

Great ... Is the Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16

- 1 Timothy 3:16
- Sometimes the simplest telling of a story is powerful in reminding us about something we all know, but need to join together in common so that we are united in our foundational understandings.

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

- For me, this song is clearly about Jesus, and our salvation
 - It's a reminder of the grace of Jesus
 - It's a refreshing way to see the gospel
- Romans 1:16: For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek.

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

- 1 Timothy 3:9 (ESV) 9 They must hold the **mystery of the faith** with a clear conscience.
- 1 Timothy 3:16: Great indeed, we confess, is the **mystery of godliness**:
- To me, this expression is a reference to what we commonly call “the gospel”: the good news.
- Used here of something that was hidden, but is now revealed (made clear, made known)

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

- Great
 - ... not that it's a great unknown,
 - Rather it is Amazing, Majestic, Worthy of praise
- We Confess
 - The heart of this song.
 - By singing this song we are boldly declaring just how amazing the gospel is
- All centers around Jesus

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

**He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

- 1 Timothy 3:16 (ESV) 16 Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:
- He was manifested in the flesh,
- vindicated by the Spirit,
- seen by angels,
- proclaimed among the nations,
- believed on in the world,
- taken up in glory.

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

**} He was manifested in the flesh,
} vindicated by the Spirit,**

**} seen by angels,
} proclaimed among the nations,**

**} believed on in the world,
} taken up in glory.**

- This song may be understood in various (each line on it's own, two sections of three)
- I prefer this: three sets of couplets

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

Incarnation } **He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,**

} **seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,**

} **believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

- This first couplet focus' on Jesus Himself: without Him there is no gospel.

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

Incarnation } **He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,**

Proclamation } **seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,**

} **believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

- The second couplet looks at the spread of the gospel

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

Incarnation } **He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,**

Proclamation } **seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,**

Exaltation } **believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

- The third couplet looks to the end of our belief, our salvation.

Incarnation

**} He was manifested in the flesh,
| vindicated by the Spirit,**

- Incarnation
 - He was manifested in the flesh
 - Vindicated by the Spirit

Incarnation

**} He was manifested in the flesh,
| vindicated by the Spirit,**

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only
Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:14

- He was manifested in the flesh
- John 1:14 (ESV) 14 And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.

Incarnation

**} He was manifested in the flesh,
} vindicated by the Spirit,**

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only
Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:14

- 1 John 1:1-4 (ESV) which we have seen with our eyes, which we looked upon and have touched with our hands, concerning the word of life— 2 the life was made manifest, and we have seen it, and testify to it and proclaim to you the eternal life, which was with the Father and was made manifest to us— 3 that which we have seen and heard we proclaim also to you, so that you too may have fellowship with us; and indeed our fellowship is with the Father and with his Son Jesus Christ. 4 And we are writing these things so that our joy may be complete.

Incarnation

} He was manifested in the flesh,
| vindicated by the Spirit,

**And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us,
and we have seen his glory, glory as of the only
Son from the Father, full of grace and truth.**

John 1:14

- Hebrews 2:14-18 (ESV) 14 Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that **through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil,** 15 and **deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery.** 16 For surely it is not angels that he helps, but he helps the offspring of Abraham. 17 Therefore he had to be made like his brothers in every respect, so that **he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God,** to make **propitiation for the sins** of the people. 18 For because he himself has suffered when tempted, **he is able to help** those who are being tempted.

Incarnation

**} He was manifested in the flesh,
} vindicated by the Spirit,**

**I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove,
and it remained on him.**

John 1:32

- Vindicated by the Spirit: Messiah, fulfilling prophecies
- John 1:32-34 (ESV) 32 And John bore witness: “I saw the Spirit descend from heaven like a dove, and it remained on him. 33 I myself did not know him, but he who sent me to baptize with water said to me, ‘He on whom you see the Spirit descend and remain, this is he who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.’ 34 And I have seen and have borne witness that this is the Son of God.”

Incarnation

**} He was manifested in the flesh,
} vindicated by the Spirit,**

**The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has
anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor.**

Luke 4:18 (from Isaiah 61:1-2)

- Vindicated by the Spirit: Messiah, fulfilling prophecies
- Luke 4:16-21 (ESV) 16 And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up. And as was his custom, he went to the synagogue on the Sabbath day, and he stood up to read. 17 And the scroll of the prophet Isaiah was given to him. He unrolled the scroll and found the place where it was written, 18 “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim liberty to the captives and recovering of sight to the blind, to set at liberty those who are oppressed, 19 to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor.” 20 And he rolled up the scroll and gave it back to the attendant and sat down. And the eyes of all in the synagogue were fixed on him. 21 And he began to say to them, “Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing.”

Incarnation

**} He was manifested in the flesh,
} vindicated by the Spirit,**

- Incarnation
 - He was manifested in the flesh
 - Vindicated by the Spirit
- This is amazing love:
 - God becomes a man, joins us as humans to destroy death, deliver us, save us, and help us.
 - This is the faithfulness of God that he has kept his promises from Abraham and all the prophets.

Proclamation

} seen by angels,
} proclaimed among the nations,

- Proclamation
 - seen by angels
 - proclaimed among the nations

Proclamation

} seen by angels,
} proclaimed among the nations,

things into which angels long to look

1 Peter 1:12

- Seen by angels
 - Angels did witness the life of Jesus: deeply involved from what we see
 - Birth: Joseph, Mary, Shepherds
 - Flight to Egypt
 - Return to Nazareth
 - After temptation
 - Garden of Gethsemene
 - Resurrection
 - Ascension
 - Day of judgment

Proclamation

} seen by angels,
} proclaimed among the nations,

things into which angels long to look

1 Peter 1:12

- 1 Peter 1:12 (ESV) 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.
- The angels would be a further confirmation of Jesus' work and the gospel.

Proclamation

} seen by messengers,
} proclaimed among the nations,

**things that have now been announced to you through
those who preached the good news to you**

1 Peter 1:12

- Seen by messengers: reliable witnesses of the events involving
- 1 Peter 1:12 (ESV) 12 It was revealed to them that they were serving not themselves but you, in the things that have now been announced to you through those who preached the good news to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven, things into which angels long to look.

Proclamation

} seen by messengers,
} proclaimed among the nations,

**things that have now been announced to you through
those who preached the good news to you**

1 Peter 1:12

- “angel” may also be translated “messengers” (often is, depends on context)
 - (Theological Dictionary of the New Testament (Abridged - Little Kittel)) 1. The meaning 'human messenger' has only a small role in the NT, being applied to the scouts sent by Joshua (Jms. 2:25), the men sent to Jesus by John (Lk. 7:24), those sent ahead by Jesus (Lk. 9:52), and the Baptist as the messenger of the covenant sent by God (Mt. 11:10 and par.).
 - Mt. 11:10; Mk. 1:2; Lk.. 7:27: John the Baptizer
 - Lk. 7:24: John's messengers to Jesus
 - Lk. 9:52: Jesus' messengers (disciples) through Samaria

Proclamation

} seen by messengers,
} proclaimed among the nations,

**things that have now been announced to you through
those who preached the good news to you**

1 Peter 1:12

- The role of the apostles was to be eyewitnesses of Jesus' life, death, resurrection and ascension
 - Acts 1:21-22 (ESV) 21 So one of the men who have accompanied us during all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John until the day when he was taken up from us—one of these men must become with us a witness to his resurrection.”
 - Acts 2:32 — This Jesus God raised up, and of that we all are witnesses.
- The apostles as eyewitnesses of Jesus' life are motivated to tell others of this good news (gospel).

Proclamation

} seen by messengers,
} proclaimed among the nations,

**Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel
to the whole creation.**

Mark 16:15

- Proclaimed among the nations
 - Mark 16:15 — And he said to them, “Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation.
 - Romans 1:1-6

Proclamation

} seen by messengers,
} proclaimed among the nations,

**Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel
to the whole creation.**

Mark 16:15

- Romans 1:1-6 (ESV) 1 Paul, a servant of Christ Jesus, called to be an apostle, set apart for the gospel of God, 2 which he promised beforehand through his prophets in the holy Scriptures, 3 concerning his Son, who was descended from David according to the flesh 4 and was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, Jesus Christ our Lord, 5 through whom we have received grace and apostleship **to bring about the obedience of faith for the sake of his name among all the nations**, 6 including you who are called to belong to Jesus Christ,

Proclamation

} seen by angels,
} proclaimed among the nations,

- Proclamation
 - seen by angels
 - proclaimed among the nations
- Our Father has sent a message out to everyone.
 - It is trustworthy (angels or messengers)
 - It is proclaimed so that all can hear this good news
- Romans 10:17 — So faith comes from hearing, and hearing through the word of Christ.

Exaltation

**} believed on in the world,
| taken up in glory.**

- Exaltation
 - believed on in the world
 - taken up in glory

Exaltation

} believed on in the world,
} taken up in glory.

**I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced
that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to
Him until that day.**

2 Timothy 1:12

- Believed on in the World
- 2 Timothy 1:8-12 (ESV)
 - 8 Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner,
 - but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God,
 - 9 who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works
 - but because of his own purpose and grace,

Exaltation

} believed on in the world,
| taken up in glory.

**I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced
that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to
Him until that day.**

2 Timothy 1:12

- which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began,
 - 10 and which now has been manifested through the appearing of our Savior Christ Jesus,
 - who abolished death and brought life and immortality to light through the gospel,
 - 11 for which I was appointed a preacher and apostle and teacher, 12 which is why I suffer as I do.

Exaltation

**} believed on in the world,
} taken up in glory.**

**I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced
that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to
Him until that day.**

2 Timothy 1:12

- But I am not ashamed, for I know whom I have believed, and I am convinced that he is able to guard until that day what has been entrusted to me.
- (NASB) I know whom I have believed and I am convinced that He is able to guard what I have entrusted to Him until that day.

Exaltation

} believed on in the world,
} taken up in glory.

**When Christ who is your life appears,
then you also will appear with him in glory.**

Colossians 3:4

- Taken up in glory
- Mark 16:19-20 (ESV) 19 So then the Lord Jesus, after he had spoken to them, was taken up into heaven and sat down at the right hand of God. 20 And they went out and preached everywhere, while the Lord worked with them and confirmed the message by accompanying signs.
- Colossians 3:4 (ESV) 4 When Christ who is your life appears, then you also will appear with him in glory.
- Philippians 3:20-21

Exaltation

**} believed on in the world,
} taken up in glory.**

**When Christ who is your life appears,
then you also will appear with him in glory.**

Colossians 3:4

- Philippians 3:20-21 (ESV) 20 But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, 21 who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

Exaltation

**} believed on in the world,
} taken up in glory.**

- Exaltation
 - believed on in the world
 - taken up in glory
- God's amazing grace that looks to our full salvation: forgiveness, reconciliation, and exaltation

Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

**He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.**

- Each day, we need to think about the gospel.
 - Jesus came and we know he is the way the truth and the life
 - The gospel has been proclaimed to us, and we need to proclaim this wonderful message as often as we can.
 - Believe in Jesus and be saved, one day, be exalted with Him.
- This is great. It is amazing and wondrous.
- Confess it
 - Tell others.
 - Live it.

**We implore you on
behalf of Christ,
be reconciled to God.**

2 Corinthians 5:20

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Great ... Is the Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16

Synopsis: This passage is commonly considered a song of the early Christians. In it, we find a powerful summation of the gospel: the incarnation of Jesus, the proclamation of the gospel and the exaltation. Not only is this great, but it is worthy of our daily consideration and confession.

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“Let all that you do be done with love.”