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# VISION AND MISSION

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## YESTERDAY AND TOMORROW

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## **Sermon Overview**

In 1 Timothy 3:14-16 The Word of God tells us what a church is supposed to be: God's household, and the pillar and foundation of the truth about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Many Christians, seeing the increasingly fallen state of the world, are praying for revival. With so many believers praying, why does it seem like God is not answering their prayers?

In Habakkuk 3:1-19, Habakkuk finds himself in a similar situation: prayers for a revival, and an unexpected response from God.

*<sup>14</sup> Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that,*

*<sup>15</sup> if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.*

*<sup>16</sup> Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

## **1 TIMOTHY 3:14-16**

### **VICTORY COLUMNS**

At the heart of many major cities are pillars holding up statues of heroes or ideals important to the city. This imagery is invoked by the Apostles Paul as he teaches that the true church must uphold the truth about Jesus Christ. If the truth about Jesus is compromised, then the church is no longer a church of Jesus.

The church is not the foundation of the truth, but upholds and lifts high the truth.

# **THE SIXFOLD CREDO OF TRUTH ABOUT JESUS CHRIST**

The truth about Jesus Christ is outlined in 1 Timothy 3:16:

*Beyond all question, the mystery of godliness is great: He appeared in a body, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.*

## **1 TIMOTHY 3:16**

### **MANIFESTATION**

Jesus Christ is God the Son who coexisted with God the Father and God the Spirit, and revealed Himself in human body. He is not the founder of a religion, a mere prophet, or a mere good teacher, He is the eternal God who emptied Himself of His eternal splendor and majesty. He appeared to Abraham, Jacob, and Moses. He lived, suffered, died, was buried, and rose again from the dead.

### **VINDICATION**

Jesus Christ was vindicated by the Holy Spirit. Those who doubted His divinity were put to shame by His resurrection. Other founders of religions are dead in their tombs, but only Jesus was raised by the Spirit of God, proving Himself to be the only way to salvation.

### **OBSERVATION AND PROCLAMATION**

The angels in Heaven watched as God stripped Himself of His glory and was born in manger in Bethlehem. They then went to proclaim His birth. After Christ's resurrection, His power and glory was revealed and further proclaimed from the highest to the lowest. The

church is to continue this proclamation.

## **RECEPTION**

Jesus Christ is believed in the world. All across the world thousands continue to believe and devote themselves to Christ, even at the cost of death.

## **GLORIFICATION**

The Disciples watched Jesus ascend into Heaven on the Mount of Olives to be glorified and to reign and rule at the right hand of God. They were convicted that He is sovereign over all the world, and given courage to die for Christ. God's word speaks of Christ's eternal glory and power in Philippians 2:8-11:

*<sup>8</sup> And being found in appearance as a man, he humbled himself and became obedient to death—even death on a cross!*

*<sup>9</sup> Therefore God exalted him to the highest place and gave him the name that is above every name,*

*<sup>10</sup> that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

*<sup>11</sup> and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

## **PHILIPPIANS 2:8-11**

## **CONCLUSION**

The West is facing some of the most morally dark days in many

generations. Every member of the church is needed to be an active part of the pillar upholding the Lord Jesus Christ, and the truth about Him.