

## God's glorious purpose for the church

### 1 Timothy 3:14-16

1<sup>st</sup> November 2020

#### **Introduction**

#### **Why Paul's writing (verses 14-15)**

> Every book of the Bible is written for a purpose

> Purpose of 1 Timothy – verses 14-15

#### *Application*

> When reading the Bible at home – look for the author's purpose

#### **What is the church? (verse 15)**

> Not a building

> “Ekklesia” - gathering. But what kind of gathering?

*God's household, the church of the living God*

“Church family”

*Pillar and mainstay of the truth*

Supporting – keeping the truth in place

#### *Application*

> The importance of the local church in the local community

> The local church – God's solution to the days we're living in

> The importance of standing firm in the truth revealed in the Bible

“Our culture needs the church the most precisely in those areas where it has moved away from the truth the most.”

#### **The church's relation to Christ (verse 16)**

> Primary focus is Christ. He is the one who leads us to godliness. See also 2 Corinthians 3:18.

> The church continues the ministry of Christ in the world:

First 3 lines – about Christ's earthly ministry and ascension.

Lines 4 and 5 – about Christ's ongoing ministry through the church .

Line 6 – The church gathered around the ascended Christ in the new heavens and earth.

#### **Conclusion**

“What happens if a local church, or a denomination (network of local churches) ceases to perform its function as the church?”

#### **Taking it further:**

> **Book** – “God's new community” – Graham Beynon