

**Title:** The Mystery of Godliness Revealed

**Passage:** 1 Timothy 3:14-16

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Draft Summary:

Passage:

- Confession about Jesus:
- “He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

Application:

- Uphold God’s truth firmly and without apologies.
- Being part of God’s family has deep and many implications.
- Remember that Christ is in you, with you, and never will leave you.

Possible Discussion Questions:

- How can we be less defensive but more confident and open about who God is and has said in His Word when dealing with non-believers?
- How would you react or deal with things differently if remember you’ll spend all of eternity with those in Christ?
- In trial, how can we let the truth of God rule our mind and hearts?
- What next steps will you take in response to the sermon?

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**Passage:**

1 Timothy 3:14-16

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

He was manifested in the flesh, vindicated by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

## **EXPOSITION**

### **Introduction**

Fundamentals of the Gospel

- the main things are the plain things. The plain things are the main things
- We must regularly be reminded of the essential truths
  - Otherwise, we drift away and get lost in the superficial.

***I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, if I delay, you may know how one ought to behave***

- context of passage
  - Paul wrote this letter to Timothy about the church in Ephesus.
- False doctrines were infecting everything in the church.
- How to behave = Proper conduct is grounded in right theology.

***the household of God,***

- household = includes both the house as well as the family occupying the building.

- Three prior mentions of the “household” = family of God.

#### Ephesians 2:19-20

So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are fellow citizens with the saints and members of the household of God, built on the foundation of the apostles and prophets, Christ Jesus himself being the cornerstone,

- God is the Father, we are His children.
- We are all his brothers and sisters (regardless of race or status)
- Elders and deacons are appointed to lead.

#### God

- God is manifested even more in special places.
  - Ex: Bethel = house of God
- God can be present at select places:
  - Garden of Eden
  - Tabernacle
  - Jesus: I am the temple of God
  - you: are the temple of God.

#### 1 Corinthians 3:16

Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you?

#### Church

- Ekklesia = “the called out ones”
  - Called to gather together for God

#### Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider how to stir up one another to love and good works, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day drawing near.

- Context: being encouraged not to waver in your faith and not deliberately sin.
  - You need to gather with other believers so as to not waver in your faith in God and not fall into sin.

#### ***which is the church of the living God,***

- Key: the living God
  - Compared to many idols that people worshipped.

#### Psalms 96:5

For all the gods of the peoples are worthless idols, but the LORD made the heavens.

#### ***a pillar and buttress of the truth.***

- what is the truth?

#### John 14:6

Jesus said to him, “I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.

#### John 17:17

Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.

- Be cautious about people asserting “updates” to the truth
- God already knows all things
- The principles of God are clear in the Bible that apply in all circumstances.
  - Any twisting of the truth is not truth at all.
  
- We need to uphold the truth of God.
  - We need not be defensive but instead unleash it.
  - “You prove there is a God” = “No, actually you prove that there is no God.” Look at how all of creation exists - can that really be by accident?
- We must not tamper the truth.
  - Analogy: we are merely “mail persons”, which we deliver the mail. We don’t change what the mail (the Word of God) says.

***Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:***

- Mystery of godliness = the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- Godliness = to be like God.
- In the Scriptures, there was a mystery of how a holy God can forgive sinners and have a relationship with them? His holiness demands perfection. How?
  - Jesus Christ.
- Confession pointing to Jesus Christ.
- Jesus Christ is the only way of godliness.
  - We must remember who He is.

1 Corinthians 1:30

And because of him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption,

Confession: 6 Attributes of Jesus:

***He was manifested in the flesh,***

- Became incarnate (God became flesh)

John 1:14

And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

***vindicated by the Spirit,***

- proven by the Spirit through Jesus’ life and resurrection.

Matthew 3:16

And when Jesus was baptized, immediately he went up from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on him;

Romans 1:4

and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord,

### Romans 8:11

If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit who dwells in you.

- the Spirit's role in Jesus' resurrection was clear.

### ***seen by angels,***

- angels sang at His birth, present at His resurrection

### Luke 2:13 (birth)

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying,

### Matthew 28:2 (resurrection)

And behold, there was a great earthquake, for an angel of the Lord descended from heaven and came and rolled back the stone and sat on it.

### ***proclaimed among the nations,***

- Acts 2 (the Gospel was proclaimed to the nations)

### Acts 2:8-11

And how is it that we hear, each of us in his own native language? Parthians and Medes and Elamites and residents of Mesopotamia, Judea and Cappadocia, Pontus and Asia, Phrygia and Pamphylia, Egypt and the parts of Libya belonging to Cyrene, and visitors from Rome, both Jews and proselytes, Cretans and Arabians—we hear them telling in our own tongues the mighty works of God.”

### ***believed on in the world,***

- The Gospel is continually changing people's lives today.

### John 17:18

As you sent me into the world, so I have sent them into the world.

### ***taken up in glory.***

- Jesus is in heaven in glory.

### Philippians 2:9

Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name,

### Hebrews 1:3-4

He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.

## **APPLICATION**

### ***Uphold God's truth firmly and without apologies***

### Philippians 2:15-16

that you may be blameless and innocent, children of God without blemish in the midst of a crooked and twisted generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world, holding fast to the word of life, so that in the day of Christ I may be proud that I did not run in vain or labor in vain.

- God's Word is what has been given by God and is timeless.

- memorize, meditate, share, guard, follow, don't compromise God's Word.
- How can we not want to be in God's Word?
- People talk about wanting to hear from God and have a special revelation. It's in His Word - read and know it. God will make Himself known.

Jeremiah 29:13

You will seek me and find me, when you seek me with all your heart.

***Being part of God's family has deep and many implications.***

- You will spend all of eternity with the people you know at church. Consider the eternal meanings.
- Where can you forgive and be reconciled?

Ephesians 4:32

Be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, as God in Christ forgave you.

Romans 12:10, 13

Love one another with brotherly affection. Outdo one another in showing honor...Contribute to the needs of the saints and seek to show hospitality.

***Remember that Christ is in you, with you, and never will leave you.***

- in any trial or in difficulty, Christ is with you.
- He will strength you. He will give you peace. He will be with you.

1 John 4:4

Little children, you are from God and have overcome them, for he who is in you is greater than he who is in the world.

Colossians 1:27

To them God chose to make known how great among the Gentiles are the riches of the glory of this mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Hebrews 13:5b

...he has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you."