

# Bethel at 125: A Call to Protect & Proclaim the Truth

1 Timothy 3:14-16

Sunday: 07/14/24 – Pastor Lenard Tavernelli

*Let Us Protect and Proclaim the Truth of Jesus to Fulfill and Grow Mature Disciples for the Glory of God.*

## Overview

This week, Pastor Lenard led us in a celebratory message for our 125th anniversary as a church. Our message from 1 Timothy 3 reminded us that we are blessed to be part of God's household and that we are to conduct ourselves appropriately. Our conduct is not a list of legal requirements but a heart that trusts in, defends, and proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ. As our society veers away from the truth, we know that storms will come for those who believe in and stand up for the truth.

Our identity in Jesus identifies us as part of His family (His household). As a family, we are not alone (His gathering), and we are to walk in a manner worthy of our Lord who dwells with us (His Temple). As a church and as individuals, our identity compels us to defend the truth of the Gospel in all aspects of our lives. We are to actively proclaim the unchanging Gospel in a compelling manner so that others may also become His disciples.

*"The Gospel Never Changes" Dorothy Allen*

## Outline

### 3 Portraits of the Church (v14-15)

1. God's Household
2. God's Temple
3. God's Gathering

### 2 Functions of the Church (v15)

1. We Must Protect the Truth
2. We Must Proclaim the Truth

### 1 Gospel of the Church (v16)

## Corroborating Texts

*John 1:12-13, 1 Peter 2:5, Hebrews 10:24-25, John 8:31-32, John 17:17, 1 Timothy 1:3, 4:16, & 6:20, Romans 10:14, Philippians 2:6-8, 2 Timothy 1:14*

## Discussion Questions

1. Pastor Lenard spoke of a major theme in 1 Timothy of how the church is to conduct itself. Our conduct and identity are bound together. Pastor Lenard stated your identity dictates what you do.
  - a. How has coming to faith in Jesus changed your conduct? *(there are easy outward answers to this question, focus on the things that others cannot see)*
2. Paul tells us clearly that he wrote this that we may know how to behave and that we are to be pillars and buttresses of the truth.
  - a. How does knowing Paul's message help us fulfill our mission as a church community?
  - b. How does knowing this message from Paul help us weather storms in this world?
3. Pastor Lenard said that no one has been saved by simply protecting the Gospel. We need to proclaim it.
  - a. What steps do you need to take to faithfully proclaim the Gospel in your everyday life?
  - b. How can you participate with Bethel as we seek to Go?
4. Was there anything else that stood out in the sermon

Spend some time this week reviewing the 4 C's and how that relates to the truth that you are part of God's family.

# PROCLAIM THE TRUTH OF JESUS AND GROW MATURE DISCIPLES FOR THE GLORY OF GOD

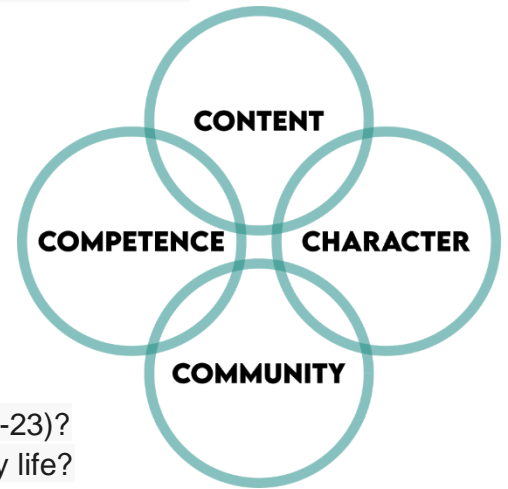
GATHER - GROW - PRACTICE - GO

## Biblical Content:

- How am I growing in understanding the Bible's storyline?
- How am I growing in understanding the different books of the Bible?
- How am I growing in understanding biblical doctrine?
- How am I regularly hearing from God's Word?
- How am I being changed by God's Word today?
- How am I regularly praying?

## Godly Character:

- How am I growing in godly character?
- How am I actively demonstrating love for God?
- How am I actively showing love for others?
- How am I bearing the fruit of the Spirit (Galatians 5:22-23)?
- How am I obeying God and following Jesus in my daily life?
- How am I confessing and forsaking my sins?
- How am I faithfully stewarding the time, talents, and treasures God has entrusted to me?



## Loving Competence:

- How am I speaking the truth with others gently and lovingly?
- Who am I actively engaging with God's word?
- How am I proclaiming the truth of Jesus with those who don't yet know him?
- How am I actively listening to others?
- How am I regularly serving others?
- How am I sharpening the gifting and skills God has entrusted to me?

## Compelling Community:

- How am I regularly involved in gathering with the church body for worship, the Word, and prayer?
- How am I giving up my desires and trusting in God to maintain the unity of the Spirit?
- How and with whom am I being real and accountable with others?
- How and who am I regularly walking side-by-side with to help?
- How am I actively welcoming others to our gatherings?
- How am I involved in caring for "the least of these" around me?