PAUL’S LETTER TO TIMOTHY, PASTOR AT EPHESUS:  
IX. “A Praise Song of the Early Church”  
I Timothy 3:14 – 16

Introduction:

Our series on Paul’s letter of counsel to Timothy

Three central truths that stand out in this letter: Timothy stand for the F__________, lead the church to internal H____________ and I___________ and D__________.

Paul wanted his dear son in the faith Timothy to be a man of T________

Paul’s thoughts as he opened the letter I Timothy 1:1, 2

Paul’s testimony of how the Lord Jesus changed him

He began to build up the faith of the church that he once tried to destroy

He says that Jesus alive in our lives by His Spirit is our H____

There has to be something on the I____________ that is greater than the beatings we experience on the O____________. That something is a someone who brings to us hope! Colossians 1:27, I John 3:2, 3

There is a sense in which believers in Jesus live here on earth with a view to our eternal destiny. Three ways hope causes us to triumph:

1. The hope of I___________ and M__________ victory over sin
2. The hope of victory over negative C________________________
3. The hope of victory over D__________

I. The Church of Jesus is Why Paul Wrote this Letter:
I Timothy 3:14, 15a

Paul longed to see Timothy but he was facing more imprisonment and sentencing so he wrote to tell him how people should conduct themselves in the church.

The Church of Jesus is a living and dynamic, organic thing, that Jesus Himself is building on planet earth.

There are four words Paul highlights here about the church of Jesus:
1. We are a **H**

2. We are an assembly of **C** **O** **O**

3. We are the **P** of truth

4. We are the **F** of the truth

**II. The Truth that We Proclaim Together:**
I Timothy 3:15b, 16a

We noted last week that deacons are to work alongside the pastors to keep hold of the deep truths of the faith – mysteries. They are to keep hold of **S** **K**

The word mystery has to do with what was once kept hidden in the heart of God but now has been made known in Christ.

Paul wants all of us to know what it means to know and walk with God personally.

We learn what it is to be pulled in to the secret places in God’s heart and hear and feel what God feels for each of us and for our loved ones. This is the **M** that **M** us to become **G**!

The mystery of God the Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit working in the human heart to create divine life in us

**III. A Praise Song: A Creed of the Early Church:**
I Timothy 3:16

They sang these truths in worship services – six truths:

Jesus **A** in a **B**

Jesus was **V** by the **S**

Jesus was seen by **A**

Jesus was **P** among the **N**

Jesus was **B** **O** in the world

Jesus was **A** into **H**

**Concluding Thoughts:**
Discussion Starter Questions for Home Groups

1. Why do you think Paul wrote so strongly about having hope that comes from knowing Jesus personally?

2. What were you thinking when you heard the teaching that Paul characterized the church in four different pictures, each designed to tell us something about our roles?

3. When you think about the teaching that the church is called to stand for the truth as it is in Jesus regardless of the pressure from culture to cave in to its demands that we stop speaking the truth of God?

4. What were your thoughts as you heard the teaching that there are things in the heart of God that He desires for us to know and that require that we invest time with Him?

5. What were your thoughts about the early church praise song, that they sang a creed in order to keep truth alive and passing from life to life?

6. What reasons can you give for why Paul would have included this praise song in this letter to his young pastor brother?

7. Read together aloud Philippians 2:6 to 11 and discuss insights that you have regarding how and why the Christians sang doctrinal truths when they worshipped.

8. Read together the song in I John 2:12 – 14 and discuss insights you have as to why John included these words in his letter.

9. Are there people in your sphere of influence who need you to pray for them with Jesus until you have received His heart for them beating in your heart?