"The Church of the Living God"

Intro: As we approach our text today we find the Apostle Paul setting the church on the ______________ set ____ ______ by affirming fundamental truths upon which the church is to be established, to live, uphold and proclaim.

I. Paul’s ________ (concern).
   A. Being delayed in his visit Paul wrote with ______________! The church needed to hear what he wrote and the church needed to conform without delay. And so it is today! This letter is for us as pastors and for us as the church that we might know the ______ ___ ______ for His church. And where we or any of us are off, let us make haste in applying these truths.
   B. Paul wrote this letter so the pastor and church would __________ __________ for His church with absolute certainty.

II. Our ________________.
   A. Having established the proper order of the church Paul moves to establish the proper ______________ of the church. The word translated conduct describes “a turning back and forth in a place” and it refers to the ________________ of life. There is a ________________ way for the children of God to live their life!
   B. In chapters 4-6 Paul is going to teach us about godly ________________; what it looks like and how it is ________________.

III. God’s ________________.
   A. The ________________, the true church, the one and only church is the church of God, the true God, the one and only ________________ ________ and there is no other church. T
   B. The church of the living God is the ________________ and support ____ the ________________.
      1. The church is to be a beacon, a solid standing and noble bastion of gospel truth, which ________________ the truth of God, upholds the truth of God, and safeguards the truth of God, both in deed and ________!

IV. The Common _________________.
   A. Here is a ________ that is common to the church, accepted by the true church, and to be pronounced by the church of the Living ______: “____________ is the mystery of godliness".
1. Walter Lock wrote, “The mystery of godliness is the revealed secret of true religion, the mystery of Christianity, the Person of ___________." (Now revealed!) And MacArthur writes explaining that the mystery of godliness “refers to the great truth of salvation and righteousness through ___________ Christ, which produces _________________ in those who believe.”

B. Here is the ___________ (common confession) the church is built upon, to live by and proclaim:

1. Jesus became the incarnate God! The ___________ preexistent One was supernaturally ___________ in time and space by becoming a man of human flesh.
   a. ______ became man so as to _______ the ____ of man! This is the good news!

2. The Holy ___________ ___________ ___________ to be God’s Messiah by lighting upon Him at His baptism and after His crucifixion by most powerfully raising Him from the dead. This is the gospel!

3. The ___________ ___________ Jesus by serving Him (He is higher than the angels!), and by witnessing His resurrection and ascension - the angels ___________ that He lives, that He has ascended to heaven, and that He will return again! This is the gospel!

4. The gospel message is being ___________ around the world for the glory of ___________! The church is to uphold and proclaim the gospel of Christ among all peoples everywhere – and this is the glorious mission of the church!

5. Here is the good news: ___________ saves and is ___________ people the world over!

6. Christ ___________ has been glorified! Being taken up in glory He _______ forevermore, interceding for us. He who saved us is saving us and will save us until He also takes us up in glory, to live with Him forevermore! This is good news!

Closing: As the Apostle was concerned for our conduct as God’s church, let us therefore be the pillar and support of His truth by maintaining the common confession: ________ is the Christ of God, the ________________ of the world.

Here is God’s course for us as His church. The Master has given us our ________________! Let us be true to the course He sets before us by ever-living and ________________ the gospel of Jesus ____________! Let us be a wonder of God in this world! For His own glory may God grant that we, the church of the living God ever maintain His course, knowing, at the last, that Christ will take us up in ____________!