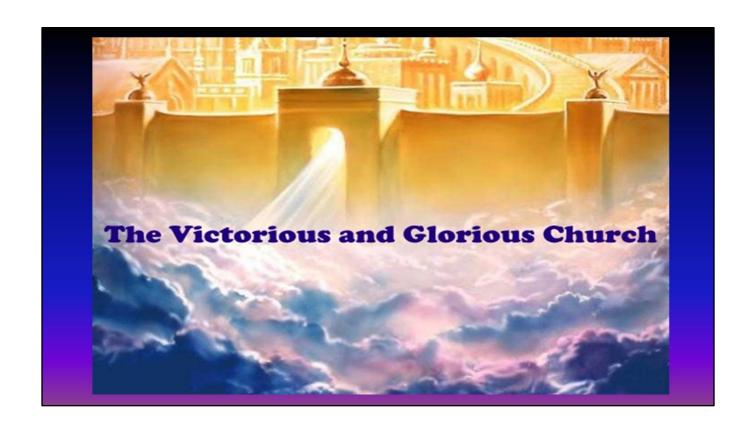


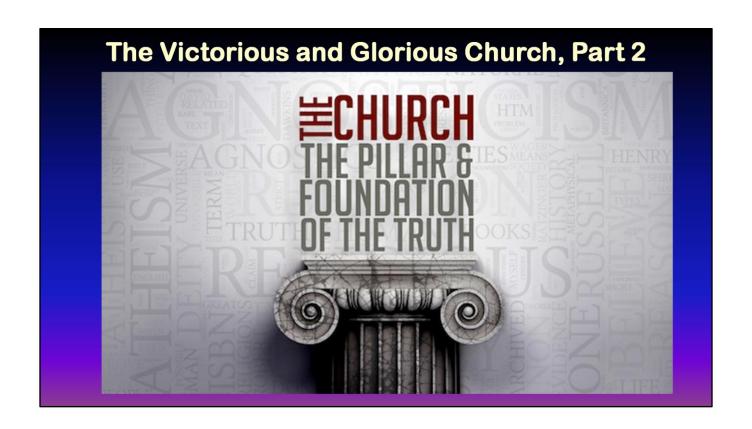
LIFE Group ...

6:30 pm at the Thomas' home on Wed. evenings Bring your Bibles, your Notebook, an Expectant heart and a prayerful-thankful attitude to Experience the Presence, the Power and the Purpose of Jesus Christ, together









Matthew 16:16-19

Simon Peter answered and said, "You are the Christ (*the Messiah*), the Son of the Living God."

¹⁷ Jesus answered and said to him, "Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jonah, for flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but My Father who is in heaven. ¹⁸ And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My CHURCH, and the GATES of Hades shall NOT prevail against it. ¹⁹ And I will give you the KEYS of the kingdom of heaven, and whatever you BIND on earth will be bound in heaven, and whatever you LOOSE on earth will be loosed in heaven."

Review . . .

- 1. The FOUNDATION of the church is Jesus Christ
- 2. The Victorious, Triumphant Mission of the Church "I will build my church, and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it" Matthew 16:18 → Rescue Mission
- 3. We are Participants in this Mission Keys of the Kingdom → Great Authority Jesus Christ is "building of His church" through us.



Review ... from Matthew 16:16-19

The Foundation of the church is Jesus Christ ...

Peter → petros → or little pebble or stone ... like a cobble stone ... skips across the water

ROCK → **PETRA** → **Foundational Boulder, Bedrock Stone** which would anchor a building. Jesus is the Foundation ROCK/STONE, the Anchor of the Building, the Living Building He is growing

as a Living Temple - Ephesians 2:19-22

The Victorious, Triumphant Mission of the Church – "I will build my church, and the Gates of Hell will not prevail against it" - Matthew 16:18

The Spread of the Gospel is the Mission of the Church ... thus Truth Sets the Captives Free ... John 8:31-32: Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you ABIDE in My Word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall KNOW THE TRUTH, and THE TRUTH shall make you free."

Gates do not chase down people and kill them. Gates are attached to hinges, attached to a Fence or a Wall of some sort. → John 8:31-32, it seems that Jesus wants to use us to OVERCOME those GATES and SET THE CAPTIVES FREE.

1 John **5:19** - We know that we are children of God, and that **the whole world is under the control of the evil one**.

Hebrews 2:14-15: Now since the children have flesh and blood in common, Jesus also shared in these, so that through His death He might **DESTROY** the one holding the **POWER OF DEATH** - that is, the **Devil**, and **FREE** those who were held in **SLAVERY** all their lives by the **FEAR OF DEATH**.

Our Mission is a RESCUE Mission – to Rescue those taken Captive by SIN, Enslaved by Satanically Inspired Fears that hold them as SLAVES under the Devil's Spell. They are Held Captive behind the Walls of Hell, and the Gates of Hell ...

We are Participants in this Mission – Jesus Christ is "building of His church" through us. It is growing and multiplying like a Living Temple that grows like a living organism (Ephesians 2:19-22) ... With Great Authority and Power: Prayerfully Spreading the Gospel. The KEYs are given to us to accomplish this Mission: BIND → BIND back the GATES (Pin those DOORS OPEN)

LOOSE → LOOSE the Bonds of the Captives and Set them FREE → WITH the TRUTH of CHRIST

Let's Use these keys to Set the Captives FREE!!! Unlock the Lock on those GATES of Hell!!!

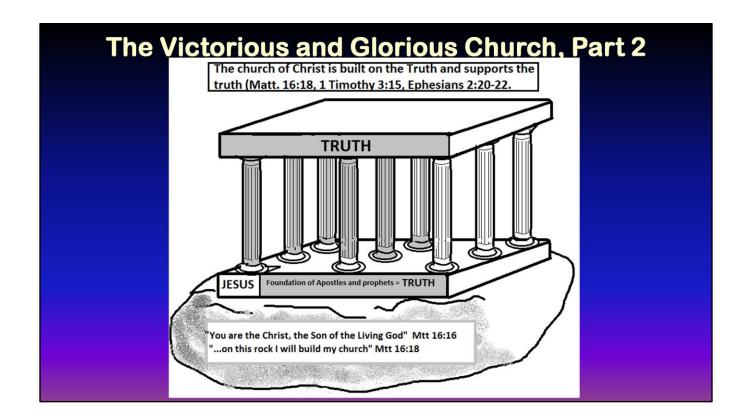
Today's Text:

1 Timothy 3:15 - But if I should be delayed, I have written so that you will know how people ought to BEHAVE in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the PILLAR and FOUNDATION of the TRUTH.

Today's Message is entitled ...

The Church →

The PILLAR and FOUNDATION of the TRUTH



1. God's Household \rightarrow οικω θεου \rightarrow οίκο Theou ... the Household of God ...

Paul defines this as the church of the Living God (church → εκκλησια θεου ζωντος) ecclesia Theou Zontos ... church of the God that is LIVING (the Living God) ...

The Family Household, the Tribal Home, the Clan of the Living God ... A local church family is a part of the greater Family of God ... Fellowship, Family, Tribe, Clan ... Household ... all a Picture of what God wants each local church family to be like.

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How are we to **Behave** in our Family? **Family Behavior within the Family**. Proper ways of Behaving within our Family (read 1 Timothy 2 & 3 for background on this). Fellowship, Family, Tribe, Clan ... Household ... all a Picture of what God wants each local church

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(for more on this, please, read 1 Timothy 2 & 3).

This is a Word Picture of a Fellowship, Family, Tribe, Clan ... Household ... all a Picture of what God wants each local church to be like ... with Familial Identity . . .

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2. The church is the PILLAR & FOUNDATION of the TRUTH:

PILLAR → στῦλος – stulos (stoo'-los)

The word picture is of a Public Column or Pillar ... not a hidden one, that no one can see. Public Pillar, Public Column, Supporting Column of a Building. In this case it is something seen from the outside ... it is a picture of a Notable Pillar. It is NOT hidden, but seen ... clearly seen by all.

The Supreme Court Building, and many other buildings in Washington DC have public columns like this ... they show strength, faithfulness, integrity, support and endurance ... all of which is seen in this usage of STULOS here in the context.

2. The church is the PILLAR and FOUNDATION of the TRUTH:

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It is similar to what we would think of as the Statue of Liberty in New York's Harbor ... the Statue of Liberty is a Supporting Column, so to speak of our Liberty in the USA It is Notable, Public and seen.

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FOUNDATION → ἐδραίωμα → foundation, stay, support, "ground", base . . .

(http://biblehub.com/greek/1477.htm - [hedraióma → hed-rah'-yo-mah])

This is Word Picture of the Base, the Undergirding Support ... under which all of everything else Rests of upon. It could be a Picture of the BASE on which the PILLAR is resting upon ... and it is collaboration with the Pillar in the structure of this phrase ... Pillar and Support of the Truth ... Pillar and Ground of the Truth ... Pillar and Base of the Truth

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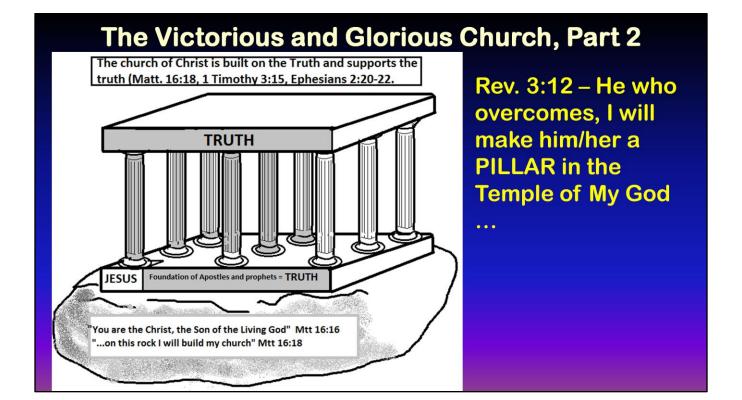
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The church is The PILLAR and SUPPORT/BASE/FOUNDATION of the Truth ...



3. What is the Church supposed to Stand For, Defend, Proclaim, Obey and Support?

THE TRUTH → God's Truth based upon His Holy Word, ALONE ... Simply Biblical ... Bible Only... SOLA SCRIPTURA (John 8:31-32; John 17:17-19 "your Word is TRUTH")

We are to Stand for, Defend, Obey, Love, & Proclaim the TRUTH - it Sets the Captives Free

We are NOT to Stand for, Defend, Obey, Love and Proclaim "Human Traditions" (no matter what the "roots" are of those "traditions" - rituals, celebrations, "holy days", etc.)

If it is in the Bible, and Christians are to Obey it, then we need to do "IT".

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The Newly Begun, apostolic church, in **Acts 2:42**, explains what their foundation was and it should be ours, Today → "they continually, fully devoted themselves to the Apostles' Teachings/Doctrine..." Today, we find the "Apostle's Teachings" → Romans through Jude We all should start here, knowing that the church is built upon the foundation of the apostles and the prophets (Old / New Testaments – Eph. 2:19-22), Jesus Christ Himself being the Cornerstone (the foundation Rock/Stone)

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2 Timothy 2:15; 2 Timothy 3:16-4:4; Ephesians 5:25-27 (glorious church)

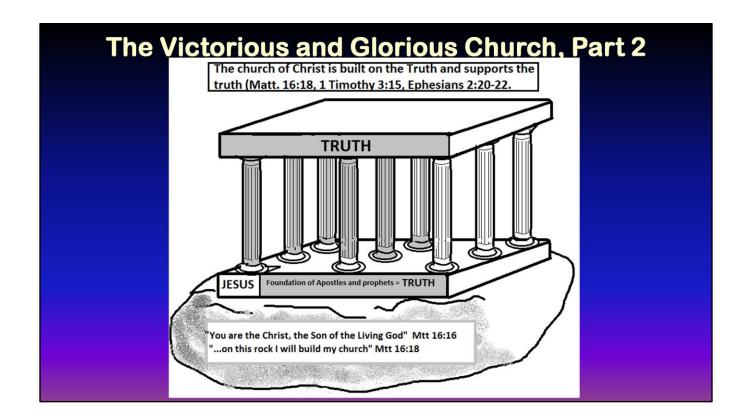
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- 2 Timothy 2:15 Be diligent to present yourself approved to God as a workman who does not need to be ashamed, ACCURATELY HANDLING the WORD of TRUTH.

John 17:17-19 - Sanctify them in the TRUTH; Your WORD is TRUTH. ¹⁸ As You sent Me into the world, I also have sent them into the world. ¹⁹ For their sakes I sanctify Myself, that they themselves also may be sanctified in TRUTH.

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2 Timothy 3:16-4:4 ¹6 All Scripture is inspired by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, for training in righteousness; ¹¹ so that the man of God may be adequate, fully equipped for every good work. (→ Scripture is ENOUGH!!!) 4:1 - I solemnly charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by His appearing and His kingdom: ²PREACH the WORD; be ready in season and out of season; REPROVE, REBUKE, EXHORT, with great patience and instruction. ³ For the time will come when they will NOT endure SOUND DOCTRINE; but wanting to have their ears tickled, they will accumulate for themselves teachers in accordance to their own desires, ⁴ and will TURN AWAY their ears from THE TRUTH and will turn aside to MYTHS.

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Ephesians 5:25-27

Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, ²⁶ that He might SANCTIFY and CLEANSE her with the WASHING of WATER by the WORD, ²⁷ that He might present her to Himself a GLORIOUS CHURCH, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be HOLY and WITHOUT BLEMISH.

Can Christ use the Traditions of Rome, human traditions and/or false beliefs to Sanctify the Church, to Cleanse her, to Wash Her? He uses the Pure/Holy Word of God, ALONE

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