

“Great is the Mystery of Godliness”

I. Introduction

A. After referencing the church as “the pillar and ground of the truth,” the inspired apostle Paul elaborated on this truth with the words “great is the mystery of godliness.” Consider some things noted in this verse that demonstrate the greatness of this “mystery” God has revealed. **1 Timothy 3:16**

II. “Without Controversy...”

A. The verse begins by noting how there is no question that the “mystery of godliness” is great. This mystery is not something beyond our understanding, but rather something that could not be known without the revelation God’s given. **Colossians 1:26**

III. “God Was Manifest in the Flesh”

A. The first point noted that demonstrates the greatness of this mystery is that “God was manifest in the flesh.” This refers to the eternally existent “Word” descending to earth to live as a man. **John 1:1, 3, 14; Ephesians 4:9; Philippians 2:6-7**

IV. “Justified in the Spirit”

A. As God the Son walked the earth as a man, He was “justified in the Spirit.” This is true with regard to His personal spirit, and it is also true with regard to the Holy Spirit. Both verified the legitimacy of Jesus’ teachings and work. **John 8:46; 10:11; Acts 10:38; Matthew 3:16; John 1:33-34**

V. “Seen of Angels”

A. As God the Son walked the earth, He was seen by angels. Though angels did not initially know what God’s plan of redemption was all about, they were able to *see* Jesus. **1 Peter 1:10-12; Matthew 4:11; Luke 22:43; Matthew 28:2**

VI. “Preached Unto the Gentiles”

A. The truth about Jesus is every bit as much for those of a Gentile background as it is for those of a Jewish background. Though there was a deep divide among Jews and Gentiles before Jesus came, God’s eternal plan was to unite all of His children together in one body, with believers of a Jewish and Gentile background alike having equal rights of citizenship in the Lord’s kingdom. **Ephesians 2:13-16; 3:5-6**

VII. “Believed On in the World”

A. Not only is the message of Jesus *for* everyone throughout the world, but this message has been accepted by scores of people throughout the Gospel age. This is particularly striking when we consider how “unimpressive” Jesus was from the world’s perspective. His greatness is far different from what the world esteems as greatness, and yet He has had the greatest impact on others of anyone to ever walk the earth. **Isaiah 53:2, 4; Acts 2:41**

VIII. “Received Up into Glory”

A. Upon completing the work that brought salvation to mankind, Jesus ascended back to heaven to the right hand of the Father. His ascension was undoubtedly striking for those on earth who saw it, but He was also “received up *into* glory” when we consider the glory and power Jesus possesses as He reigns in heaven as King over the kingdom He has built. **Acts 1:9; Daniel 7:13-14; 1 Peter 3:22**