

Westwood Baptist Church *Grounded. Growing. Going.*



Worship Guide for May 12, 2024

Sermon Notes

The Church: A Pillar and Buttress of the Truth: An Introduction to First Timothy

First Timothy is a letter from Paul to an individual (Timothy), but it is primarily a letter to the church - about the church.

The key passage in 1 Timothy is found in chapter 3:14-15: *I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth.*

The purpose of Paul's instructions to this church on order, worship, and leadership was to make clear the high calling of the Christian and the church. The church is "the pillar and buttress of the truth". In a pluralistic world where truth is relative and subjective, the church is called to lift up Biblical truth for the world to see and hear (like a pillar under a roof), and to stand up for the truth (like a buttress) against those who would seek to undermine the true gospel. 1 Timothy is our instruction manual on how we are to do this.

The church upholds the truth by keeping the main thing the main thing – holding onto and living out Biblical truth. (1 Tim. 1:12-16)

This biblical truth is centered in the gospel -

Vv1-2: A greeting that reminds us of the blessings we have in Christ: A major theme in 1 Timothy – salvation & hope

Hope: as we believe in the Son & his finished work on the cross He takes away our guilt & our fear of punishment – he assures us of heaven. He is our hope!

Grace: God's generosity that flows from the fountain of His love – undeserved and unearned

Mercy: a favorite word for Paul – not getting what we deserve – the attention and care God pours on those deserving alienation and wrath

Peace: the heart at rest and in harmony with God

The church upholds the truth by keeping a proper focus when we gather for worship. (1 Tim 2:8-15)

The church upholds the truth by having men of godly character as their leaders. (1 Tim 3:1-13)

The church upholds the truth by keeping holding firm to solid doctrine and living it out in our daily lives. (1 Tim. 4:6–16)

The church upholds the truth by keeping the proper focus on our ministry and care to all of God's people. (1 Tim. 5:1 - 6:2)

The church upholds the truth by focusing on the majesty and grandeur of God. (1 Tim. 6:11-16)

Life Group Preparation Guide

"Let the *Word* of Christ *dwell* in you(all) *richly*
teaching and *admonishing* one another in all *wisdom*..."

- *Colossians 3:16a*

Focus #1: GOD

1. What does this passage reveal about the character or nature of God?
2. What does this passage reveal about God's eternal plans and purposes?
3. What does this passage reveal about how God interacts with his creation?

Focus #2: ME

4. How does this passage reveal sin in my own mind, heart, or life?
5. In what ways does this passage help us to see how we need to be aligned with God's will?
6. What is one tangible and measurable way that the Spirit is leading me to respond to his Word?

Focus #3: OTHERS

7. What is one truth that I can share meaningfully with someone, and with whom?
8. How can I specifically encourage someone or everyone in my Life Group from this passage?

Three contributions (reflections, questions, observations, etc.) I plan to include in our next Life Group discussion:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

Westwood Staff

Gerald Hodges: Lead Pastor

Jonathan Taylor: Associate Pastor

Jason Engle: Pastor of Students
& Discipleship

Yvonne Hager: Executive Assistant

Contact Us

(336)599-1982

westwoodroxboro@gmail.com

www.westwoodfamily.org

Church Office Hours:

Monday - Friday 8:30am-4:00pm

Mailing Address:

970 Leasburg Road

Roxboro, NC 27573-5470

MAY

12 Happy Mother's Day!

15 NMS AVID Banquet

16 PHS Senior Awards Program & Rcpt

18 Armed Forces Day

18 Piano Recital @ 9am (Liggitt)

19 Graduate Sunday

20 Trail Life Awards Program @ 6:30pm

23 Blood Drive - 10:30am-3pm

26 Communion & Pastor Hodges' Bday

27 Memorial Day - Church Office Closed