***"Comforts & Cautions For Christ's Church"***

**1 Timothy 3:14 - 4:10 - 2/24/19**

*How does God want to both comfort & caution us, as His church?*

Every church needs the comfort of God and His Word; and every church needs to be cautioned by God and His Word.

**1 Timothy 3:14-16**

1) By Having Us Understand What We Are, & Whose We Are

In Christ, we are the church of the living God and as such, we're the pillar and support of truth.

The implications of that are that we're to uphold the truth, as we proclaim the truth.

If we stop doing either of these, then we are no longer a church, but a gathering place.

We don't want to be 'a gathering place', that has lost its purpose and mission.

When it comes to Whose we are, for those *in* Jesus, we are His - created *for* godliness, *through* Him. **\*Vs.16*a***

As we come to know Jesus, He changes us; and our desire is to become more like Him.

Do you and I affirm our true identification through what we *do*, or is it only by what we say?

**1 Timothy 4:1-7*a***

2) By Avoiding Doctrines Of Demons, While Sustaining Sound Doctrine

Demons are theology majors; some (perhaps many?) likely know the Bible, as Satan does (Mt. 4). Apparently, they have smooth systems of doctrines that deceive and contradict the truth (4:1).

Don't look for the pitchfork and long tail, but for comfortable, cozy teaching that appeals to the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eyes, and the boastful pride of life.

When it comes to 'holier than thou', *"I'm more spiritual than God"*, (hyper-spiritual) type teaching - *run*!... "It is for freedom that Christ has set us free"!

It is this ancient treasure (The Bible), that believers can possess - with its message of *true hope*, which grounds our lives.

Are you spending time with the Bible (with Him!)? Are you taking its sound teachings into your mind, heart, soul & life? **Jerem.17:7+8**

**1 Timothy 4:7*b*-10**

3) God Desires To Comfort & Encourage His Church To Strive For Godly Discipline, As We Excel Toward The Life To Come

Discipline is a necessity if we're going to be successful in life. Godly discipline is also a necessity if we're going to have success in our spiritual life.

"Bodily discipline" was apparently big in Paul's day as well; but it is "only of little profit".

Yet in contrast, "godliness is profitable for *all* things, since it holds promise for the present life, and also for the life to *come*."

How do we go about this 'spiritual discipline'?... It's sort of the same as you would do with physical fitness - you need to be intentional.

There should be a plan - time set side, effort and sacrifices made, for the purpose of forming discipline with godly, Christ-like results.

Begin with a good book, Donald Whitney's, *The Spiritual Disciplines*.

Each discipline is worked toward "for the purpose of godliness"!

**1 Tim.4:10*a+b***

We can't just read about it, we have to implement them.

We won't do all of them all of the time, nor will we do them completely and correctly at all times, but we're looking for steady improvement.

As with working out and eating well, this is to be both a progression and a lifestyle change.