

GLAD TIDINGS

“And we bring you good tidings of the promise made unto the fathers...” (Acts 13:32)

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Great Is The Mystery Of Godliness

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Paul claims there is something to believe which is “*without controversy*” It is the greatness of the mystery which is the foundation of a proper attitude toward God. Paul writes, “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: He who was manifested in the flesh, Justified in the spirit, Seen of angels, Preached among the nations, Believed on the world, Received in glory*” (I Timothy 3:16).

The mystery focuses upon Jesus who manifested God in the flesh. The six facts connected with Jesus makes known what had been hidden and therefore a “mystery”. From Jesus manifested in the flesh to the ultimate exaltation to the glory of heaven, the mystery is made known and its breadth of meaning is great.

Paul reminds us that Jesus is the basis for having and maintaining a proper and reverential attitude toward God. If we allow worldly matters to crowd out these facts regarding Jesus, we probably will not live a life that could be characterized as godly. Our life will probably not have a passion for living godly because these facts regarding Jesus no longer

create a passion for Christ.

Manifested in the flesh- Justified in the Spirit

Paul says that if we live godly, we will suffer persecution (2 Tim. 3:12). In such times it is important for us know within our hearts that we are “right” despite the many voices claiming otherwise. Jesus claimed He and the Father are one; and professed that when you looked upon Him you were viewing the Father (John 10:30, 14:9). Yet, He was put to death upon the accusation of “blasphemy” regarding His claims (Matthew 26:63-66).

God Justified Jesus who came in the flesh. The concept is He “vindicated” Jesus regarding his claims while in the flesh. The divine spirit, which Jesus possessed as God, constantly vindicated Jesus’ claims with miraculous signs which only could come through the power of God (cf. John 10:31,39). But the ultimate vindication of Jesus came in His resurrection from the dead. “*Who was declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead; even Jesus Christ our Lord*” (Romans 1:4).

It is great to know when suffering for godliness that Jesus was justified by the Father. So will we be vindicated!

Seen of Angels- Received in Glory

The greatness of the foundation for our godly living lies in Jesus transcending this earth. Angels, who are higher than man, have always desired to look into man’s salvation (I Peter 1:12) When Jesus was raised and ascended to heaven, angels took note. Even the hierarchy of angels acknowledge Jesus’ majesty and God’s wisdom as they see man saved from sin comprising the church (Ephesians 3:10:11)

Preached among the nations- Believed on in the World

Preaching Christ is necessary for belief to begin in the heart (Romans 10:17). The basis for our living godly is not limited to one place in the world or for one nation. It is for all nations, worldwide. The mystery of godliness is great in that its message and reception is not limited to place or people. It is for all (Mk. 16:15)!