

**Guidelines for the exercise of the Lord's day Prophesying**  
**Message Five : Upholding the Truth and Testifying to the Truth That the Church Is the Pillar and Base of the Truth and the Corporate Manifestation of God in the Flesh**

**I. Overview:**

The church is the supporting pillar and holding base of the truth. Truth in 1 Timothy 3:15 refers to the real things revealed in God's Word, which are mainly Christ and the church. The church bears and testifies Christ as the reality, of Christ as the mystery of God and the church as the mystery of Christ. The kind of church that we build up depends on the kind of truth that we teach; thus, there is the desperate need of the living truth to produce the church, to help the church to exist, and to build up the church. The greatest need that we must meet is to bring the saints into the truth; in order for the church to be strong, every brother and sister must uphold the truth by learning the truth, experiencing the truth, and being able to speak the truth. We need to uphold the truth that the church is the corporate manifestation of God in the flesh. God's manifestation was first in Christ as an individual expression, then continues with the church, which is the increase, enlargement, and multiplication of the manifestation of God in the flesh. Both Christ and the church are the mystery of godliness, which is the living of a proper church.

**II. Truth and Enlightenment:**

Day 1 —

A. Expound Paul says metaphorically of the church as the pillar and base of the truth.

The pillar supports the building, and the base holds the pillar. The church is such a supporting pillar and holding base of the truth. Christ and the church, the Head and the Body, are the contents of the reality of God's New Testament economy. The church is the supporting pillar and holding base of all these realities. A local church should be such a building that holds, bears, and testifies the truth, the reality, of Christ and the church.

B. Explain the church is for holding the reality of all that God is.

To God, the church has the function to bear all that God is as the reality, the truth, of the universe. In the universe, only God is reality; all that He is, is reality, which is borne by the church. We are here as the church, the house and household of God, holding the reality of all that God is.

Day 2 —

A. Explain the words that the Lord speaks being the solid spirit.

Suppose that on this earth among the human race there had never been such a book as the Bible. If we had not had a Bible in our hands since the Lord Jesus resurrected and ascended to the heavens, everything would be in the air, and nothing could be solid. The Spirit depends upon the Word; the words that He has spoken to us are spirit. When you touch the Word, you get the Spirit. This is history.

B. Expound the purpose of the Life-study with the footnotes of the Recovery Version.

The most profitable writings and publications are the Life-study messages with the footnotes of the Recovery Version. These things are not for scholarly study but for life ministering, for truth releasing, and for opening up the books of the Bible. The Lord's recovery is just for the processed Triune God to be dispensed into us, and the living Christ, the Spirit, life, and the church are the crucial contents of the Lord's recovery.

Day 3 —

A. Explain experientially of the church being the pillar and base of the truth.

In ancient architecture a building was supported by a pillar, which rested on a base. The church is the pillar and base that bears the truth. The pillar and base of the truth are not the elders but the church, which includes every brother and sister. In order for the churches to be strong, every brother and sister must bear the truth by learning the truth, experiencing the truth, and being able to speak the truth.

B. Expound why we should know the truth and learn the truth.

The church being the pillar and base of the truth implies that every member of the church should know the truth. We need to make a decision to learn the truth; if we learn the truth and practice the truth in the daily church life, every member will be able to bear some responsibility. Then wherever we spread, there will be no problems; every local church will be strong.

Day 4 —

A. Expound 1 Timothy 3:15, both Christ and Church being God manifested in the flesh.

In 1 Timothy 3:15-16 Christ is presented as God manifested in the flesh. Not only was the Lord Jesus the manifestation of God in the flesh in the past; the church today should also be the manifestation of God in the flesh. The word godliness in verse 16 means that human beings may have the appearance, the expression, and the manifestation of God. Christ as the manifestation of God in the flesh is the mystery of godliness.

B. Explain the significance of God's manifestation in Christ.

God was manifested in the flesh, indicating that the entire God, the Father, the Son, and the Spirit, was incarnated. Therefore, Christ in His incarnation was the entire God manifested in the flesh. According to the Gospel of John, the Word, who is God, became flesh. The Word who became flesh—God manifested in the flesh—is God's definition, explanation, and expression in the flesh. God was manifested in the flesh as the entire Triune God.

Day 5 —

A. Describe Lord's living on earth as the virtues of expressions of His divine attributes.

When the Lord Jesus was on the earth, He expressed the divine attributes as His human virtues in all His actions. That expression of His virtues was the manifestation of God in the flesh. Outwardly, people saw Him as Jesus from Nazareth, but He was God manifested in the flesh. An example of the Lord Jesus feeding the five thousand indicated that this was the virtue of the One who is resurrection.

B. Expound both of Christ and the church being the mystery of godliness.

Even though we in the church life are in the flesh, we should not live by the flesh. We should live in and by resurrection so that God may live in our living, making us Him in His attributes as our virtues for His manifestation. Not only Christ Himself is the manifestation of God in the flesh, but also the church is the manifestation of God in the flesh—the mystery of godliness.

Day 6 —

A. Expound the words in 1 Timothy 4:7, "we should exercise ourselves unto godliness."

To exercise ourselves unto godliness is to exercise our spirit so that we may express the mystery of godliness—God manifested in the flesh. This is indicated by Paul's words in 2 Timothy 1:6; "... For God has not given us a spirit of cowardice, but of power and of love and of sobermindedness." Since the Lord Jesus as the mystery of godliness is in our spirit, we need to exercise ourselves unto godliness by exercising our spirit.

B. Testify how we should exercise ourselves unto godliness in our living.

Before we do anything, we should exercise our spirit. Then our spirit will lead us, and whatever we do will be godliness, God manifested in the flesh. This is the exercise unto godliness. In everything we need to exercise ourselves unto godliness. Therefore, we must live, walk, have our daily life, and have our whole being according to our spirit.

### **III. Conclusion:**

First Timothy 3:15 speaks about the church as the pillar and base of the truth, it is revealed how great a thing it is that God has entrusted this universal reality to the church. For this reason, we need to maintain, to confirm, and even to testify the truth. This scripture also reveals that the individual Christ is God manifested in the flesh, and the further expansion of the corporate Christ, church is also God manifested in the flesh. This requires each member who are constituted into the body of Christ to be fully perfected in truth. They live a life of having morning revival, coordinating with the vital companions, doing the work in begetting, nourishing, teaching and building for the building up of the Body of Christ. If we all can prophesy one by one for the Lord in the Lord's day district meetings. This makes most saints convicted by all, examined by all, and some unbelievers, falling on their face, will worship God, declaring that indeed God is among you. This is God corporately manifested in the flesh.