

# Lessons From I Timothy

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## The Mystery Of Godliness

(I Ti 3:14-16)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Evening,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of “Lessons From I Timothy.”
  - a. Last week we finished up our lesson “Deacon Qualifications.”
    - i. **I Ti 3:8-13** “Deacons likewise must be dignified, not double-tongued, not addicted to much wine, not greedy for dishonest gain... 13 For those who serve well as deacons gain a good standing for themselves and also great confidence in the faith that is in Christ Jesus.”<sup>1</sup>
  - b. This week we shall examine our lesson on “The Mystery Of Godliness.”
    - i. **I Ti 3:14-16** “I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 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. 16 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.”
3. Paul having just laid out the qualifications for elders and deacons plus their wives establishes his desire to come see Timothy at Ephesus having been released from the Roman prison.
  - a. He then proceeds to explain his reason for writing this letter to Timothy.
    - i. **I Ti 3:14-15** “I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these things to you so that, 15 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.”
  - b. Paul wanted Timothy to know how Christians ought to behave and why they ought to behave that way.
    - i. They ought to behave as the church.
    - ii. They ought to behave as the church because they know the mystery of godliness.
4. With this in mind let us examine our text today.

### I. The Church

#### A. The pillar of the truth

1. A pillar is “a column supporting the weight of a building.” (Vine, W. E., Unger, M. F., & White, W., Jr. (1996). *Vine’s Complete Expository Dictionary of Old and New Testament Words*. Nashville, TN: T. Nelson.)
  - i. In other words it holds up a building.
2. The truth is the Word of God.
  - i. **Jn 17:17** “Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth.”

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<sup>1</sup> All Scriptures are taken from the ESV unless otherwise noted. If other translations are used this is not necessarily an endorsement of the translation.

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3. Thus the church is that which upholds the Scriptures.
  - i. **Jd 3** "...I found it necessary to write to you exhorting you to contend earnestly for the faith which was once for all delivered to the saints." (NKJV)
  - ii. **I Pt 3:15** "but in your hearts honor Christ the Lord as holy, always being prepared to make a defense to anyone who asks you for a reason for the hope that is in you; yet do it with gentleness and respect"
- B. The buttress of the truth
  1. A buttress is that foundation which is steadfast and firmly settled.
    - i. ἐδραῖωμα means "a foundation, base." (Liddell, H. G. (1996). A lexicon: Abridged from Liddell and Scott's Greek-English lexicon. Oak Harbor, WA: Logos Research Systems, Inc.)
    - ii. ὁ ἐδραῖωμα also means "to make stable, settle firmly, a stay, prop, support." (Thayer, J. H. (1889). A Greek-English lexicon of the New Testament: being Grimm's Wilke's Clavis Novi Testamenti. New York: Harper & Brothers.)
  2. The truth is the Word of God.
    - i. **Jn 17:17** "Sanctify them in the truth; your word is truth."
  3. Therefore the church is that steadfast foundation of truth against false doctrines.
    - i. **Ep 5:11** "Take no part in the unfruitful works of darkness, but instead expose them."
- C. Thus...
  1. Paul wanted Timothy to know and preach that every Christian ought to behave as one that upholds and provides a steadfast foundation of the Scriptures not allowing the false doctrines of men to stand.

## II. The Christ

- A. Manifested in the flesh
  1. This clearly is discussing Jesus coming down and becoming flesh and blood.
    - i. **Jn 1:1, 14** "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God... 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."
- B. Justified by the Spirit
  1. This points to Jesus' perfection while on earth even though he was accused of sinning a number of times. The Holy Spirit, through the Word, proves Jesus' innocence.
    - i. **Mt 11:19** "The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, 'Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners!'"
    - ii. **He 4:15** "For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin."

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- C. Seen by angels
  - 1. “Angels were associated with and ministered to Jesus throughout His life on this earth.” (Notes on I Timothy by WVBS pg. 58)
    - i. **Mt 4:11** “Then the devil left him, and behold, angels came and were ministering to him.”
    - ii. **Lk 22:43** “And there appeared to him an angel from heaven, strengthening him.”
  - 2. Peter even explains that angels longed to see the mystery of godliness.
    - i. **I Pt 1:12** “It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.”
- D. Proclaimed among the nations
  - 1. There has never been one that has been written about, talked about, or known about more than Jesus the Christ.
    - i. **Co 1:23** “if indeed you continue in the faith, stable and steadfast, not shifting from the hope of the gospel that you heard, which has been proclaimed in all creation under heaven, and of which I, Paul, became a minister.”
    - ii. **Ro 10:17-18** “So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ. 18 But I ask, have they not heard? Indeed they have, for “Their voice has gone out to all the earth, and their words to the ends of the world.”
- E. Believed on in the world
  - 1. All over the world the gospel has been taught and Jesus proclaimed and people have believed in Him whom has been taught and proclaimed.
    - i. **Jn 3:16** “For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.” (NKJV)
- F. Taken up in glory
  - 1. This is talking specifically about the ascension of Jesus back to heaven.
    - i. **Ac 1:9** “And when he had said these things, as they were looking on, he was lifted up, and a cloud took him out of their sight.”
- G. Thus...
  - 1. Paul explains to Timothy why he and others ought to behave properly in the church, because Jesus’ incarnation, early life, sacrifice, and resurrection embodied the very essence of godliness.

### CONCLUSION

- 1. Brethren Jesus’ life, death, and resurrection on earth was our great example of godliness in action and we, as Christians, ought to uphold and provide a steadfast foundation in the Word as Jesus showed us.
  - a. We are not to be tossed to and fro but rather we are to stand up for Jesus.
- 2. Question: Are you willing to be a pillar and buttress for the truth in godliness?
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?

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### 3. Invitation

- a. For those that are Christians but are not living for Christ repent by confessing your sins to God that He may forgive you and dedicate your life/time back to Him.
  - i. **I Jn 1:7, 9** "But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin...9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."
- b. For those that are not Christians or for those that think they are Christians and want to know for sure notice what is required to become a child of God or Christian according to God and God only.
  - i. Hear/Study **Rom 10:17; II Tim 2:15**
  - ii. Have Faith In Jesus **Jn 3:16; 8:24**
  - iii. Repent/Turn To God **Ac 17:30; Lk 24:47**
  - iv. Confess Jesus As Lord **Mt 10:32; Rom 10:9**
  - v. Immersed For The Forgiveness of Sins **Ac 2:38; 22:16; I Pt 3:21**
  - vi. Live A Faithful Life **I Jn 1:7; Eph 5:8**