

The Church and the Truth

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Text(s): Various texts from 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus

Outline:

Main Point: Because church is entrusted with the truth of the gospel, we must preserve it and proclaim it.

- I. THE CHURCH MUST PROCLAIM THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL
 - A. **By announcing the truth of the gospel**
 - B. **By explaining the truth of the gospel**
 - C. **By applying the truth of the gospel**
- II. THE CHURCH MUST PRESERVE THE TRUTH OF THE GOSPEL
 - A. **The commands to preserve the truth of the gospel.**
 - B. **The dangers from which the truth of the gospel needs to be preserved.**
 1. Preserving truth of the gospel from distortion.
 2. Preserving truth of the gospel from distraction.
 3. Preserving truth of the gospel from disinterest.

Discussion Questions:

1. In addition to announcing the news of the gospel, we must also *explain* it (doctrine) and *apply* it (ethics). We will often drift toward one of these to the exclusion of the other, but both are essential. To which do you find yourself more drawn? Using Pastor John's illustration of a spiritual health regimen, do you need to "eat a healthier diet" (the intake of sound doctrine) or "exercise more" (the application of doctrine to godly living)?
2. Pastor John mentioned three dangers from which the church must preserve the truth: distortion, distraction, and disinterest. How have you seen each of these dangers at work in and around the church? What about in your own heart? What steps can you take to make sure you are being responsible to preserve the truth of the gospel from each of the these dangers.
3. The truth of the gospel has been entrusted to *the whole church*, not just pastors and theologians. This means that we must all be involved in the proclamation and preservation of the gospel. How do you see yourself participating in both of these tasks? What are ways that you can practically take part in this work?