

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

WHY GOD MANIFEST IN THE FLESH CANNOT BE YOU

“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.”

~ 1 Timothy 3:16

1. Why 1 Tim 3:16 is important

- a. We just spent a month studying God, we should know about God manifest in the flesh
- b. The passage is already a battleground whether you know it or not, the fight is for...
 - i. Church authority vs. Bible authority (Roman Catholics)
 - ii. The deity of Christ vs. Christ as created being (Muslims)
 - iii. The Bible preservation issue (Liberals and Evangelicals)
- c. Plus, this verse explains the mystery of godliness which is lost on many people
- d. This issue is raised by the Berean Searchlight, it is wrong to ignore it - Rom 16:17
- e. How we fix it? Public mistakes are addressed publicly (private mistakes privately)
- f. If you're receiving correction, the proper response is acknowledge, retract, and change

2. Is God Manifest in You?

- a. Nowhere does it say that God is manifest in a man except the Lord Jesus Christ
- b. "the works of God" manifest - John 9:3; "manifest myself TO him" - John 14:21-23
- c. "known of God is manifest in them" - Rom 1:19
- d. Waiting for manifestation - Rom 8:19; "manifest unto them" - Rom 10:20
- e. "life of Jesus... manifest in our body" - 2 Cor 4:10-11
- f. When people see us, they are not seeing God, they are seeing God's work - Eph 2:10

3. How Jesus was Justified in the Spirit

- a. Justify ~ *def.* To prove or show to be just, right, vindicate, to accept, to agree.
- b. God is the only one who can be justified - Rom 3:4 - because he alone is right/true
- c. We are justified by grace through faith - Rom 3:23, 4:5, 5:1
- d. The Spirit justifying Christ is the Son of God in John 1:29-34, Matt 3:16,
- e. Sinners justifying God in Luke 7:29; His works justifying him - John 14:11
- f. His resurrection justifying him - Rom 1:4; Matt 12:40 (Rom 8:11)
- g. The Holy Spirit justifying him at Pentecost - Acts 2:31-33

4. The Mystery of Godliness

- a. Godliness is not the church members, or by our good works, it is by faith in Christ
- b. Walking in the Spirit means to let your godliness be Christ himself, not you
- c. You were justified while ungodly, not God-like... why? B/c of God manifest in the flesh
- d. The three steps to a worthy walk - put on Christ - Eph 4:20-23, 1 Cor 1:30
- e. Grace teaches us to live godly - Titus 2:11-13, how? Our life is in Christ - Col 3:1-4
- f. Godliness = to have the mind and life of Christ - 1 Cor 2:16, Phil 1:20, 2:5-10, 3:7-10
- g. 1Ti 3:16 is Christ from heaven on earth - flesh/spirit; angels/Gentiles; world/glory
- h. Yes, we are the body of Christ, but the mystery of godliness is found in Christ himself
- i. We do not preach the mystery, or the church, we preach **Christ** acc. to the mystery
- j. We do not preach ourselves, but Christ, we live in him by faith - 2 Cor 4:5, Gal 2:20