

THE CHRIST COMMUNITY, PART 8
**THE CHURCH AS THE PILLAR AND
FOUNDATION OF THE TRUTH**
1 Timothy 3:14-16

*The mission of the church is to preserve and promote
the central truths of the living Christ.*

The MISSION of the Church (3:15)

- Mission: To serve as “the pillar and foundation [bulwark] of the truth.” (15)
- Problem: The vast majority of people today no longer believe in the concept of absolute truth.
- Solution: Demonstrate that “what I am saying is true and reasonable.” (Acts 26:25)
- Objection 1: “All religions are equally valid and basically teach the same truths.”
- Objection 2: “Each religion sees part of the spiritual truth, but none sees the whole truth.”
- Objection 3: “Religious belief is too culturally and historically conditioned to be universally true.”
- Objection 4: “It is arrogant to insist that your religious truth is right and try to convert others to it.”
- Objection 5: “We will never have peace on earth as long as religions make exclusive truth claims.”

The MESSAGE of the Church (3:16)

- Message: It all centers on the person and work of Jesus Christ, who reveals the Father. (16)
- Problem: The locals declare, “Great is Artemis of the Ephesians!” (Acts 19:28)
- Solution: The church declares, “Great is the mystery of [the] godliness [= God in Christ].” (16a)
- Incarnation: “He appeared in a body . . . ” (16b)
- Resurrection: “. . . was vindicated by the Spirit . . . ” (16c)
- Verification: “. . . was seen by angels . . . ” (16d)
- Proclamation: “. . . was preached among the nations . . . ” (16e)
- Salvation: “. . . was believed on in the world . . . ” (16f)
- Exaltation: “. . . was taken up in glory.” (16g)