

# Great Mystery of Godliness

Shouldn't these three words  
get our utmost attention?

**Great**  
**Mystery**  
**Godliness**

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**I Timothy 3:16**

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

**I Timothy 3:16**

I used this text on Sunday.

But I must repeat it tonight.

This verse is very important.

It is the purpose for our church.

# Peter About Repetition - 1

But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth.

I Timothy 3:15

Will you learn its 35 words?

Truth takes lots of repetition.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

**I Timothy 3:16**

I preached this 7 years ago.

I am not ashamed for  
old truth like this!

I assigned it six weeks ago.

I am not ashamed for  
old truth like this!

We have a wide range of folks.

We have many children, youth,  
and newer members to  
get up to speed.

Peter said repetition is needed.

He did it for truth well known.

# Peter About Repetition - 1

Wherefore I will not be negligent to put you always in remembrance of these things, though ye know them, and be established in the present truth.

II Peter 1:12

# Peter About Repetition - 2

**13** Yea, I think it meet, as long as I am in this tabernacle, to stir you up by putting you in remembrance;

**15** Moreover I will endeavour that ye may be able after my decease to have these things always in remembrance.

II Peter 1:13-15

Peter stressed remembering.

But so did Solomon in  
today's Proverb 3:1!

*My son, forget not my law.*

I will give account for content.

I know this is the best content.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

**I Timothy 3:16**

Paul gave it to his best pastor.

Paul called it the best content.

No wood, hay, or stubble here!

Only gold, silver, precious stones!

Even Christians get distracted  
with foolish things like ...

**Politics**  
**Health**  
**Weather**

The devil wants to distract us  
with worthless earth pursuits ...

**Sports**  
**Education**  
**Wealth**

The world is obsessed with stuff  
having no consequence like the  
pandemic and street protests.

Let us be obsessed with every  
detail of every word in this  
fabulous news from heaven.

They live in chaos and confusion.

We have certain truth and  
glorious hope forever.

# This Is the Gospel

- The gospel is the good news about Jesus Christ.
- Do you believe the record God gave of His Son?
- Isaiah pointed to it over and over e.g. Is 7:14, etc.
- Do you delight in it as the most precious news?
- Do you love its Person more than anyone or thing?

We want to greatly increase our

**FAITH and LOVE**

in these six things about Jesus.

# Paul with Our Goals - 1

And the grace of our Lord was exceeding abundant with faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

I Timothy 1:14

# Paul with Our Goals - 2

Hold fast the form of sound words, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus.

II Timothy 1:13

**The verse is all about Jesus.**

**Jesus is God.**

**Spirit glorified Jesus.**

**Angels glorified Jesus.**

**Gentiles heard about Jesus.**

**Gentiles believed on Jesus.**

**Jesus went up to God.**

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# And

- This word connects us to the verses before it.
- The church is pillar and ground of truth (1 Tim 3:15).
- The truth we defend and support is of Jesus Christ.
- We love all scripture ... but let's exalt Jesus Christ.
- Let us be the pillar and ground of the Lord Jesus.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

“And **without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

I Timothy 3:16

# Without Controversy

- Information about Jesus is the greatest news ever.
- It is the greatest news above argument or debate.
- No history, science, philosophy can compete at all.
- It demands our utmost attention, affection, effort.
- If you get distracted by stuff, you contradict it!

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy **great** is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

**I Timothy 3:16**

# Great

- This is not a slight topic – crush any such ideas.
- There is no greater information you can ever learn.
- These facts greatly altered men and the world.
- Never be ashamed to believe or state this gospel.
- Obsession with this gospel truth shows your heart.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

“And without controversy great **is the mystery of godliness**: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

I Timothy 3:16

# **Is the Mystery**

- **These facts and news are not learned by man.**
- **They are only known by revelation of God to us.**
- **Hidden wisdom of the universe is ours (1 Cor 2:6-10).**
- **Most religions have mysteries, but they are lies.**
- **God must reveal this to us by Spirit and the word.**

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Of Godliness

- This word only means the gospel of Jesus Christ.
- It defines the only true religion (I Tim 6:3; II Tim 3:5).
- All truth is subordinate to the record of Jesus.
- The historical facts summarize the true gospel.
- This is revealed secrets of God and His religion.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Six Facts to Learn and Love

**God was manifest in the flesh**

**Justified in the Spirit**

**Seen of angels**

**Preached unto the Gentiles**

**Believed on in the world**

**Received up into glory**

## Six Facts to Learn and Love

**Jesus of Nazareth was God**  
**God glorified Him as God**  
**Angels glorified Him as God**  
**He sent truth to idolaters**  
**Many believed His truth**  
**He ascended up to God**

Each of these six facts deserves multiple sermons, which we have preached various ways.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: **God was manifest in the flesh**, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# God Was Manifest in the Flesh

- JEHOVAH became a man to live on earth 33 yrs.
- He did this to die a substitute for His elect people.
- The character of God is revealed in Christ Jesus.
- The virgin birth gave us the incarnate Son of God.
- Jesus is still a Man in heaven as Savior (I Cor 15:28).

All popular Greek versions and  
English translations replace  
GOD with WHO.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, **justified in the Spirit**, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Justified in the Spirit

- The Holy Spirit proved Jesus to be God's Son.
- Every religion is measured by certainty of truth.
- He had the Spirit above others without measure.
- The Spirit empowered Him to do many miracles.
- The Spirit raised Him from the dead (Rom 1:4; 8:11).

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, **seen of angels**, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Seen of Angels

- Angels saw and more – they attended to Jesus.
- They saw His birth and praised (Luke 2:8-20; Heb 1:6).
- They helped Him in the desert and Gethsemane.
- They saw and told His resurrection and ascension.
- They saw and praised Him in heaven (Rev 5:11-12).

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, **preached unto the Gentiles**, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Preached unto the Gentiles

- For **2000** years God only dealt with the Israelites.
- God left the Gentiles in darkness and ignorance.
- God sent Jewish preachers to the Gentile nations.
- Isaiah recently told us about this over and over.
- If Jesus had not sent, you would worship Buddha.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, **believed on in the world**, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# **Believed on in the World**

- **It is one thing to preach truth, another to believe.**
- **Without quickening, no man will believe (1 Cor 2:14).**
- **Wild news by Jewish fishermen = Gentile martyrs!**
- **Apostles preached to the world (Mat 24:14; Col 1:6,23).**
- **The multitude in heaven is from every nation, etc.**

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, **received up into glory.**”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Received up into Glory

- Jesus ascended in His body from earth to heaven.
- This was not a vision of heaven or only His spirit.
- Resurrection is one thing ... ascension is another.
- This makes USA space travel a very weak effort.
- Jesus is seated beside God ruling the universe.

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

“And **without controversy** great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, **seen of angels**, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, **preached unto the Gentiles**, believed on in the world, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, **believed on in the world**, received up into glory.”**

I Timothy 3:16

# Great Mystery of Godliness

**“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, **received up into glory.**”**

I Timothy 3:16

# The Only Right Response - Believe

- If you reject this record, you make God a liar (1 John 5:10).

He that believeth on the Son of God hath the witness in himself: he that believeth not God hath made him a liar; because he believeth not the record that God gave of his Son.

- If you reject this record, you will be damned (Mark 16:16).

And he said unto them, Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned.

# The Only Right Response - Obey

- If you do not obey God, you have no evidence (Matt 7:21).

Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

- If you obey God, you can be sure of election (II Pe 1:10-11).

Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

# The Only Right Response - Love

- If you love Jesus, God will abide with you (John 14:23).

Jesus answered and said unto him, If a man love me, he will keep my words: and my Father will love him, and we will come unto him, and make our abode with him.

- If you do not love Jesus, vengeance is coming (1 Co 16:22).

If any man love not the Lord Jesus Christ, let him be Anathema Maranatha.

We do not need to know more.

But love what we know more!

# The Only Right Response - Spread

- Do you want to tell others like Andrew to Peter (Jn 1:41)?

He first findeth his own brother Simon, and saith unto him, We have found the Messias, which is, being interpreted, the Christ.

- Are you able and ready to convert others (Acts 18:26)?

And he began to speak boldly in the synagogue: whom when Aquila and Priscilla had heard, they took him unto them, and expounded unto him the way of God more perfectly.

# For Further Study

Detailed outline of I Timothy 3:16 ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/mystery-of-godliness.pdf>

Directory of sermons about Christ ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/sermons/christ.php>

Charles Spurgeon on I Tim 3:16 ... <http://www.spurgeongems.org/vols13-15/chs786.pdf>

He Is Altogether Lovely ... <https://letgodbetrue.com/sermons/index/year-2011/he-is-altogether-lovely/>

More about mysteries of faith ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/mysteries-of-hidden-wisdom.pdf>

More about ascension of Christ ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/pdf/he-ascended-up-on-high.pdf>

A Name Above Every Name ... <http://www.letgodbetrue.com/bible/god/a-name-above-every-name.php>

[www.LetGodBeTrue.com](http://www.LetGodBeTrue.com)