

INTRODUCTION

In order that the instructions given in this letter take hold in our conscience, the Holy Spirit inspired the apostle Paul to describe the church to us in three ways.

What we call “the church” is the house of God. The tabernacle and the temple are no longer the house of God. The church is the house of God.

What we call “the church” is the congregation of the living God. If even the ekklesia of the pagans in Ephesus know there are sensible rules for how to act in the assembly of the lifeless goddess, how much more do we Christians know that there must be sensible rules for how we conduct ourselves in the congregation of the living God!

Today we take up the third of these three descriptions of the church, and we see that what we call “the church” is the pillar and ground of the truth.

TEXT

1 Timothy 3:14-15

BODY

What we call “the church” is the pillar and ground of the truth.

I. The Truth G225 *aletheia*

- A. God is perfect; so, whatever can be said about God that is true ascribes the glory to Him, as He deserves
- B. God has given us a perfect law; so, whatever can be said about God's law that is true delivers all the benefit of that law to us creatures, and gives all the glory for that perfect law to God
- C. God has always had a perfect plan to save guilty sinners from the wrath to come; because His saving plan is perfect, whatever can be said about God's salvation that is true is what best declares the gospel to sinners, and what best ascribes all glory for that salvation to God our Savior.
- D. Over the centuries, God proclaimed His law and His salvation through many prophets
 - 1. as the Holy Spirit carried them along, they spoke and wrote the truth
 - 2. but they were sinful men, their natures corrupted by sin
- E. Finally, God sent forth His own Son, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
 - 1. He came full of truth, speaking the word of God, which is truth, with no falsehood in Him at all; He bore witness to the truth
 - 2. so much was He full of truth, and so much did He speak the truth, that He rightly said of Himself, "I am the truth"
- F. Jesus Christ, being full of truth, in whom was no lie, took the guilt of liars upon Himself; He allowed Himself to be punished for what deceitful sinners deserved; He suffered and died, nailed to a cross; He, the truth, endured the punishment from God that we, the liars, deserved. He died there on that cross, and was buried. But because He was not Himself guilty of any falsehood, or any other sin, death had no hold on Him. On the third day from when He died, early in the morning on the first day of the week, Jesus Christ rose again from the dead, alive forevermore!
- G. Jesus Christ sent His apostles forth with a true message, good news, the gospel; they went telling who Jesus Christ is: both God and man in one person; how Jesus had come into this world full of truth, how He had died on the cross in the place of sinners; they went preaching forgiveness of sins for sinners, and eternal life, all by repentance and faith in His name; the apostles called this gospel "the truth of the gospel" or "the word of truth" or simply "the truth"

II. The Church As the Pillar and Ground of the Truth

A. Pillar and ground

1. Pillar - a thick, strong structure that supports something, like a statue or other monument, or the roof of a building
2. Ground or Stay/Buttress
 - a) Greek word is something firm, steadfast, immovable
 - b) two possibilities
 - (1) ground - something like a base upon which the pillar sits
 - (2) stay/buttress - something that keeps the pillar, strong vertically, from tipping over sideways, so that it is strong in all directions
3. the pillar and ground holds a statue or monument or building up
 - a) so it can be seen
 - b) so it can remain unchanged, undamaged

B. Outside the church, in the world, where sinners walk according to the influence of the devil, the truth is not honored

1. many in the world deny that there is such a thing as truth
2. others in the world don't know what truth is
3. some do not believe the truth, never having heard it
4. some do not believe the truth, even though they have heard it
5. e.g. remember Timothy is in Ephesus, where the men of the city chanted for two hours "Great is Artemis of the Ephesians"

C. In the church, the truth is

1. known
2. believed
3. loved
4. acknowledged
5. obeyed
6. walked in
7. worn around our waist like a belt
8. preached or proclaimed
9. taught
10. kept, being entrusted by one faithful man to another through the generations

D. Always the devil, who is the father of lies, in whom there is no truth, is trying to introduce untruth into the church; from outside the church, false messages come to the ears of the disciples; sometimes, from inside the church, someone spreads false doctrine

1. some might err concerning the truth, believing and maybe even teaching things that are not true
2. some, however much they learn, never seem able to come to the knowledge of the truth
3. some resist the truth
4. some turn away their ears from the truth, and turn to fables
5. some preach the truth, but do it in pretense, for some false purpose
6. e.g. remember that Timothy is in Ephesus, where Paul warned the church elders
Acts 20:28-30 NKJV

- E. Against the world's despising of the truth outside the church, and against the introduction of untruth into the church, the Lord Jesus has appointed the church to be the pillar and ground of the truth
1. as a pillar holds something up, so that it can be seen, so the church holds up the truth for the world to see it
 2. as a pillar holds something up, so that it does not fall, so the church holds up the truth so that it remains unchanged, undamaged, so that it does not fall
 - a) into disgrace
 - b) into ruins
- F. The instructions in this letter are necessary to the church being a sound pillar
1. think of what we have learned so far
 - a) that the church keep sound doctrine
 - b) that the church pray for all men to be saved
 - c) that the church pray for those in power in the government
 - d) that the men of the church not strive with one another
 - e) that the women of the church not try to put on a show with their appearance
 - f) that the women of the church not be the church's teachers
 - (1) remember Eve's being beguiled or deceived by the devil, believing His lies to be true
 - g) that the church choose for its pastors and deacons only such men as are blameless
 2. all keeping of these instructions is the keeping of the pillar sound and strong
 3. all breaking of these instructions is the introducing of cracks into the pillar
- G. Note that the church is here said to be THE pillar and ground of the truth
1. clearly other institutions cannot be depended on to maintain the truth
 - a) the government
 - b) the press
 - c) the university
 2. God has appointed the church to be THE pillar and ground of the truth

CONCLUSION

What is it you are doing when you come here on the Lord's Day? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

What is it you are doing when you prioritize sound doctrine in your church? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

What is it you are doing when you pray for the government officials, and pray for sinners to be saved? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

What is it you are doing when you make sure your attitudes toward others in the church are peaceful and you make sure the way you dress is modest? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

What is it you are doing when you make sure the church's teachers are men only, and the church's officers are blameless? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

What is it you are doing when you work hard to take care of your own household? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

What is it you are doing when you give a good day's work at your job, and your employer or your customer benefits from your labor? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

What is it you are doing, when you refuse to love wealth and the things of this world, in favor of pursuing righteousness, godliness, faith, love, patience, gentleness? you are holding up the truth of Jesus Christ until He comes back

~~Jeremiah~~ Jeff - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - John 4:23-24

Dillon - Scripture Reading - Psalm 25

Thad - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - 3 John 4

Journey - Prelude "This Is My Father's World"

Rita - Trinity 700 "Trust and Obey"

Allison - Trinity 412 "Out of the Deep I Call"

Allison - Trinity 547 "My Jesus, I Love"

1828 Webster "pillar"

2. A supporter; that which sustains or upholds; that on which some superstructure rests.

1828 Webster "ground"

5. Foundation; that which supports any thing.

Genesis 24:27 NKJV And he said, "Blessed be the LORD God of my master Abraham, who has not forsaken His mercy and His truth toward my master. As for me, being on the way, the LORD led me to the house of my master's brethren."

Genesis 24:48 NKJV And I bowed my head and worshiped the LORD, and blessed the LORD God of my master Abraham, who had led me in the way of truth to take the daughter of my master's brother for his son.

Genesis 32:10 NKJV I am not worthy of the least of all the mercies and of all the truth which You have shown Your servant; for I crossed over this Jordan with my staff, and now I have become two companies.

Genesis 47:29 NKJV When the time drew near that Israel must die, he called his son Joseph and said to him, "Now if I have found favor in your sight, please put your hand under my thigh, and deal kindly and truly with me. Please do not bury me in Egypt,

Exodus 28:30 NKJV And you shall put in the breastplate of judgment the Urim and the Thummim, and they shall be over Aaron's heart when he goes in before the LORD. So Aaron shall bear the judgment of the children of Israel over his heart before the LORD continually.

Leviticus 8:8 NKJV Then he put the breastplate on him, and he put the Urim and the Thummim in the breastplate.

Deuteronomy 22:20 NKJV "But if the thing is true, and evidences of virginity are not found for the young woman,

Deuteronomy 33:8 NKJV And of Levi he said: "Let Your Thummim and Your Urim be with Your holy one, Whom You tested at Massah, And with whom You contended at the waters of Meribah,

Joshua 2:14 NKJV So the men answered her, "Our lives for yours, if none of you tell this business of ours. And it shall be, when the LORD has given us the land, that we will deal kindly and truly with you."

Judges 9:15 NKJV And the bramble said to the trees, 'If in truth you anoint me as king over you, Then come and take shelter in my shade; But if not, let fire come out of the bramble And devour the cedars of Lebanon!'

Judges 9:16 NKJV "Now therefore, if you have acted in truth and sincerity in making Abimelech king, and if you have dealt well with Jerubbaal and his house, and have done to him as he deserves--

Judges 9:19 NKJV if then you have acted in truth and sincerity with Jerubbaal and with his house this day, then rejoice in Abimelech, and let him also rejoice in you.

1 Samuel 12:24 NKJV Only fear the LORD, and serve Him in truth with all your heart; for consider what great things He has done for you.

2 Samuel 2:6 NKJV And now may the LORD show kindness and truth to you. I also will repay you this kindness, because you have done this thing.

2 Samuel 15:20 NKJV In fact, you came only yesterday. Should I make you wander up and down with us today, since I go I know not where? Return, and take your brethren back. Mercy and truth be with you."

1 Kings 2:4 NKJV that the LORD may fulfill His word which He spoke concerning me, saying, 'If your sons take heed to their way, to walk before Me in truth with all their heart and with all their soul,' He said, 'you shall not lack a man on the throne of Israel.'

1 Kings 3:6 NKJV And Solomon said: "You have shown great mercy to Your servant David my father, because he walked before You in truth, in righteousness, and in uprightness of heart with You; You have continued this great kindness for him, and You have given him a son to sit on his throne, as it is this day.

1 Kings 22:16 NKJV So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

2 Kings 19:17 NKJV Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste the nations and their lands,

2 Kings 20:3 NKJV "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what was good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

1 Chronicles 12:17 NKJV And David went out to meet them, and answered and said to them, "If you have come peaceably to me to help me, my heart will be united with you; but if to betray me to my enemies, since there is no wrong in my hands, may the God of our fathers look and bring judgment."

2 Chronicles 18:15 NKJV So the king said to him, "How many times shall I make you swear that you tell me nothing but the truth in the name of the LORD?"

2 Chronicles 19:9 NKJV And he commanded them, saying, "Thus you shall act in the fear of the LORD, faithfully and with a loyal heart:

2 Chronicles 32:1 NKJV After these deeds of faithfulness, Sennacherib king of Assyria came and entered Judah; he encamped against the fortified cities, thinking to win them over to himself.

Nehemiah 9:13 NKJV "You came down also on Mount Sinai, And spoke with them from heaven, And gave them just ordinances and true laws, Good statutes and commandments.

Nehemiah 9:33 NKJV However You are just in all that has befallen us; For You have dealt faithfully, But we have done wickedly.

Job 9:2 NKJV "Truly I know it is so, But how can a man be righteous before God?

Job 19:4 NKJV And if indeed I have erred, My error remains with me.

Job 23:7 NKJV There the upright could reason with Him, And I would be delivered forever from my Judge.

Job 36:4 NKJV For truly my words are not false; One who is perfect in knowledge is with you.

Psalms 5:9 NKJV For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; Their inward part is destruction; Their throat is an open tomb; They flatter with their tongue.

Psalms 12:1 NKJV To the Chief Musician. On An Eight-Stringed Harp. A Psalm of David. Help, LORD, for the godly man ceases! For the faithful disappear from among the sons of men.

Psalms 15:2 NKJV He who walks uprightly, And works righteousness, And speaks the truth in his heart;

Psalms 25:5 NKJV Lead me in Your truth and teach me, For You are the God of my salvation; On You I wait all the day.

Psalms 25:10 NKJV All the paths of the LORD are mercy and truth, To such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.

Psalms 26:3 NKJV For Your lovingkindness is before my eyes, And I have walked in Your truth.

Psalms 30:9 NKJV "What profit is there in my blood, When I go down to the pit? Will the dust praise You? Will it declare Your truth?"

Psalms 31:5 NKJV Into Your hand I commit my spirit; You have redeemed me, O LORD God of truth.

Psalms 31:23 NKJV Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.

Psalms 36:5 NKJV Your mercy, O LORD, is in the heavens; Your faithfulness reaches to the clouds.

Psalms 40:10 NKJV I have not hidden Your righteousness within my heart; I have declared Your faithfulness and Your salvation; I have not concealed Your lovingkindness and Your truth From the great assembly.

Psalms 40:11 NKJV Do not withhold Your tender mercies from me, O LORD; Let Your lovingkindness and Your truth continually preserve me.

Psalms 43:3 NKJV Oh, send out Your light and Your truth! Let them lead me; Let them bring me to Your holy hill And to Your tabernacle.

Psalms 45:4 NKJV And in Your majesty ride prosperously because of truth, humility, and righteousness; And Your right hand shall teach You awesome things.

Psalms 51:6 NKJV Behold, You desire truth in the inward parts, And in the hidden part You will make me to know wisdom.

Psalms 54:5 NKJV He will repay my enemies for their evil. Cut them off in Your truth.

Psalms 57:3 NKJV He shall send from heaven and save me; He reproaches the one who would swallow me up. Selah. God shall send forth His mercy and His truth.

Psalms 57:10 NKJV For Your mercy reaches unto the heavens, And Your truth unto the clouds.

Psalms 61:7 NKJV He shall abide before God forever. Oh, prepare mercy and truth, which may preserve him!

Psalms 69:13 NKJV But as for me, my prayer is to You, O LORD, in the acceptable time; O God, in the multitude of Your mercy, Hear me in the truth of Your salvation.

Psalms 71:22 NKJV Also with the lute I will praise You-- And Your faithfulness, O my God! To You I will sing with the harp, O Holy One of Israel.

Psalms 84:11 NKJV For the LORD God is a sun and shield; The LORD will give grace and glory; No good thing will He withhold From those who walk uprightly.

Psalms 85:10 NKJV Mercy and truth have met together; Righteousness and peace have kissed.

Psalms 85:11 NKJV Truth shall spring out of the earth, And righteousness shall look down from heaven.

Psalms 86:11 NKJV Teach me Your way, O LORD; I will walk in Your truth; Unite my heart to fear Your name.

Psalms 88:11 NKJV Shall Your lovingkindness be declared in the grave? Or Your faithfulness in the place of destruction?

Psalms 89:1 NKJV A Contemplation of Ethan the Ezrahite. I will sing of the mercies of the LORD forever; With my mouth will I make known Your faithfulness to all generations.

Psalms 89:2 NKJV For I have said, "Mercy shall be built up forever; Your faithfulness You shall establish in the very heavens."

Psalms 89:5 NKJV And the heavens will praise Your wonders, O LORD; Your faithfulness also in the assembly of the saints.

Psalms 89:8 NKJV O LORD God of hosts, Who is mighty like You, O LORD? Your faithfulness also surrounds You.

Psalms 89:14 NKJV Righteousness and justice are the foundation of Your throne; Mercy and truth go before Your face.

Psalms 89:24 NKJV "But My faithfulness and My mercy shall be with him, And in My name his horn shall be exalted.

Psalms 89:33 NKJV Nevertheless My lovingkindness I will not utterly take from him, Nor allow My faithfulness to fail.

Psalms 89:49 NKJV Lord, where are Your former lovingkindnesses, Which You swore to David in Your truth?

Psalms 91:4 NKJV He shall cover you with His feathers, And under His wings you shall take refuge; His truth shall be your shield and buckler.

Psalms 92:2 NKJV To declare Your lovingkindness in the morning, And Your faithfulness every night,

Psalms 96:13 NKJV For He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with righteousness, And the peoples with His truth.

Psalms 98:3 NKJV He has remembered His mercy and His faithfulness to the house of Israel; All the ends of the earth have seen the salvation of our God.

Psalms 100:5 NKJV For the LORD is good; His mercy is everlasting, And His truth endures to all generations.

Psalms 108:4 NKJV For Your mercy is great above the heavens, And Your truth reaches to the clouds.

Psalms 111:7 NKJV The works of His hands are verity and justice; All His precepts are sure.

Psalms 111:8 NKJV They stand fast forever and ever, And are done in truth and uprightness.

Psalms 115:1 NKJV Not unto us, O LORD, not unto us, But to Your name give glory, Because of Your mercy, Because of Your truth.

Psalms 117:2 NKJV For His merciful kindness is great toward us, And the truth of the LORD endures forever. Praise the LORD!

Psalms 119:30 NKJV I have chosen the way of truth; Your judgments I have laid before me.

Psalms 119:43 NKJV And take not the word of truth utterly out of my mouth, For I have hoped in Your ordinances.

Psalms 119:75 NKJV I know, O LORD, that Your judgments are right, And that in faithfulness You have afflicted me.

Psalms 119:86 NKJV All Your commandments are faithful; They persecute me wrongfully; Help me!

Psalms 119:90 NKJV Your faithfulness endures to all generations; You established the earth, and it abides.

Psalms 119:138 NKJV Your testimonies, which You have commanded, Are righteous and very faithful.

Psalms 119:142 NKJV Your righteousness is an everlasting righteousness, And Your law is truth.

Psalms 119:151 NKJV You are near, O LORD, And all Your commandments are truth.

Psalms 119:160 NKJV The entirety of Your word is truth, And every one of Your righteous judgments endures forever.

Psalms 132:11 NKJV The LORD has sworn in truth to David; He will not turn from it: "I will set upon your throne the fruit of your body.

Psalms 138:2 NKJV I will worship toward Your holy temple, And praise Your name For Your lovingkindness and Your truth; For You have magnified Your word above all Your name.

Psalms 143:1 NKJV A Psalm of David. Hear my prayer, O LORD, Give ear to my supplications! In Your faithfulness answer me, And in Your righteousness.

Psalms 145:18 NKJV The LORD is near to all who call upon Him, To all who call upon Him in truth.

Psalms 146:6 NKJV Who made heaven and earth, The sea, and all that is in them; Who keeps truth forever,

Proverbs 8:7 NKJV For my mouth will speak truth; Wickedness is an abomination to my lips.

Proverbs 11:18 NKJV The wicked man does deceptive work, But he who sows righteousness will have a sure reward.

Proverbs 14:22 NKJV Do they not go astray who devise evil? But mercy and truth belong to those who devise good.

Proverbs 20:28 NKJV Mercy and truth preserve the king, And by lovingkindness he upholds his throne.

Proverbs 22:21 NKJV That I may make you know the certainty of the words of truth, That you may answer words of truth To those who send to you?

Proverbs 26:28 NKJV A lying tongue hates those who are crushed by it, And a flattering mouth works ruin.

Proverbs 28:6 NKJV Better is the poor who walks in his integrity Than one perverse in his ways, though he be rich.

Proverbs 29:14 NKJV The king who judges the poor with truth, His throne will be established forever.

Ecclesiastes 12:10 NKJV The Preacher sought to find acceptable words; and what was written was upright--words of truth.

Isaiah 10:20 NKJV And it shall come to pass in that day That the remnant of Israel, And such as have escaped of the house of Jacob, Will never again depend on him who defeated them, But will depend on the LORD, the Holy One of Israel, in truth.

Isaiah 11:5 NKJV Righteousness shall be the belt of His loins, And faithfulness the belt of His waist.

Isaiah 16:5 NKJV In mercy the throne will be established; And One will sit on it in truth, in the tabernacle of David, Judging and seeking justice and hastening righteousness."

Isaiah 26:2 NKJV Open the gates, That the righteous nation which keeps the truth may enter in.

Isaiah 26:3 NKJV You will keep him in perfect peace, Whose mind is stayed on You, Because he trusts in You.

Isaiah 26:10 NKJV Let grace be shown to the wicked, Yet he will not learn righteousness; In the land of uprightness he will deal unjustly, And will not behold the majesty of the LORD.

Isaiah 37:18 NKJV Truly, LORD, the kings of Assyria have laid waste all the nations and their lands,

Isaiah 38:3 NKJV and said, "Remember now, O LORD, I pray, how I have walked before You in truth and with a loyal heart, and have done what is good in Your sight." And Hezekiah wept bitterly.

Isaiah 42:3 NKJV A bruised reed He will not break, And smoking flax He will not quench; He will bring forth justice for truth.

Isaiah 45:19 NKJV I have not spoken in secret, In a dark place of the earth; I did not say to the seed of Jacob, 'Seek Me in vain'; I, the LORD, speak righteousness, I declare things that are right.

Isaiah 48:1 NKJV "Hear this, O house of Jacob, Who are called by the name of Israel, And have come forth from the wellsprings of Judah; Who swear by the name of the LORD, And make mention of the God of Israel, But not in truth or in righteousness;

Isaiah 59:14 NKJV Justice is turned back, And righteousness stands afar off; For truth is fallen in the street, And equity cannot enter.

Isaiah 59:15 NKJV So truth fails, And he who departs from evil makes himself a prey. Then the LORD saw it, and it displeased Him That there was no justice.

Jeremiah 4:2 NKJV And you shall swear, 'The LORD lives,' In truth, in judgment, and in righteousness; The nations shall bless themselves in Him, And in Him they shall glory."

Jeremiah 9:5 NKJV Everyone will deceive his neighbor, And will not speak the truth; They have taught their tongue to speak lies; They weary themselves to commit iniquity.

Jeremiah 14:13 NKJV Then I said, "Ah, Lord GOD! Behold, the prophets say to them, 'You shall not see the sword, nor shall you have famine, but I will give you assured peace in this place.' "

Jeremiah 23:28 NKJV "The prophet who has a dream, let him tell a dream; And he who has My word, let him speak My word faithfully. What is the chaff to the wheat?" says the LORD.

Jeremiah 26:15 NKJV But know for certain that if you put me to death, you will surely bring innocent blood on yourselves, on this city, and on its inhabitants; for truly the LORD has sent me to you to speak all these words in your hearing."

Daniel 2:8 NKJV The king answered and said, "I know for certain that you would gain time, because you see that my decision is firm:

Daniel 2:47 NKJV The king answered Daniel, and said, "Truly your God is the God of gods, the Lord of kings, and a revealer of secrets, since you could reveal this secret."

Daniel 9:13 NKJV "As it is written in the Law of Moses, all this disaster has come upon us; yet we have not made our prayer before the LORD our God, that we might turn from our iniquities and understand Your truth.

Daniel 10:21 NKJV But I will tell you what is noted in the Scripture of Truth. (No one upholds me against these, except Michael your prince.

Daniel 11:2 NKJV And now I will tell you the truth: Behold, three more kings will arise in Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than them all; by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Greece.

Hosea 4:1 NKJV Hear the word of the LORD, You children of Israel, For the LORD brings a charge against the inhabitants of the land: "There is no truth or mercy Or knowledge of God in the land.

Micah 7:20 NKJV You will give truth to Jacob And mercy to Abraham, Which You have sworn to our fathers From days of old.

Zechariah 8:8 NKJV I will bring them back, And they shall dwell in the midst of Jerusalem. They shall be My people And I will be their God, In truth and righteousness.'

Zechariah 8:16 NKJV These are the things you shall do: Speak each man the truth to his neighbor; Give judgment in your gates for truth, justice, and peace;

Zechariah 8:19 NKJV "Thus says the LORD of hosts: 'The fast of the fourth month, The fast of the fifth, The fast of the seventh, And the fast of the tenth, Shall be joy and gladness and cheerful feasts For the house of Judah. Therefore love truth and peace.'

Malachi 2:6 NKJV The law of truth was in his mouth, And injustice was not found on his lips. He walked with Me in peace and equity, And turned many away from iniquity.

TYN the pillar and grounde of trueth

GEN the pillar and ground of trueth.

KJV the pillar and ground of the truth.

NKJV the pillar and ground of the truth.

ESV a pillar and buttress of the truth