

The Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16 MEV

Without question, great is the mystery of godliness: God was revealed in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen by angels, preached to the Gentiles, believed on in the world, taken up into glory.

Introduction:

It has been very sad to watch well known Christians deny or recant their Christian faith. Yet we should not be surprised. When Scripture is undermined and called into question, when doctrine, that has stood the test of time, is challenged, there will be a falling away or a shallow group of people who do not know what they believe.

We have watched as many churches and church leaders have allowed the watering down and minimizing of God's Word to the point where it has caused great confusion and doubt in the hearts of people. There have been the progressive pastors who have come out with statements that are hard to understand and seem to contradict the Word of God. These Pastors carry a great amount of influence in Christendom.

Rob Bell once said, the Bible is a "human product... rather than the product of divine order." So, he has come to the conclusion that "Everybody's interpretation is essentially his or her own opinion," which means no one can be sure they have arrived at the truth. *However, I believe that...*

When Jesus said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life," He understood who He was.

Brian McLaren, **the father of "postmodern Christianity" – a belief system that does not align with orthodox historic Christianity**, says, "The Bible should not be considered an accurate, and absolute source but a book that should be experienced. No doctrines are to be absolute and true. The Bible is not an answer book"

Tony Jones, an emergent church leader, also states, "We must stop looking for some objective Truth in the text of the Bible." I am quite convinced that the Bible is a subversive text, that constantly undermines our assumptions, transgresses our boundaries, and subverts our comforts."

With Theologians like these, who needs the devil.

Listen, I do not desire to be negative, but I do not desire to live in denial either. I believe and acknowledge every day that today is the day the Lord has made I will rejoice and be glad in it. I also acknowledge that...

We live in an evil day and in an evil place, and because of that we need to understand the Mystery of Godliness. We start by understanding our enemy!

Satan's Goal: *He wants to be God.*

Satan (or Lucifer) was God's highest-ranking angel, the most beautiful being God ever created. Then one day, overcome by pride in his own wisdom and beauty, he decided in his heart that he wanted more. What God had entrusted him with was not enough. In his desire to be God, Satan set his will against the will of God.

In Isaiah 14:13 we have recorded for us Satan's five-fold goal, or Satan's five "I will's."

I will ascend into heaven.

I will exalt my throne above the stars of God.

I will sit on the mount of the congregation, on the farthest sides of the north.

I will ascend above the heights of the clouds.

I will be like the Most High.

He wants to destroy God.

He wants to hinder all the works of God

He wants our willful obedience and worship.

He wants to exercise power over us and control us.

He wants to destroy God. In order to take the throne away from God he has correctly figured that God must be eliminated. So throughout history Satan has tried to destroy God, by eliminating the lineage of Jesus. But all his attempts have failed miserably.

He wants to hinder all the works of God. Satan has his design to cause as much chaos as he can not only in the world, but in the church.

He wants our willful obedience and worship. When Satan tempts us he always tries to get us to question and doubt God. This is one of his greatest tools and he has used it very well over the years.

He wants to exercise power over us and control us.

Acts 10:38 MEV

...how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power, who went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with Him.

Satan gets great pleasure in oppressing those he desires to control.

He wants to destroy us and he wants us to suffer.

He comes to conquer and divide. He comes to kill, steal, and destroy.

God's Answer To Satan

I have a Mystery: Jesus the God-Man. Immanuel, God with us.

As a Man:

But as God:

As a Man He became someone He wasn't before His birth. Both the Son of God and the Son of man on Earth.

But as God He never became because He ever was, is and ever will be "I AM." When you are the "I AM" you can't become. There never was a when, when He wasn't and there never will be a when, when He isn't. He is ever what He has been and will be. If He ever changes He will cease to be "I AM," but He was, is and forever will be the great "I AM."

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As a Man He was 100% human. He was seed of a woman, begotten, not created, but flesh of my flesh and bone of my bone.

But as God He is also 100% God. He is eternally God. He is essentially God. He is specifically God. Isaiah said,

Isaiah 9:6 MEV

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder. And his name shall be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace.

As a Man He was made of a woman, knit together in the womb of a woman.

But as God He made the woman who gave birth to Him.

As a Man He willingly emptied Himself, He willingly limited Himself, He willingly came down and He willingly left glory above.

But as God in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. He is the brightness of God's glory with all power in His name.

As a Man He was counted an infant in days and He had to grow, increase in stature, develop wisdom and favor.

But as God He is counted as the Ancient of Days. You can't teach Him anything and He can't learn anything because He is All-knowing. He cannot be increased nor decreased because He is All-powerful. He cannot be dismissed because He is Ever-Present.

I tell you this morning that He cannot be measured, He cannot be analyzed, He cannot be dissected, He cannot be defined, He cannot be comprehended, He cannot be compared, He cannot be contrasted, He is immortal, imperishable, indestructible, infinite, and undeniable. He is the whole God and He is my Lord and my Savior.

As a Man He got hungry.

But as God He fed 5,000 with only a few pieces of bread and two fish.

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As a Man He got thirsty.

But as God He stood on the last day of the feast of tabernacles and proclaimed in a loud voice, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water."

As a Man He got tired.

But as God He said, "Come to Me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest."

As a Man He had no license to practice medicine.

But as God He is the Great Physician.

As a Man He owned no property.

But as God He owns the cattle on a thousand hills.

As a Man He was a carpenter.

But as God He said I will build my church and gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

As a Man He wore common clothes and had a normal appearance until Calvary, where they beat Him to point that you could not recognize He was ever human.

But as God He is clothed with a garment down to the feet and girded about the chest with a golden band. His head and hair are white like wool, as white as snow and His eyes like a flame of fire. His feet are like fine brass, as if refined in a furnace and His voice as the sound of many waters.

As a Man He was the Lamb of God.

But as God He is the Lion of Judah.

As a Man He laid down His life.

But as God He took it up again.

As a Man He could not enter the temple of God nor function as the priest.

But as God He walked through The Court of Israel into the Holy Place, past the Table of Shewbread, past the Altar of Incense, and past the Seven Branched Lampstand. Where He split the veil from top to bottom that separated the Holy Place from the Holy of Holies. Man would no longer have to go through another man to reach God. Jesus is our High Priest and He intercedes on our behalf.

As a Man He came to His own, but His own would not receive Him.

But as God He will descend from heaven with a shout and with the sound of a trumpet the dead in Christ will rise first. Then those who are alive shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord as He receives those who are His. This leads us to:

Christ in Us, The Hope of Glory

Colossians 1:27-28 MEV

To them God would make known what is the glorious riches of this mystery among the nations. It is Christ in you, the hope of glory.

Regardless of what the heretics might say or believe. No matter how many people fall away from the faith of Jesus Christ. No matter how much the postmodern church waters down the Word of God, RCC will continue to be a light house where Jesus is the center of everything we do, the Bible will be believed, and we will be driven by the Holy Spirit to new heights with God.

No matter how hard things seem to get in these last days, we are told that the Mystery of Godliness is Jesus Christ and that this Mystery is Christ in us the hope of glory.

By and through the Holy Spirit, every person who has called upon the name of Jesus has the indwelling Christ living in them sharing in the glory of Christ and in His Eternal Kingdom. We are in Christ and Christ is in us.

He has given us His great power that enables us to go forth in this world and proclaim the good news of Jesus saves. Paul declare and it is fitting for us today,

2 Corinthians 4:5-18 MEV

⁵ For we do not preach ourselves, but Christ Jesus the Lord, and ourselves your servants for Jesus' sake. ⁶ For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.

⁷ But we have this treasure in earthen vessels, the excellency of the power being from God and not from ourselves. ⁸ We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; ⁹ persecuted, but not forsaken; cast down, but not destroyed;

¹⁰ and always carrying around in the body the death of the Lord Jesus, that also the life of Jesus might be expressed in our bodies. ¹¹ For we who live are always delivered to death for Jesus' sake, that also the life of Jesus might be manifested in our mortal flesh.

¹² So then, death works in us, but life in you. ¹³ We have the same spirit of faith. As it is written, "I believed, and therefore I have spoken." So we also believe and therefore speak, ¹⁴ knowing that He who raised the Lord Jesus will also raise us through Jesus and will present us with you.

¹⁵ All these things are for your sakes, so that the abundant grace through the thanksgiving of many might overflow to the glory of God. ¹⁶ For this reason we do not lose heart: Even though our outward man is perishing, yet our inward man is being renewed day by day.

¹⁷ Our light affliction, which lasts but for a moment, works for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory, ¹⁸ while we do not look at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen. For the things which are seen are temporal, but the things which are not seen are eternal.

Conclusion:

Why should I say I can't when the Bible says I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength (Philippians 4:13)?

Why should I lack when I know that God shall supply all my needs according to His riches in glory in Christ Jesus (Philippians 4:19)?

Why should I fear when the Bible says God has not given me a spirit of fear, but of power, love and a sound mind (2 Timothy 1:7)?

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Why should I lack faith to fulfill my calling knowing that God has allotted to me a measure of faith (Romans 12:3)?

Why should I be weak when the Bible says that the Lord is the strength of my life and that I will display strength and take action because I know God (Psalm 27:1; Daniel 11:32)?

Why should I allow Satan supremacy over my life when He that is in me is greater than he that is in the world (1 John 4:4)?

Why should I accept defeat when the Bible says that God always leads me in triumph (2 Corinthians 2:14)?

Why should I lack wisdom when Christ became wisdom to me from God and God gives wisdom to me generously when I ask Him for it (1 Corinthians 1:30; James 1:5)?

Why should I be depressed when I can recall to mind God's lovingkindness, compassion, and faithfulness and have hope (Lamentations 3:21-23)?

Why should I worry and fret when I can cast all my anxiety on Christ who cares for me (1 Peter 5:7)?

Why should I ever be in bondage knowing that there is liberty where the Spirit of the Lord is (2 Corinthians 3:17)?

Why should I feel condemned when the Bible says I am not condemned because I am in Christ (Romans 8:1)?

Why should I feel alone when Jesus said He is with me always and He will never leave me nor forsake me (Matthew 28:20; Hebrews 13:5)?

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Why should I feel accursed or that I am the victim of bad luck when the Bible says that Christ redeemed me from the curse of the law that I might receive His Spirit (Galatians 3:13-14)?

Why should I be discontented when I, like Paul, can learn to be content in all my circumstances (Philippians 4:11)?

Why should I feel worthless when Christ became sin on my behalf that I might become the righteousness of God in Him (2 Corinthians 5:21)?

Why should I have a persecution complex knowing that nobody can be against me when God is for me (Romans 8:31)?

Why should I be confused when God is the author of peace and He gives me knowledge through His indwelling Spirit (1 Corinthians 14:33; 2:12)?

Why should I feel like a failure when I am a conqueror in all things through Christ (Romans 8:37)?

Why should I let the pressures of life bother me when I can take courage knowing that Jesus has overcome the world and its tribulations (John 16:33)?