

The Common Confession of Christians

The Mystery of Godliness Revealed

1 Timothy 3:16, 4:1

Introduction:

- The word mystery in the Bible
 1. Lk 8:8 – God’s k_____ is called a mystery.
 2. Rom 11:25,26 – God saving Israel after saving the G_____ is called a mystery.
 3. Col 1:26,27 – the g_____ is called a mystery.
 4. Our study text (1 Tim 3:16) – godliness is called a mystery.
- Why are the above things a mystery?
 1. Because these are things of God which He has h_____.
 2. They cannot be discovered unless God r_____ them.
- God has revealed the mystery of godliness
 1. Verse 16 was a c_____ confession, which means that Christians recited this or sang it as a group.
 2. We all must agree to all that God has revealed about godliness.

Godliness is only found in the God-Man

- *He who was revealed in the flesh*
 1. The word revealed implies that something was h_____
 2. Jesus was in existence prior to becoming flesh and existed as the G_____ (Jn 1:1; Jn 8:24,28,58)
 3. Jesus is God in the f_____ (Jn 1:14)
- *He who was vindicated (justified) in the Spirit*
 1. The word translated as vindicated or justified means to be declared or made r_____.
 2. The word, Spirit, is wrongly capitalized. Nowhere does it say that the Holy Spirit declared Jesus righteous.
 - a. There is no “the” in the Greek text before the word spirit.
 - b. Jesus p_____ Himself righteous in spirit by the way He lived (Jn 8:46), died (Lk 23:39-41), and resurrected.
- *He who was seen by angels*
 1. The Greek word, angelos, simply means m_____
 - a. Most times it refers to the spirit beings we envision with w_____.
 - b. It also refers to h_____ messengers

- 1) John the B_____ was called an angel but it is translated messenger (Lk 7:27).
 - 2) He sent human messengers (literally, *angels*) to ask Jesus questions (Lk 7:24).
 - 3) The seven letters in Rev 2 and 3 are written to the a_____ of the seven churches, obviously not spirit beings but human messengers of the church.
2. This refers to seeing Jesus as risen from the d_____.
 - a. Over _____ people saw the risen Jesus at the same time (1 Cor 15:6)
 - b. These witness became God messengers.
- Godliness is only found in the God-man Jesus
1. The word godliness means, good-w_____.
 - a. Jesus said that if you do not honor Him, you are not honoring the F_____ (Jn 5:21).
 - b. You cannot bypass Jesus.
 2. Many are deceived into thinking that they will be accepted by God based on their goodness.
 - a. What is goodness?
 - b. What is good enough?
 - c. Who sets the standard for goodness?
 3. Jesus said only one is good and that is God (Mk 10:18)
 - a. Are you depending on your own godliness?
 - b. Godliness is only found in the God-Man Jesus.

Godliness is only gained by faith in the God-Man

● *Who was proclaimed among the nations*

1. Jesus came to save not just the Jews but people from every e_____ group (the meaning of the word translated as nations).
2. Eventually people from every tribe, tongue, nation, and class of people will be s_____ (Rev 5:9,10).

● *Who was believed on in the world*

1. The word believe means to trust, to have faith.
2. We need not fear in spreading the gospel message because it is God's p_____ for saving people from sin (Rom 1:16).
3. Faith in Christ is how we gain g_____.

● *Who was taken up in glory*

1. This refers to the ascension of Christ into h_____ which the early disciples watched (Act 1:11)
2. This is a reminder that as Jesus was taken up in glory, He will return the same way, v_____ (Rev 1:7)
3. However, before this can happen the gospel must be proclaimed to all the e_____ groups of the world (Matt 24:14).

Conclusion:

Godliness is only found in Christ. And so when we trust in Christ, we gain godliness. This is our common confession. This is what we believe. This is what we must proclaim to the lost.