

Firm Foundations

Stand fast and hold the traditions which you were taught, whether by word or our epistle.

2 Thessalonians 2:15

Your biggest questions answered using God's Word!

Do I understand the way we worship and key Biblical Principles ?

How can I build a deeper relationship with God?

Clark Young People Lectures - 2024

Schedule- April 5th-7th

Friday:

7:30-8:15	Introduction/Message/Singing
8:15-8:30	Prayer
8:30	Dinner

Saturday:

8:30-9:45	Breakfast
9:45-10:00	Prayer
10:00-10:15	Singing
10:15-11:00	Interactive Lecture I
11:00-11:15	Break
11:15-12:00	Interactive Lecture II
12:00-12:45	Discussion Groups
12:45-2:00	Lunch
2:00- 2:30	Interactive Lecture III
2:30-2:45	Break
2:45-3:15	Interactive Lecture IV
3:15-4:00	Discussion Groups
4:00-4:15	Break
4:15-4:45	Ministry
4:45-5:30	Q&A
5:30-7:00	Dinner
7:00	Young People Activity

656 Bartholomew Rd, Piscataway, NJ, 08854

Sunday:

10:00-11:00	Breaking of Bread
11:00-11:45	Breakfast
11:45-12:00	Sunday School
12:00-12:30	Message #1
12:30-1:15	Singing/Ministry
1:15	Lunch

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love
which is in Christ Jesus.

Friday Night Devotions

When asked where you attend, and how certain meetings are run, can you answer and be ready to support with scripture?

- But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear - 1 Peter 3:15

- What does it mean to sanctify (set apart) the Lord God in your hearts?

- What is the hope that is in you?

- Define meekness and fear.

Order in the assembly should be Christ-centered and Spirit-led, and the same should apply to our own lives.

- Read Jeremiah 18:1-6.

- What is the purpose of a vessel? How are our hearts vessels?

- How do we allow the Holy Spirit to take full control of our vessels? What are some ways we can daily sacrifice our time to be used as vessels?

After meditating on these thoughts, can you truly say that the Spirit has its rightful place in your heart?

Assembly Principles

Establishing the Church

The church began on the day of Pentecost (Acts 2). What had to be done before the Lord built His church:

1. Need a resurrected Man in heaven
 - a. The church was a hidden “mystery” in the Old Testament, only revealed in the New Testament. (Eph. 3:3-10)
 - b. “I **will** build My church” (Matt 16:18)
 - i. While on earth, the Lord had not yet built His Church.

2. Had to have the Holy Spirit on earth to indwell and baptize all believers into one body *this is not water baptism (Acts 1:5)
 - a. Acts 2:4
 - b. Jn. 14:17
 - c. 1 Cor. 3:16; 12:13
 - d. Eph. 4:5

3. Need to baptize us into one body (the individuals were now “added together” and were ‘one’)
 - a. Acts 2:41, 47
 - b. Acts 4:32

The head of the Church is Christ (Col. 1:18)

- “And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.” -Eph. 1:22-23

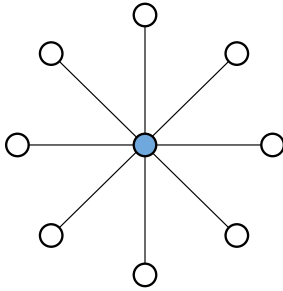
The body

- The word church/assembly does **not** mean a particular denomination
- The word church/assembly does **not** mean a building
- The word church/assembly **does** mean “ekklesia” in Greek, meaning the “called out ones”
 - Includes ALL saved people of this age (1 Cor. 1:10-13)
- We are all “saints”, “christians”, “brethren”
 - Everyone in the body of Christ is our brethren (1 Cor. 2:1). No matter where you are geographically located, you are part of the body of Christ.
 - Christ’s name is our only gathering center (Mt. 18:20).

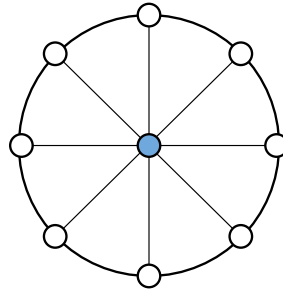
The Church Today (1 Cor. 1:10-13)

Each assembly is a local expression of the universal body of Christ (1 Cor. 1:2).

- They do **not** function independently of one another. They should be connected to Christ, the center, and to each other.



INDEPENDENT



DEPENDENT

From God's point of view, assemblies are to:

- Have no divisions
- Be perfectly joined together
- Have the same mind
- Have the same judgment

Assemblies should have one teaching

- 1 Cor. 4:17; 14:33
- Acts 15:1-33 shows the importance the early Church put on having **one** teaching
- In Rev. 2-3, the Lord shows that each of the seven local churches is responsible to Him, but ends each message with instruction for each to hear what the Spirit says to the **churches**.

There is no liturgy

- Liturgy - rituals set by man used for public worship
- All things are to be orderly. (1 Cor.14:40)
- But the order is to be the Holy Spirit's order, not man's. (1 Cor. 12:4-7)

There is no clergy

- Clergy - a body of people ordained by man to conduct religious worship and provide spiritual and moral guidance to members of a congregation
- There **are** elders in local churches appointed by the Holy Spirit to lead and to oversee. They are not necessarily gifted for ministry, not bosses, but leaders.
 - Acts 20:28
 - 1 Thes. 5:12-13
 - 1 Pet. 5:1-3
- God **DOES** call, appoint, train men and put them into the ministry for the whole church, but they are not ordained by man.
 - Gal 1:15-16
 - Acts 13:1-4
 - 1 Tim.1:12
- Having a gift is God's ordination to use it as directed by the Holy Spirit. God's ministers are servants of all, not clergy, and not only for one local church.
 - Eph. 4:11-12
 - 1 Pet. 4:10-11
 - Acts 8:4

There is no laity

- Laity - the 'unskilled' mass of people who are not members of the 'skilled' clergy
- Every Christian has a gift.
 - 1 Cor. 12:7,11
 - Eph. 4:7,16
- The body of Christ is knit together and grows 'by what every joint supplies' - by which 'every part does its share' (Eph.4:16).
- All parts are needed (1 Cor.12:12-27).

Our Personal Responsibility

The priesthood of all believers

- A priest has direct access to God
- In the Old Testament, the people needed an intermediary, a priest, to go to God for them. In Christianity we are a “kingdom of priests” (Rev. 1:6)
- We are HOLY priests so we all can worship - offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God (1 Pet. 2:5). We have access to God in the holiest (Heb. 10:19-22)
- We are ROYAL priests so we all may serve Him, proclaiming Him to the unsaved (gospel) and to believers (ministry) (1 Pet. 2:9)

Our God-given roles

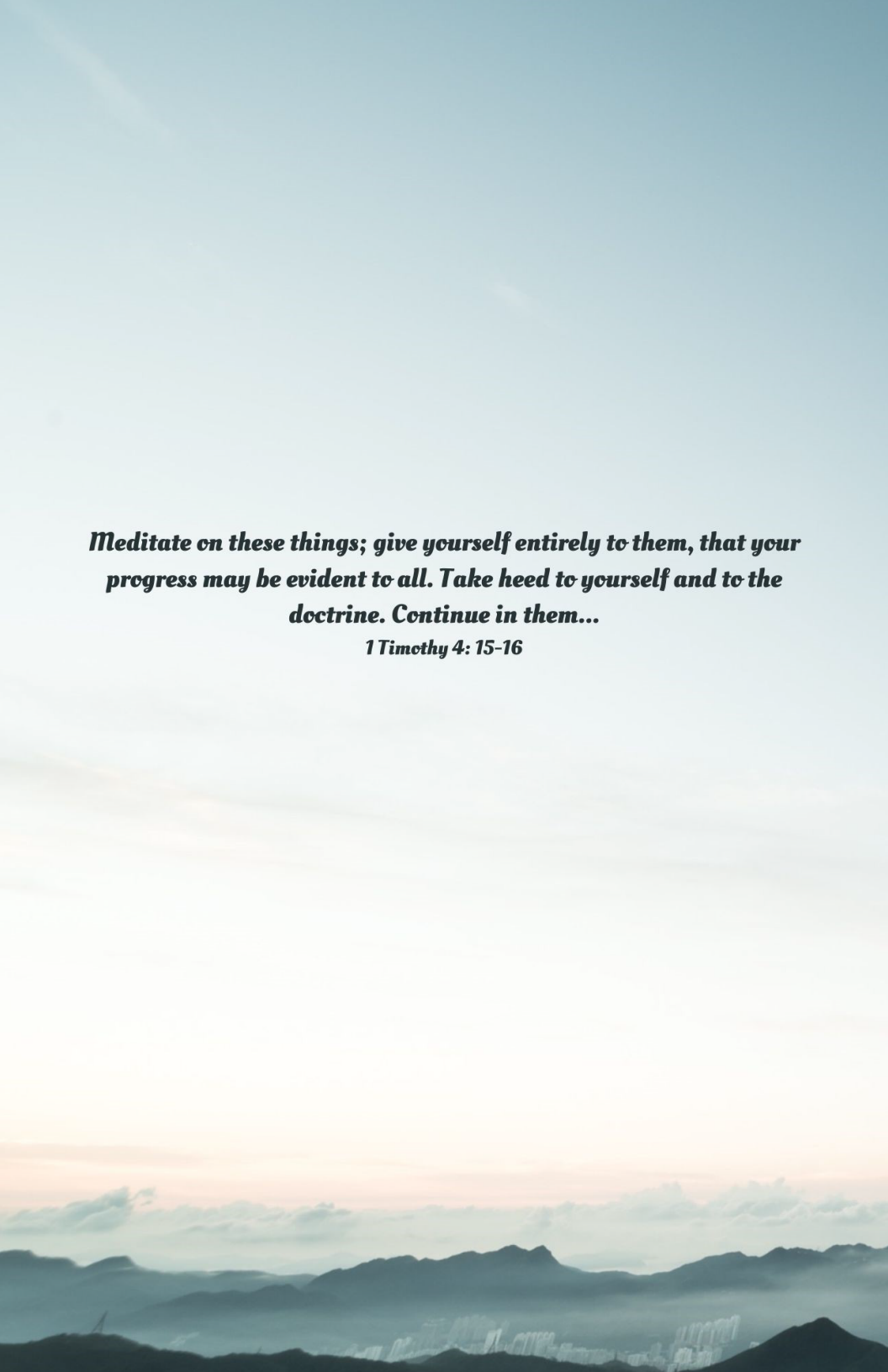
- In God’s perfect ways, ‘man’ pictures Christ, while ‘woman’ pictures His bride, the Church (Eph. 5:23-33).
- God has an order-of-authority in creation: Christ, man, woman, children.
 - 1 Cor. 11:3, 8-9
 - Eph. 6:1
- Man is to take the public place in the assembly. This represents how Christ teaches His Church.
 - Creation’s order: man was created before woman. (Gen 2: 21-23)
- Women are not to take the public place in the assembly. This represents how the Church should be to Christ. The Church does not teach Christ (1 Cor.14:34-37).
- Women are to cover their heads as a sign of her subjection to Christ (1 Cor. 11:4-16).

Scripturally-defined discipline

- Personal problems are to be solved (Mt. 18:15-17).
- Moral and doctrinal evil are to be stopped (1 Cor. 5; Gal. 5:1-10; 1 Tim.1:20; 2 Tim. 2:16-18).
 - Admonish (Tit. 1:13)
 - Warn (1 Thes. 5:14)
 - Restore (Gal. 6:1-2)
 - Avoid sinners (Rom. 16:17-18; 2 Thes. 3:6, 14-15)
 - Stop mouths (Titus 1:10-11; 3:9-11)
 - Excommunicate (1 Cor. 5:13)

The Lord's Supper

- By apostolic example, the brethren met together 'ON THE FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK to break bread' (Acts 20:7).
- The early disciples were STEADFAST in the breaking of bread; it was really important to them (Acts 2:42).
- The Lord had instructed them to do so in remembrance of Him (Lk. 22:19-20; 1 Cor.11:23-26).
- **Revelation** of it from Christ in glory to the apostles for **communication** to the assembly, as such hence its **celebration** with its character of **commemoration** of the death of Christ, with its **declaration** of that fact to any and all who will take account of it and this in the **anticipation** of his coming again, thus indicating his intention of its **continuation** until then.
- There is a need on our part of **preparation** in the light of the fact, as propounded in chapter 10, that **participation** in the Lord's Supper involves our **identification** with the death of Christ and commits us to the **obligation** to stand apart, in holy separation, from everything which is condemned in, and opposed to, the death of our lord.



Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all. Take heed to yourself and to the doctrine. Continue in them...

1 Timothy 4: 15-16