

Trustworthy Sayings

6 – Pillar and Buttress

1 Timothy 3.14-4.5

We are a kind of People

- Family of God
 - God is our Father
 - Christ is our brother
 - We belong together – thick and thin, fights and fame, good and bad
 - Family meal – Communion
 - Family party – baptism
- Dwelling Place of Living God
 - God dwells in each of us and uniquely inhabits us when we gather – synergy
 - Marked by movement of His Spirit
 - Often expresses itself in singing
 - Florence Foster Jenkins – “They might say I can’t sing; but nobody can say I didn’t sing.”
- Herald of the Truth
 - Pillar – that which lifts it high
 - Buttress – that which keeps it secure (not keeping it to ourselves but giving it away joyfully!)
 - Elevate it and extol it – promote it and praise it

We believe certain Truths

- Jesus came in the flesh (Incarnation)
- Jesus died and rose (Crucifixion and Resurrection)
- Jesus is proclaimed and believed in (Salvation)
- Jesus went to the Father (Ascension)

Important because of external challenges

- These make us peculiar in the world today but that doesn’t lessen their importance in our lives
- In fact, the more the world loses its sanity, the more we will need these to anchor us into what is actually real (not just perceived reality)

Important because of internal heresies

- The Spirit tells us deceit is coming by a wrong devotion – not to what has always been but to what sounds new and exciting
- In this case – marriage and food

- 2 Timothy 3.1-7 – they can couch their unholy behavior in terms of their uncertainty (“Well, I’m just not sure God meant that like you say He did”)
- 2 Timothy 4.1-5 – they love to fill their ears with what they love to hear, what will justify their own passions

K.B. – give me that good ol’ Gospel, that old school doctrine...preach the Gospel then stand back

Questions for Discussion

1. What’s your favorite worship song that we sing as a church? What’s your favorite hymn? What is particularly moving or inspiring or convicting about them?
2. Which of the three descriptions Paul uses (family, dwelling place, herald) most resonates with you and your church experience? Why?
3. Read Romans 1.18-32, 2 Timothy 3.1-7, and 2 Timothy 4.1-5. These passages describe a kind of general judgment (Romans 1) and dangers of not watching doctrine closely (2 Tim). Where do you see signs of our own culture? Can you name any specific instances or circumstances?
4. Trent mentioned one specific instance of how Christian doctrine is peculiar in the world today (God coming down to us in the Incarnation instead of us making our way to God). Looking at the others listed above, what are other ways Christian doctrine is strange in our world?
5. If order promotes health which propels the Gospel outward, how are we doing as a church in each area (order, health, Gospel)? How are you doing? What needs to change? What needs your focus?