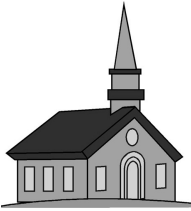


The Greatness of God's Assembly

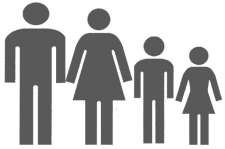
Ephesians 2:19-22; 1 Timothy 3:14-16

Paul gives us three wonderful descriptions of the Church in 1 Timothy 3:15, each revealing some aspect of the greatness of God's assembly:

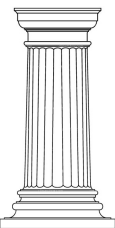
1) **"The house of God"**—The almighty God dwells in this body of believers. The Old Testament gives insight into this expression. When Jacob was in Bethel (meaning "house of God"), he made this statement: "Surely the LORD is in this place; and I knew it not...How dreadful is this place! This is none other but **the house of God**" (Gen. 28:16-17). So too, the New Testament "Bethel" is marked by God's awesome presence when God's people are spiritually healthy and right with Him: "And so falling down on his face, he [*the visitor*] will worship God, and report that God is in you of a truth" (1 Cor. 14:25).



2) **"The church (assembly) of the living God"**—In Ephesus, where Timothy served, was the temple of the dead god, the great temple of Diana, one of the seven wonders of the ancient world. It was almost the length of Noah's Ark, and twice as long as the Parthenon with 127 columns, each 60 feet high. In the midst of this temple was a statue of the goddess Diana, a lifeless idol. In that same city, without great fanfare, were humble believers gathered in Christ's Name, enjoying the presence of the living God (Matt. 18:20), feeding on His Word, worshiping His wonderful Person and bearing witness to the living Christ. This was God's precious assembly, the Church of the living God.



3) **"The pillar and ground of the truth"**—Here Paul employed temple imagery. The top of the temple with all its ornate carvings was held up by the great foundation and pillars. In like manner, the Church is to faithfully hold up the truth of God in the midst of a sin-darkened world (Phil. 2:15-16).



~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

The Greatness of God's Assembly

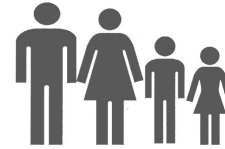
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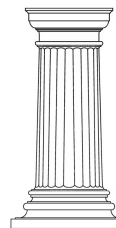
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