

Glorying in Glorious Grace
“Getting Back On Track”
An Overview of Ephesians
Palmetto Baptist Church

Texts: Ephesians 3:21 & 4:1

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

Ephesians 4:1 I, therefore, the prisoner of the Lord, beseech you to walk worthy of the calling with which you were called,

Introduction:

Beth and I have been humbled and overwhelmed by the outpouring of love and welcome that we have experienced from you as a church – I feel like we have truly been the recipients of what Gospel Grace looks like and feels like as God is connecting us into this amazing body of believers.

And actually, that is a great lead into our topic this morning – “Getting Back on Track” with the series on Ephesians that you have been on for some time. I promised Pastor Jason that I would finish the series he began on this marvelous book and it is a promise that I am eager to fulfill given the spiritual impact that this book has had on my own spiritual life – no book of the NT has had a greater impact on me than Ephesians.

This morning I want to do a quick overview of the book to get us back into the book and to make sure we have a good grasp of the overview of what Paul is actually doing in this book.

Next week is Father’s Day so I am going to jump forward into the section in chapter 6 where God speaks to Fathers – and to all parents – and help us listen in to what Paul had to say to Christian Father’s in an effort to discover how ancient truth for Dad’s living in Ephesus is surprisingly relevant to Dad’s living in our world and in our day. Then after that, we will jump into the final part of chapter five and journey together through chapter six.

Our family has lived in the SC Upstate on three separate occasions. Our first time to live in the upstate was in 1986 – and we lived in a little home on Perrin Street until we moved to Wisconsin in 1996. We returned to the up-state in 2015 and we

were shocked at the amount of change that happened – for instance, downtown Greenville was entirely different. For almost six years we found ourselves constantly discovering new things about the upstate that were absolutely amazing – and not just downtown Greenville. We discovered the Swamp Rabbit trail. Tons of new restaurants.

And after being in CA for a year, we are so glad to be back in a place that is both comfortable and familiar to us – but – I have discovered something interesting about the experience I am having as we have returned to the upstate and are re-engaging. I am certainly seeing all the things that were familiar and that I enjoyed – but I am seeing a ton of things that are not as familiar – not because they were not there before, but because I had either overlooked them or had forgotten them – and now they are jumping up at me.

Let me give you an example – for years I have been driving through Powdersville and downtown Easley – but because I did not live there or minister in that area, I just drove through and did not really see what I was looking at as I drove through. Now that I live in Easley, I am driving those very same streets but am making a ton of new discoveries. I now know where Lowes and Home Depot are. I have discovered Shane's Rib Shack. I was very excited to find out there is a Freddy's about 2 miles from my house! The glory of living in Easley – all of you should aspire to experience it!

So ... what does my travel narrative have to do with our studying Ephesians together? Ephesians is one of those books in our NT that all of us have read ... multiple times. And most of us have formed some conclusions about the book as a result of our different trips through its chapters – we have a general idea that Paul is writing to early NT Christians living in a pagan culture to help them understand that Jesus is the head of the church and that as His church, part of loving Jesus means that we should love what He loves and since He loves the church, we should as well.

And then, some months ago, Pastor Jason began a series with you on this book and this time, your trip was different. You saw things on the journey that you may have looked at before but now you understood how they connected with a much bigger picture. So as familiar as you may have been with Ephesians, it was like looking at it with new eyes! You saw things that were there before but that you had not seen before.

But – you have been away from the book for almost four months now and on top of the trip being interrupted – you now have a different tour guide.

So before we jump in, start up the bus, and get moving again on our trip through Ephesians – I want to take a Sunday and get a good overview of the book so that we are all on the same page as we get ready to continue in this series on Glorious Grace. And my goal today is to look at that Glorious Grace in such a way that by the end, we actually are glorying in that grace!

- Here is what we have learned:
- The book naturally divides into two sections:
 - A. Divine Information God has Revealed to Us: 1 – 3
 - B. Direct Application God Expects of Us: 4-6

These two big divisions can be summed up in **four basic statements**:

I. A Divine Purpose Expressed (3:21)

Ephesians 3:21 to Him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus to all generations, forever and ever. Amen.

- A. Who – God the Father (1:3; 3:21)**
- B. What – Exalting the praise of His glory (1:6,12,14)**
- C. Where – the heavenlies (2:7; 3:10)**
- D. When – forever (now in this age 1:21; and in the coming age 2:7)**
- E. How? By means of a divine plan involving a group of people on the earth – the Church.**

II. **A Divine Plan Explained (1:9-10)**

Ephesians 1:9 having made known to us the mystery of His will, according to His good pleasure which He purposed in Himself, ¹⁰ that in the dispensation of the fullness of the times He might gather together in one all things in Christ, both which are in heaven and which are on earth -- in Him.

A. *Its Revelation(1:9-10)*

- It is a mystery – a divine secret that God is now revealing.
- It has Christ at its center.
- It has to do with a regathering of all things under the authority of Christ – everything in the universe will be arranged in its proper place under Christ's authority!

B. *Its Design (1:19ff)*

- To display 3 things (power, mercy/grace, wisdom) that will result in the universe rendering praise to the Glory of God!
 1. The Power of God displayed:
 - With respect to Christ (1:19-23)
 - With respect to us (2:1-6)
 2. The Mercy and Grace of God Displayed (2:7)
 3. The Wisdom of God Displayed (3:10)

C. *Its Administration*

- By calling together a group described in 3 ways:
 1. A Family adopted by God (1:4-5)
 2. A Community/Body formed for Christ to lead (1:22-23)
 3. A Temple for the Spirit to indwell (2:21-22)

D. *Its Execution*

- Through an Army that is:
 1. Clearly instructed and enlightened (prayer in 1:15-23)
 2. Completely empowered and equipped (prayer in 3:14-21)

III. A Disciplined Practice Expected (4 – 6)

- This disciplined practice can be summed up as a “Worthy Walk” (4:1)

A. *As the Church (4:1-16)*

- This worthy walk among believers involves:

1. Relational Unity (4:1-3)
2. Doctrinal Fidelity (4:4-6)
3. Spiritual Maturity and Stability (4:7-16)

B. *In the World (4:17-5:14)*

- When we are out in the world, a worthy walk involves:

1. Radical Contrast in mindset and lifestyle (4:17-32)
2. Revealing God by Walking In Love – Imitating God (5:1-7)
3. Reproving Darkness by Walking As Light (5:8-14)

C. *By Means of Transformed Relationships (5:15-6:9)*

1. Speech Transformed by the Spirit’s Wisdom (5:16)
2. Spirit/Attitude Shaped By the Word (5:17)
3. Marked by Spirit-enabled Submission – being in our place (5:18-21)
4. Touching every part of our life – marriage, home, occupation (5:22-6:9)

- In other words – if God has announced that He is working out a plan to put everything in its proper place under Christ – how does the Universe know this will truly happen?

- Because the first part of this plan has already come into being – you and me as the church! We are the evidence that this plan is

really going to come about – and that is why Satan wants to attack the Church in order to divert or distract her from fulfilling her role as the primary display of God’s power, mercy, and wisdom to bring about this plan!

IV. A Devastating Problem Exposed

- How does Satan get away with this? Why has he succeeded in marginalizing the church and domesticating its influence?

A. We don’t know the plan.

- We have never taken the time or the trouble to become informed.
- We have never asked God to open our eyes so we will understand.

B. We don’t participate in the plan.

- We haven’t seen its importance so it is not a priority in our life.
- We don’t want to make time to participate in the plan
- We don’t want to devote energy to work out the plan
- We don’t want to give our resources toward supporting the plan

C. We don’t follow the plan.

- We distort it for our own ideas about the church.
- We depart from it for our own wisdom and way.
- We disregard its demands and disobey its directives.

D. We are not vigilant to protect the plan.

- We don’t take our enemy seriously
- We don’t take up the armor God has provided
- We don’t use the weapons God has given

Conclusion:

So – if we are going to take the book of Ephesians seriously, then each of us have to come to grips with some serious application to our own lives:

1. Ephesians is about what God is doing for His glory. This is great theology on Sunday, but it has deeply personal implications on Monday because most of us are in some way or another wanting God to do things for us, fix things around us, and ultimately work out things for our personal good – and when our expectations don't coincide with His purposes for His glory – we struggle.

Have you truly embraced that your purposes must be aligned to God's and not the other way around? **Embrace God's Purposes for His glory!**

2. Taking Ephesians seriously means that Christianity is not easy – it will require that you live for a bigger cause than your own!
 - a. Are you willing to **serve** the cause of Christ through His Church?
 - b. Are you willing to **suffer** in order to advance His Church?
 - c. Are you willing to **sacrifice** your resources and plans in order to advance His Church?

Engage in God's Plan for His Glory!

3. As a believer – you are part of a Divine army! You are not in the stands or on the sidelines – you are on the field of battle! So ... are you intentionally engaged and personally committed to participate in the spiritual battle God has called you to fight? **Fight for the Priority of God's Glory!**
4. God has told you His plan to reconcile all things through the ministry of His Son. Are you reconciled to God this morning? Are you reconciled to others? **Be reconciled to God and to Others for God's Glory!**
5. If you are not a Christian – God has gone to incredible lengths to make it possible for you to become a part of His great family! Will you respond to His invitation this morning?

Digging Deeper – Beyond the Pulpit

Ephesians is unique in that it focuses our attention on what God the Father is doing in the Cosmos for His glory. It is not about us. Though it informs us and instructs us, the information is designed to focus our attention on God's purposes for us rather than our own needs and priorities. Though this book will ultimately result in our happiness, it is not primarily designed to make us happy. Both the information and the instructions given by Paul will make us profoundly uncomfortable. Ephesians rightly understood will take us far beyond the mere fixing of what is wrong in our own lives – to God's ultimate purpose is reconciling and restoring all things in the Universe to Himself (1:9-10) through the amazing work that Christ did through His obedient life and sacrificial death.

Quick Facts:

Ephesians is a book that tells us (3:21):

- What God the Father is doing
- In The Heavens
- Through the Church
- In Christ
- By His Spirit
- For His glory – Forever!

Ephesians is divided nicely into two parts –

- Chapters 1-3 which tell us what God is doing – goal is comprehension
- Chapters 4-6 which tell us how we are to respond – goal is conduct

Paul grounds Christian conduct – what we are to do for the Lord in Christian Creed – what He wants us to know about God and His purposes. This is why the first half of the book contains no commands or instructions for us but rather is comprised almost exclusively of information that God shares with us about what He is doing in the Universe. And it is stunning stuff! In fact, it is so stunning that Paul prays twice for his readers. First he prays that God would enlighten them and help them to see and truly understand the amazing information God is revealing to them (1:15-23). Second, he prays that God would enable them to live in light of these amazing realities (3:14-21).

Thematic Overview of the Book

Perhaps the best way to understand what Paul is trying to communicate is to allow the text to answer several questions that are raised in the wording.

Paul has come to the very end of everything that God is doing in the Heavens, and he is amazed! And this amazement at what God has revealed to him (what he describes by the word mystery) results in worship and a desire to give God great glory and praise.

A. Who is the Subject of All of this Praise? (To Him)

We are obviously talking about God the Father. This is the only book in the NT that specifically reveals what God the Father is doing – and when we see what He is doing, the only appropriate response is to fall down and worship! Everything God the Father intends to do for His glory will be accomplished by a work accomplished by the Son and applied by the Spirit – but the emphasis in the book, if you look for it, is on God the Father and what He is doing in the Cosmos (1:9-10).

B. What is He Desiring? (His glory)

The word “glory” carries the idea of weight or heaviness. The term can describe the quality of seriousness or importance! When we talk about God’s “holiness,” we are speaking about His nature and character. *However, when we speak about His glory we are talking about His importance* and place in His Universe.

When Paul cried out “to Him be glory” – he was calling his readers to recognize that God is the most important and pre-eminent person in the Universe. There is no one else greater or more significant!

Without question, God desires His glory to be recognized by the entire earth (Numbers 14:21). BUT – there is a unique place where and a special group of people by whom God desires to be glorified

C. Where is He desiring this to be manifested? (in the Church)

It is appropriate for all created beings in God’s Universe to recognize His holiness and to give Him glory – supreme importance. But – there is a specific group of people for whom this response is especially appropriate given what God has done for them, and that group is the church.

Paul uses four pictures to help describe this “called-together” group (Church) of privileged people. Have you really and truly considered how

huge a privilege God has given you by including you in His Church? Do you see the church as a privilege or a burden?

The first picture Paul presents is that they are an assembly/body/community of people that have been formed and given to His Son to lead as their head/leader. The second picture describes the Church as a family over which God Himself is the Father. Thirdly, this body of believers is actually described as a sacred building – a temple made of living stones in which God fully intends to dwell by means of the Holy Spirit. Fourth, this body of believers is described as a spiritual army armed and equipped with an armor that, when understood and used, makes them invincible in battle.

D. How did He bring all this about? (by Christ Jesus)

Everything that God the Father did in calling together a church that would be a body for His Son to lead, a family for Him to Father, a Temple for Him to Indwell, and a mighty spiritual army – came about by means of one great act of obedience (death on the cross) by One perfect, sinless, and obedient Son, Jesus Christ.

E. Why did He do this?

First, to display the unmatched richness of His grace. When it comes to grace and mercy – He is unique! Second, to display the manifold brilliance of His wisdom -- when it comes to wisdom – He is unique!

Therefore, give Him glory! Consider Him to be the most important person over and against anyone or anything else in your life as a member of His church!

F. When does God want this Glory? (to all generations now and forever)

God desires to be glorified forever and ever and that is exactly the picture we see in Revelation when we are transported to the very throne of God in heaven. However, God does not want His people to wait till they arrive in Heaven to give Him glory.

He wants each of us to glorify Him right now in this life – In all of our ways and for or all of our days! And the primary way we do this in our life is by how we walk which is why Paul begins chapter 4:1 with a call to a worthy walk.

This walk is actually first mentioned in Ephesians 2:10 where Paul reveals there are “good works” that God has prepared, and He wants His people to “walk in them.” So, where are these good works identified and clearly presented? They are revealed in five “walk” passages in Ephesians 4-5. The good works God wants us to walk in are these: Walk in unity as the Church of God (4:1-16). Walk in contrast to the fallen culture around us (4:17-32). Walk in love before all men (5:1-7). Walk in light in the midst of a dark and depraved world (5:8-14). And walk in Wisdom that transforms and touches every relationship and every sphere of your life.

And when believers walk this way, there is an enemy that will come against them to pull them away from this worthy walk and to take back the spiritual advances they have made by the Spirit’s power. This is why Paul ends the book by commanding believers to stand fast and hold the ground God has given them. They are not called to do this in their own strength. God has given to them all that they need in a marvelous provision of spiritual armor that, when rightly understood and used, will cause believers to stand and withstand the most relentless spiritual attack.

Connecting Truth to Life
The Primacy of Preaching in the Life of the Church
PBC Equip Hour

Texts: 1 Tim 4:6, 11-13; 15-16

If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ, being trained in the words of the faith and of the good doctrine which you have followed. (4:6)

Command and teach these things. Let no one despise your youth, but set the believers an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching. (4:11-13)

Practice these things, immerse yourself in them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will save both yourself and your hearers. (4:15-16)

Introduction:

As the pastors met to talk about what would best profit our church and help our lives as believers in this particular season of our church, we believe that it will be of immense value to examine the distinct practices and commitments set forth in the NT that are marks of a healthy church. Further, we also concluded that it would be immensely important and helpful for our church to receive this instruction from the different members of the pastoral team.

With that in mind, the pastors suggested, and I eagerly agreed to lead off this series with the first and primary mark of a NT church – the accurate exposition, practical instruction, and authoritative proclamation of God’s Word – what you and I know as expository preaching.

Two questions are in order:

- 1. So ... what do we mean by expository preaching as opposed to other kinds and styles of preaching?***

Tons of definitions and descriptions exist with regard to the practice of preaching – entire books have been written on this topic alone. We can get to the essence of the question by looking at two words:

- a. **Expository** – this term simply means to “lead or bring out.” It has to do with the task of going to a particular text of Scripture and discerning its true meaning in its biblical context and bringing that meaning out of that text and into our lives today.

A preacher can ask one of two questions about any text of Scripture before him – and which question he asks will determine his approach to preaching and the spiritual impact his preaching will have on his hearers.

1. What can I say about this text?
2. What does this text say?

When a preacher asks and answers the second question, he has set himself to the task of finding what God put into that text and bringing it out as opposed to thinking up things to say about that text.

- b. **Preaching** – authoritative, transformative proclamation
 - different than teaching – instructive
 - different than theological reflection – informative
 - different than motivational application – inspirational

 - It is the authoritative proclamation of what God has said in a particular text with the goal of calling God’s people to believe by means of the Spirit’s illumination and behave accordingly by means of the Spirit’s enablement – transformative.

 - *It is the accurate and authoritative declaration of a portion of God’s Word by a Spirit-empowered preacher who systematically teaches the biblical text, properly interpreted, for the purpose of motivating and equipping his hearers to respond in glad obedience to the appropriate demands and legitimate expectations derived from that text.*

2. And ... of all the practices that should mark a biblically faithful and spiritually healthy church, why choose expository preaching as the first and primary mark of a healthy church?

There are many texts of Scripture we could look at to find the multiple reasons Scripture reveals as to why preaching must be central in the corporate worship of the church.

For instance, we could turn to the Gospels and hear Peter tell the Lord, *“Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life!”* (Jn 6:68)

Or we could listen to the Lord praying and discover that His people will be sanctified by truth – and that truth is exclusively located in God’s Word. *“Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”* (Jn 17:17).

We could remind ourselves of Paul’s final instruction to Timothy – *“I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom: Preach the Word! Be ready in season and out of season; reprove, rebuke, and exhort with complete patience and teaching. For the time is coming when people will not endure sound teaching but will accumulate for themselves teachers to suit their own passions and will turn away from listening to the truth and wander off into myths. As for you, always be sober minded, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, fulfill your ministry.”* (2 Tim 4:1-5)

But the text that most clearly reveals the centrality of preaching to the life and health of a local church is an extended passage of Scripture found in 1 Timothy 3:14 – 4:15.

There is much that can and should be said from this extended portion of Scripture – however; for our purposes we will look at how Paul uses this section of his letter to instruct Timothy and his hearers as to the value of preaching as the essential answer to the health of a particular local church in Ephesus who had just received a new, young pastor named Timothy.

Paul could have and did say many things to his son-in-the-faith – and one of those things was this: *“If you put these things before the brothers, you will be a good servant of Jesus Christ.”* (4:6)

So in light of this instruction as to how a preacher is to be a good servant of Christ? Perhaps the best way for us to grasp Paul's big meaning is to ask and answer 5 questions from the text:

1. What are "these things" that Paul mentions to Timothy?

Whatever "these things" are – they are very powerful realities that must be central to what Timothy believes and what he does in ministry.

- He has been trained up in them and has followed them for his entire ministry (4:6)
- He is to labor in them to the point of exhaustion – he is to strive and agonize over them (4:10)
- He is to command and teach these things (4:11)
- He is to practice these things by closely watching his life and his doctrine (4:15-16).

So ... what exactly are "these things? (Note 5 descriptive phrases)

- "these things" (3:14; 4:6, 11, 15)
- "The mystery of the faith" (3:9)
- "The mystery of the godliness" (3:16)
- "The words of the Faith" (4:6)
- "The words of good doctrine" (4:6)

Perhaps the key paragraph that stands behind these five descriptions is Paul's exhortation that Timothy stands against "*whatever else is contrary to sound doctrine, in accordance with the gospel of the glory of the blessed God with which I have been instructed.*" (1:10d-11).

Whatever "these things" are – they have to do with "the faith" God has revealed to His people and the doctrines and teachings that define that faith.

And these doctrines and that faith are revealed in “words” – inspired, authoritative written words –

- The word of truth that Timothy was to rightly divide (2 Tim 2:15)
- The sacred writings which can make a man wise unto salvation (2 Tim 3:15) because they were breathed out by God and are therefore profitable for teaching, reproof, for correction, and training in righteousness (2 Tim 3:15-16).
- The Word that Timothy was to faithfully preach in season and out of season (2 Tim 4:1-2)

So ... “These things” = authoritative, inspired, sufficient truth inspired by God, **written** by the Apostles, and contained in the Scriptures. In other words, the words of God in our Bible.

2. Why are they important? (3:15)

- Because these words will instruct and enable believers to know how to behave as God’s people.
 - ⇒ “know” = to understand and possess the ability;
 - ⇒ “behave” = to conduct oneself in daily life in ways that are suitable and proper to one’s station in life.
- These words are essential because they inform, instruct, and enable believers to conduct themselves appropriately in light of two things that are true about them collectively:
 - a. They are members of the household of the living God. Members of the one family that truly matters – headed by the One God who truly lives (as opposed to the dead idols)
 - b. As the Church of the living God – they are the pillar and ground of the truth. **They are the one place where God’s truth is located and powerfully displayed!**

3. What is their content? (3:16)

So what do these words that Paul highlights teach? What is their life-giving, belief-forming, behavior shaping content?

Answer – a great mystery about “the godliness.”

Mystery – a divine secret that has finally been revealed about a particular display of “godliness” – the idea here is not “our personal godliness” – but rather some great display from God, about God, that pleases God (eusebia).

Whatever this mystery is – it stands at the very heart of “the truth” that the Church is supposed to embrace and display.

And that truth is all about the person and work of a particular individual – “who”

- a. was manifest in the flesh – incarnation
- b. vindicated in the spirit – resurrection
- c. seen by angels – validation/celebration
- d. proclaimed among the nations – proclamation
- e. believed on in the world – salvation
- f. taken up in glory – ascension/glorification

The mystery that has been revealed is the Gospel! The person and work of Christ and the powerful truths and transforming realities that rise up out of that Gospel!

These are the things that will save a man from sin; that will transform his life; that will instruct him in godliness; and that will equip him for all good service to Christ!

4. What is the real danger facing the church? (4:1-5)

There is a real and present danger that those who are charged to teach and preach these powerful truths will actually exchange them for a different set of words that will have very different, and damaging results in the household of God.

Paul gives a present and real example:

- Ephesus had had Paul as its founding pastor/teacher
- They had been given an entire book that revealed the amazing truth of what God was doing for His glory through the church.
- They had been instructed in what a worthy walk looked like and had been given a wonderful spiritual armor to protect them from any and all spiritual attack.

But ... they had departed from these words for a different set of words that were deceitful/false, demonic, and which were being taught by false teachers who were hypocritical, liars, with seared consciences.

Specifically, they had departed from the liberating truth of the Apostolic teaching about what God had revealed to Peter when he lifted the OT food restriction in Acts 11.

They had been given an authoritative word that when rightly taught, understood, and applied would sanctify even the eating habits of the Church at Ephesus so that they would know how to properly display the transforming power of the Gospel in a city obsessed with the laws that governed their own pagan eating habits in view of the food they offered to idols.

5. What will be demanded of the preacher?

A. He must constantly present these truths to God's people (4:6-10)

Paul describes the primary way a pastor is to be a good servant of Christ – to constantly and faithfully instruct God's people in the powerful truth found only in God's Word.

He is to devote himself to the good words of the faith and the sound doctrine they reveal as opposed to other words that are irreverent, silly, and ultimately destructive.

He is to labor and agonize over these words given their source (the living God) and power (savior of all people).

B. He must command and teach these things accurately and authoritatively (4:11-14)

“command” = *paraggellw* – command, order, charge, insist on.
“teach” = *didaskw* – to provide formal instruction

In the face of the false teaching that had come into the church and was damaging its members, Timothy was to preach authoritatively and teach instructively so that, by means of God's Word, he could command God's people to conform their behavior to God's Words as opposed to the words that had come into their midst.

And he was not to allow his youth, his inexperience, or his insecurities to stop him from doing this – because ultimately, the words were not his but God! He was just the herald.

C. He must practice these things personally and apply these things corporately (4:15-16)

Because his life impacted the credibility of the message he preached, Timothy was to:

- immerse himself – to take great pains with and be fully absorbed in this task –
- personally embrace and grow because of these truths – progress observed by all
- Persistently guard his personal life and public preaching ministry. Practice the truth personally; proclaim the truth persistently.

Because the truth has eternal consequences – it is how God will save and deliver both the pastor and his hearers.

Conclusion:

Given the primacy of Preaching ... what are the members of a church to do with this important mark of a healthy church?

- 1. Insist on the truth.**
- 2. Receive and embrace the truth.**
- 3. Respond to the truth.**
- 4. Practice the truth.**
- 5. Proclaim the truth.**