

# Impact 3:16

---

## The Mystery Of Godliness (I Ti 3:16)

### INTRODUCTION

1. Good Morning,
  - a. Greeting...
2. Series of lessons on 3:16's that impact our daily lives.
  - a. Last week we examined "The Word Dwelling In You."
    - i. **Co 3:16** "Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God."<sup>1</sup>
  - b. This week we are going to examine "The Mystery Of Godliness."
    - i. **I Ti 3:16** "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. The background text.
  - a. Paul in his first letter to Timothy writes concerning a central theme "How the church ought to behave everywhere."
    - i. **I Ti 3:15** "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 in chapter three begins by setting forth how the local church ought to find men qualified to serve as elders.
    - i. **I Ti 3:1** "The saying is trustworthy: If anyone aspires to the office of overseer, he desires a noble task."
      1. **I Ti 3:1-7**
  - c. Paul continues in chapter three by setting forth how the local church ought to find men qualified to serve as deacons.
    - i. **I Ti 3:8** "Deacons likewise must be..."
      1. **I Ti 3:8-13**
  - d. Paul continues in chapter three by shifting his thoughts to why he is writing to Timothy. It was because he might be delayed and he wanted Timothy to understand the importance of preaching the truth to keep the church the pillar and buttress of truth. It is here we find our text for today.
    - i. **I Ti 3:14-15** "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."
      1. **I Ti 3:14-16**

---

<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.

## Impact 3:16

---

4. The “mystery of godliness” is He which will “enhance the glory of the Church just spoken of, to whom this mystery has been entrusted.” (from The Pulpit Commentary, Electronic Database. Copyright © 2001, 2003, 2005, 2006 by BibleSoft, Inc. All rights reserved.)
  - a. **Ep 3:9-10** “and to bring to light for everyone what is the plan of the mystery hidden for ages in God who created all things, 10 so that through the church the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly places.”
5. Brethren let us examine this day Him who is the mystery and Him who enhances the glory of the church as He is the foundation of the great and glorious church, His church.
  - a. **Mt 16:18** “...I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.”

### I. Jesus Manifested In The Flesh

- A. God the Son became flesh
  1. **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 beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth.” (NKJV)
  2. **Ph 2:6-7** “who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, 7 but emptied himself, by taking the form of a servant, being born in the likeness of men.”
- B. God the Son was manifested in the flesh
  1. **I Jn 1:1-2** “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us”
- C. God the Son was manifested in the flesh to take away sin and destroy the works of Satan
  1. **I Jn 3:5, 8** “And you know that He was manifested to take away our sins, and in Him there is no sin... 8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.” (NKJV)

### II. Jesus Justified By The Spirit

- A. Jesus was accused of being an immoral man
  1. **Mt 11:19** “The Son of Man came eating and drinking, and they say, ‘Look at him! A glutton and a drunkard...’”
- B. Jesus was accused of blaspheming God
  1. **Mt 9:3** “And behold, some of the scribes said to themselves, ‘This man is blaspheming.’”
- C. Jesus was accused of being from the devil
  1. **Mt 12:24** “But when the Pharisees heard it, they said, ‘It is only by Beelzebul, the prince of demons, that this man casts out demons.’”

## Impact 3:16

---

- D. Jesus was found justified by God
  - 1. **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.”
  - 2. **I Pt 2:22** “He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth.”

### III. Jesus Seen By Angels

- A. From time to time we have a possibility of transliteration becoming a problem rather than solution
  - 1. The word baptism falls into this category.
    - i. It should be translated “immersion” but do to the “Church of England’s” stance on sprinkling the translators transliterated into baptism.
    - ii. Hence removing the controversy sure to follow if properly translated.
  - 2. The word angel is another that falls into this category.
    - i. The word translated means “messenger.”
      - a. **Ja 2:25** “And in the same way was not also Rahab the prostitute justified by works when she received the messengers and sent them out by another way?”
- B. The word angel here would seem to be better translated than transliterated
  - 1. When one considers the context and the rest of the verse it seems to be clear that the apostles and disciples of Christ are a better understanding.
    - i. Thus it would be better read “seen of messengers or seen by messengers.”
  - 2. It would be these messengers mostly that...
    - i. Proclaimed Jesus among the nations.
    - ii. Believed on Jesus in the world.
    - iii. Witnessed Jesus take up in glory.
- C. Thus we find that Jesus had many witnesses that delivered His message
  - 1. **I Jn 1:1** “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life”
  - 2. **II Pt 1:16** “For we did not follow cleverly devised myths when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we were eyewitnesses of his majesty.”

### IV. Jesus Proclaimed Among The Nations

- A. The proclamation of Jesus as the Christ spread from Jerusalem outward
  - 1. **Ac 1:8** “But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you, and you will be my witnesses in Jerusalem and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth.”
- B. The proclamation of Jesus was foretold it would reach the whole world
  - 1. **Mt 24:14** “And this gospel of the kingdom will be preached in all the world as a witness to all the nations, and then the end will come.”

## Impact 3:16

---

- C. The proclamation of Jesus did reach the whole world both Jew & Gentile
1. **Ac 8:4** “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word.” (NKJV)
  2. **Mk 16:20** “And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.”
  3. **Co 1:5-6** “because of the hope laid up for you in heaven. Of this you have heard before in the word of the truth, the gospel, 6 which has come to you, as indeed in the whole world it is bearing fruit and increasing—as it also does among you, since the day you heard it and understood the grace of God in truth”
  4. **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.”
  5. **Ro 10:18** “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.””

### V. Jesus Believed On In The World

- A. There is none other that has had or continues to have more whom believe in Him
1. Even the demons believe in Him
    - i. **Ja 2:19** “You believe that God is one; you do well. Even the demons believe—and shudder!”
- B. This is not to suggest that all these obey Him
1. There are few that actually believe and obey Christ.
    - i. **Mt 7:13-14** “Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to destruction, and those who enter by it are many. 14 For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.”
    - ii. **Mt 7:21-23** “Not everyone who says to me, ‘Lord, Lord,’ will enter the kingdom of heaven, but the one who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. 22 On that day many will say to me, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and cast out demons in your name, and do many mighty works in your name?’ 23 And then will I declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from me, you workers of lawlessness.’”
- C. It cannot be denied how many billions have and do believe in Jesus
1. There is no one that has been written about, talked about, or believed in than Jesus.

### VI. Jesus Taken Up In Glory

- A. Notice Jesus was “taken” up to glory
1. **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.”
  2. **Mk 16:19** “So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God.”
    - i. NKJV; ASV; KJV – received up

## Impact 3:16

---

- B. Why is taken/received up so important to understand
1. Because it illustrates He accomplished His mission on earth.
    - i. **Mt 3:15** "...Let it be so now, for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness..."
    - ii. **Mt 5:17** "Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfill." (NKJV)
  2. Jesus did not fail or come close and fall short, He fulfilled "all" righteousness and then was received back by God.

### CONCLUSION

1. Brethren there is no other name in heaven or on earth that enhances the glory of the church more than Christ Jesus our Savior.
  - a. Let it be said of us that we glory in Him whom brings glory to the church.
2. Question: Are you willing to confess loudly the "Mystery of Godliness?"
  - a. If so continue therein and grow thereby.
  - b. If not why not?
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**