 – The standard by which something is bound or loosed comes from God’s instruction. If He has not bound it is not bound. If He has not loosed it is not loosed.
1. Danger of False Doctrine/Ungodliness
* Galatians 1:6-9 – Any addition or subtraction, i.e. anything bound or loosed that is not done by God is a perverted gospel that cannot save, but only makes those who follow it accursed.
1. Proper response to False Doctrine/Ungodliness
* Jude 3 – Jude instructs Christians to stand up against false doctrine and refute it. It is not acceptable to compromise in such situations.
* 2 John 9-11 – Contending for the faith reaches beyond just words, but also deeds. One standing up for the truth cannot receive any who are contrary to it.

**Conclusion**

1. In order to be the pillar and ground of the truth we must know the truth, teach, and contend for the truth!
2. This conduct is not suggested, but commanded by God via the inspired scriptures.