

1 Timothy 3:14-16 These things I write to you, though I hope to come to you shortly; <sup>15</sup> but if I am delayed, I write so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth. <sup>16</sup> And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the Spirit, Seen by angels, Preached among the Gentiles, Believed on in the world, Received up in glory.

I) **so that you may know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God**

A) Cannot be exclusive to location

1) Facades- one face in one place and another elsewhere

2) **church of the living God**

(a) the church is unlike any other entity

(b) Consists of people not a place

(i) To be in the Church is to be part of a united body and to be united with Christ Himself

(ii) To be part of the Church does not allow for not being identified with the congregation or its head

(iii) Has nothing to do with being in a building and everything to do with an internal and external identification that mandates who a person is

3) **pillar and ground of the truth**

(a) Preacher's commentary- "The smallest and most remote congregation is a pillar and a base upon which the truth of the gospel is held aloft. What a thought for every congregation, small and large!"

(i) The Gospel is of and about Christ but it is displayed and expounded by the Church

(ii) No other entity can more properly, accurately, and accountably proliferate the Gospel than the Church

- Missionaries are arms of the Church reaching beyond the physical limits of the congregation but they are accountable to the Church for the Gospel that is declared and the accuracy of it.

II) Paul the worship leader

A) The hymn of the mystery of Godliness

1) **And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:**

(a) No other statement of mankind can claim this status- **without controversy**

(i) There can be no dispute of effect

- People can argue belief and ascent but that has no impact at all on the veracity of the subject
- People can believe in purple unicorns but that doesn't make them real.
- Likewise can believe that God is not but that doesn't eliminate Him or His power or influence or Kingship or character.

- **WHAT WE BELIEVE, IN AS MUCH AS OUR BELIEFS MAY NOT ALIGN WITH REALITY, DOES NOT MATTER ANY AT ALL**

2) **mystery of godliness**- Secret of character and condition of the one who is GOD!!

(a) Godliness- Eusebia

(i) Eusebia is translated as pious or being devout, holding the character of God

(ii) Eusebeia relates to real, true, vital, and spiritual relation with God, while *thrēskeia* relates to the outward acts of religious observances or ceremonies, which can be performed by the flesh. The English word "religion" was never used in the sense of true godliness. It always meant the outward forms of worship

(b) In Paul's statement it is impossible to truly relate to God spiritually or to recognize Him in His true character without acknowledging the statements that follow.

(c)

**3) God was manifested in the flesh,**

(a) in this single statement Paul turns 3 millennia of belief on its head

(i) God, as understood by the Jews would never demean Himself to stoop to man's level

(ii) gods as understood by the pagans would never stoop to the level of mankind, except to mate with human women to produce Titans

(b) There is only a single possibility when it comes to meeting the requirements Paul specifies

(i) Jesus Christ as understood and believed by Christians is the only possibility

**4) Justified in the Spirit,**

(a) Edikaioothe en pneumatī- made righteous in His Spirit

(b) Not "through the Spirit"

(c) Mankind is justified through God's grace

(i) Romans 3:23-25 for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God, <sup>24</sup> being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, <sup>25</sup> whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed,

(ii) Romans 3:28 Therefore we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart from the deeds of the law.

(iii) Romans 5:1-2 Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, <sup>2</sup> through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God.

**5) Seen by angels,**

(a) God is seen and ministered to by angels but what Paul refers to here is beyond

(i) Angels were witness to his advent, Luke 2:13-14 And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying: <sup>14</sup> "Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!"

(ii) Angels were witness to His resurrection; John 20:12-13 And she saw two angels in white sitting, one at the head and the other at the feet, where the body of Jesus had lain. <sup>13</sup> Then they said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping?"

**6) Preached among the Gentiles,**

(a) Paul was the apostle to the Gentiles

(i) Matthew 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.

**7) Believed on in the world,**

(a) John 3:16-17 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. <sup>17</sup> For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved.

**8) Received up in glory.**

(a) Psalms 68:18 You have ascended on high, You have led captivity captive; You have received gifts among men, Even from the rebellious, That the Lord God might dwell there.

(b) Acts 1:1-2 The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, <sup>2</sup> until the day in which He was taken up, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,