

1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:16

## What Is the Mystery of Godliness? Part 1

What does the word Mystery mean? The things that were hidden and later revealed.

A mystery is only known through the revelation of God Himself.

*It was hidden in times past, and only revealed by God Himself*

Other mysteries listed by the Apostle Paul include: The mystery of God – Colossians 2:2 – The mystery of faith – 1<sup>st</sup> Tim 3:9 - The mystery of iniquity : 2<sup>nd</sup> Thes 2:7

All revealed by faith through the ministry of God Himself and given through DeVine inspiration.

As we dig deeper into 1<sup>st</sup> Timothy 3:16 we find;

- a. That God Himself was manifested in the flesh
- b. That Jesus Himself was justified in the Spirit
- c. He (Jesus) was seen by angels
- d. He Jesus was preached among the Gentiles
- e. He Jesus was believed on in the world and
- f. He Jesus was received up in glory.

As we look at the life of Jesus Christ, we are looking at His earthly ministry. We are looking at the “days of His flesh”

We must not forget however, that before time was – Jesus was. And that He is the “eternal Christ”

The work of Jesus Christ actually began before the “creation of the Universe.” We are privileged to know Him as Savior, once He entered the sphere of mankind.

At the center of the universe is “calvary” but the universe went ahead of it, and will go well beyond it.

When we look at Jesus Himself, He states that in Revelation 1:18 “I am HE who was dead and behold I am alive for ever more. Further He states that He is the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, I am the one who IS and is to COME. And I am the Almighty.

Jesus further tells us that He and His Father (God) are one. The Apostle John tells us that THE WORD - JESUS) was actually made flesh, and we beheld His glory, “as of the ONLY BEGOTTEN OF THE FATHER – John 1:14

However, have you ever asked yourself “at what time in His life, did He realize that He was God?

When Jesus is praying in the upper room before going to gethsemane He, speaking of Himself (John 17:5) “and now O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with you before the world was.”

Now, Jesus had appeared to men previously in the Old Testament. Genesis 18: 1-8 tells us that Jesus appeared to Abraham. At this time, Jesus did not divest Himself of His deity or empty Himself of His glory, but

When it came time to redeem men, He did both. Look again with me at Phil 2; 3-7

Imagine beloved what He did here.(verse 6)

Well of what did Christ empty Himself of, when He became Man?

He emptied Himself of the “form of God” What does that mean?

For an answer to that question, we have but to look at Matthew 17: 1&2

Now for Christ to redeem mankind from the penalty of sin in their lives, it became necessary for Him to “Empty Himself of His Glory” and to become a MAN.

Look with me at Philippians 2:5-7 - Paul said “let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus. Who “being in the FORM of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of NO REPUTATION (what on earth can this mean) No reputation - Some of us value that more than silver and gold.

Some strive to maintain above all else a “good reputation”

Having man consider us well – Having the praises of another human being - ensuring above all else, that our reputation is above reproach.

Here God Himself set about to become a man of NO REPUTATION-

How some of us need to camp for a while here. We do not find favor in someone who does not respect us. We go about to ensure that “all men speak well of us”

Yet scripture admonishes us to not seek that. In fact He states: “woe unto you oh man, when all men speak well of you”

If there are not some who speak evil of you, you are probably “going along to get along”

God Himself MADE HIMSELF of No reputation.

Further, if truth be known, we love the “best seat in the house” We love it when all men speak well of us. We go out of our way to have men speak well of us.

I don't think you can pick up the towel or garment and set about to serve others, if you are concerned with how others think of you.

Do you know what a “BOND SERVANT IS” or how one becomes a bondservant?

First off, what does a bond servant mean? “One who is subservient and entirely at the disposal of his master”

Other interpretations use the word “slave”

These folks hold the position of permanent servitude.

During biblical times, this person was considered “personal property” of the slave owner. One with “no rights” and could be killed at will by the owner.

Look at Exodus 21 starting in verse 1 but moving to 5 & 6.

So a bondservant serves his master for 6 years and in the 7<sup>th</sup> year he is free from the servanthood and may leave the master. If He comes in by himself, he can go out by himself. If he comes in married, then when it becomes time to leave, she goes with him as he leaves but:

If the master has given him a wife (church) and she bore him sons and daughters then her children become the property of the master. Should he decide to leave, the children remain the property of the master, and he shall go out by himself.

But if the servant claims, “I love my wife and my children, I will not go out free.”

The master then brings him to the judges and a decision is made that he wants to stay with the master, then the master brings the slave to a door post, and the master shall pierce his ear with an awl (steel type rod) and the servant shall then serve his master forever.

Get the picture here beloved?

Jesus (who made Himself of no reputation) becomes a bondservant to God the Father, is given wife and children whom He loves (the Church) says that He (Jesus) loves the wife and children, and makes the decision then to remain a servant to the master forever.

Look as Psalm 40: 6

Verse 6 says that “My ear have you “opened” The Hebrew rendition is actually “bored with an awl”

Jesus did this beloved.

Forever because of the love He has for His wife and children, will remain a bondservant to His Heavenly Father forever.

Look with me now at 1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 15: and verse 28- “and when all things are made subject to him (Jesus) then the Son Himself will also be subject to Him (Father God) who put all things under Him (Jesus) that God the Father may become ALL AND IN ALL.

WOW! Did you get that?

What GREAT love He has for us.