

## What is the Church?

1 Timothy 3:14,15

### Introduction:

- The word, church, is used in a wide variety of ways in English.
  1. How many churches do we have in Caro?
  2. What would most people consider a church to be?
  3. Webster's dictionary gives \_\_\_\_\_ definitions!
- How does God define the word, church? - things to remember:
  1. All scripture is inspired by \_\_\_\_\_ (2 Tim 3:16)
  2. All of Paul's letters were considered s\_\_\_\_\_ by Peter (2 Pet 3:15,16)
  3. Therefore, 1 Tim 3:14,15 is God's answer.
- Ask yourself this question as we study this passage: *What part do I have in the church?*

### The living God's p\_\_\_\_\_ of people

- Verse 15 states the church as belonging to the living God
  1. In Paul's day, gods were i\_\_\_\_\_ that could not speak nor hear.
  2. The one true God is l\_\_\_\_\_.
- The 1611 King James Version came about because King James wanted to unite Christians with \_\_\_\_\_ English translation, forcing them to discard all other English versions.
  1. A group of biblical scholars undertook this translation who were well-educated in a \_\_\_\_\_ Greek and Hebrew.
  2. The scholars were unsure how they should translate, ekklesia (the Greek word translated as church in today's translations).
    - a. Tyndale's translation read c\_\_\_\_\_.
    - b. The Geneva Bible read c\_\_\_\_\_.
    - c. The Bishop's Bible translated it both ways.
  3. King James ordered that the word, church, translate ekklesia. In the king's English, "church" referred to either a b\_\_\_\_\_ for Christian worship or a hierarchy of Christian government like the Church of England.
- The Greek word (ekklesia) literally means c\_\_\_\_\_ out ones
  1. Rom 9:24 – God calls certain people out of the w\_\_\_\_\_ of unbelievers.

2. 1 Cor 1:9 – God effectively brings them into a right relationship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
  3. 1 Pet 2:9 – those called belong to the people of God.
- Have you been called out of the unbelieving world into a right relationship with Jesus? - if so, you are part of God's people!

### **The living God's people of dwelling**

- Verse 15 has the term household of God (KJV – house of God)
1. What is the difference between the word house and household? House refers to a people of dwelling; household refers to the people living in the house.
  2. The Greek word can refer to either and may even refer to both.
    - a. Jesus called the temple in Jerusalem, *house*. It was destroyed in 70 A.D. and never rebuilt.
    - b. Rev 21:3 pictures God's people in the new heaven and new earth as being His dwelling people.
    - c. Where is God's dwelling place today?
      - 1) Matt 18:20 – where at least two are gathered in Jesus's name (making it all about Him).
      - 2) 1 Cor 14:24,25 – Paul wanted the Corinthians to gather in Christ's name so that an unbeliever would say, *God is certainly among you*.
- When you come into this assembly, do you sense that God is among us?
1. If so, what gives you that sense?
  2. If not, what is your priority in coming into this assembly?
  3. The fact remains that as long as just two of us are gathered in his name, God is among us. Will you make this assembly all about Him?

### **The living God's people of truth**

- Verse 15 reads, *the church of the living God which is the pillar and support of the truth*.
1. The first description (pillar) is a metaphor of a support post of a building holding up the top.
  2. The second description (support) is a word that refers to the state of standing firm to the point of being unshakeable.

3. Therefore the biblical church is one that holds up the truth and stands firm on the truth regardless of anyone or anything.
- Today's culture views truth as r\_\_\_\_\_ (in other words, what is truth for me may not be truth for you because there is no such thing as absolute truth).
  1. \_\_\_\_\_% of youth believe this.
  2. Over \_\_\_\_\_% of church-going adults believe this.
  3. Is it absolutely true that there is no such thing as absolute truth?
- What is truth?
  1. Truth transcends culture and t\_\_\_\_\_ - it is relevant for every person in every age and in every culture.
  2. Jn 14:6 – Jesus said, *I am the way, the t\_\_\_\_\_, and the life...*
  3. Jn 17:17 – Jesus said that God's w\_\_\_\_\_ is truth.
    - a. Jesus proclaimed the Old Testament as God's word (Matt 5:6,17,18)
    - b. Jesus only spoke what the Father c\_\_\_\_\_ Him to speak (Jn 12:48,49).
    - c. The New Testament is Jesus's word preserved for us by His apostles and prophets (Jn 14:26).
- It is essential that today's "churches" proclaim God's word as truth. It is the standard by which all is judged (see Mk 7).
  1. Judge all p\_\_\_\_\_ by God's word.
  2. Judge all t\_\_\_\_\_ by God's word.
  3. Judge all e\_\_\_\_\_ by God's word.

## **Conclusion:**

- Our God is living
  1. He lives within believers - we are His p\_\_\_\_\_.
  2. He lives among believers - we are His dwelling p\_\_\_\_\_.
  3. He lives through believers – we are His p\_\_\_\_\_ of truth.
- What part do you have in the church of the living God?