

**Sermon Outline**  
**Rev. John Shaw**  
**Pillar and Ground of Truth**  
**April 2, 2017**

**Sermon Text:** 1 Timothy 3:14-16

1) The image of a household or a house (vs 15)

Household meant temple to the Jews – the place where God dwells with His people  
Ps 84:1; Ps 122:1

The temple became a symbol representing the joy that belongs to those who have fellowship with their God.

The temple also became a symbol of God's faithfulness  
Ps 90:1, Ps 23:6; Ps 27:4

The New Testament writers reflect this imagery when they describe the Church of Jesus Christ as the House of God

1Pet 2:5; Eph 2:20-22

Paul is not just speaking of the invisible church, but writing to the pastor of a local visible church. Ezek 47:1-12

Westminster Confession of Faith XXV, 2:

“The visible church, which is also catholic or universal under the gospel (not confined to one nation, as before under the law), consists of all those throughout the world that profess the true religion; and of their children: and is the kingdom of the Lord Jesus Christ, the house and family of God, out of which there is no ordinary possibility of salvation.”

This is why we plant churches and send missionaries to other nations.

2) The image of the assembly of the house of God; which is the church of the living God

The assembly of God is the church of Jesus Christ, and the voice of God by which they are called out of this world is the voice of Jesus Christ, the risen savior, and the good shepherd of the sheep. John 10:3-4

3) The image of a pillar and buttress of the truth

The church holds up the gospel

A buttress holds up the weight of the gospel so that the world might see the glory of and worship Christ

Heb 3:6

What is the truth we're called to uphold?

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#### Biography

Rev. John S. Shaw has been serving as the general secretary of The Committee on Home Missions and Church Extension of the Orthodox Presbyterian Church since March 2013. He was the founding pastor of Mission Orthodox Presbyterian Church in St. Paul, Minnesota, where he served for seven years. He has served as a member of the Committee on Home Missions since 2008, including acting as the chairman of the Church Planting Subcommittee, which interviews and approves new church planters and reviews church-planting operations. Rev. Shaw is a graduate of Geneva College in Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania. He received his M.Div. degree from Reformed Presbyterian Theological Seminary in Pittsburgh.