## The Mark of the Church PASTOR MIKE YODER • 1 TIMOTHY 3:14–16 FIRST Foundations of a Healthy Church





Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God



#### Godly living marks the Church of the living God.

Although I hope to come to you soon, I am writing you these instructions so that,

if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth.

Beyond all question, the mystery from which true godliness springs is great:

He appeared in the flesh, was vindicated by the Spirit, was seen by angels, was preached among the nations, was believed on in the world, was taken up in glory.

# The Context: Paul's Travels (3:14)

### The Command: Appropriate Christian living as God's people (3:15)

#### Conduct: Family members behave according to their Father's dignity.

#### Ownership: The Church belongs to the Living God.

#### Purpose: The Church sustains and highlights the truth.

Here then is the double responsibility of the church: First, as its foundation it is to *hold it firm*, so that it does not collapse under the weight of false teaching. Secondly, as its pillar it is to *hold it high*, so that it is not hidden from the world.

**John Stott** 

To remind the church that it is a structure called to uphold the truth of Christianity is also to remind it that it is a household called to manifest that truth in its conduct and to conform to it.

**George Knight** 

#### The Characteristics of God's People as His Church

#### The Culmination: Jesus, Godliness Embodied and Perfected (3:16)

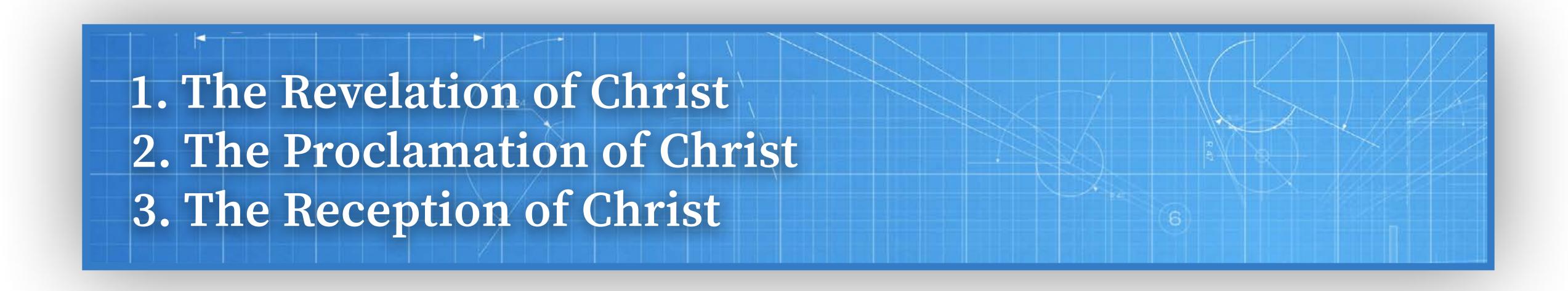


Let all who are under a yoke as bondservants regard their own masters as worthy of all honor, so that the name of God and the teaching may not be reviled.

Jesus Christ is the purest mystery of godliness — the hidden God revealed perfectly.

The first of the three couplets presents Christ's work accomplished, the second His Word made known, and the third His work acknowledged.

**George Knight** 



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