

THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS
Or
THE DAY GOD BECAME MAN

Scripture: 1 Timothy 3:16

Introduction:

- A. The term “Christmas” is used as Christians have used it for many centuries -- the day Christ was born.**
- B. The term “mystery” is defined as “a religious truth that man can know by revelation alone and cannot fully understand.” Also, “something not understood or beyond understanding.”**
- C. Our text verse fits this definition. These are stated truths that we can not understand, but we can accept them as true and glory in what they mean to us now and for eternity.**
- D. Let us without controversy give our attention to the elements of the mystery of godliness.**

I. GOD WAS MANIFEST IN THE FLESH.

- A. The Bible declares that “God is Spirit” and that “No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, he hath declared Him.” John 1:18.**
- B. To manifest is to reveal what already exists. God is the eternal, self existent One. The birth of Jesus Christ manifested God in the flesh of man.**
- C. Through the virgin birth, God was manifest in human flesh. God became physical man that we might see Him and handle Him.**
 - 1. Our text states – God was manifest in the flesh**
 - 2. John wrote, “And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.” John 1:14**
 - 3. Paul wrote, “Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of the flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same; that through death he might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil.” Hebrews 2:14**
 - 4. Paul also wrote, “God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,” 1 Corinthians 5:19**
- D. Jesus told His disciples, “He that has seen me, hath seen the Father, I and the Father are one.”**
- E. A part of the mystery of Christmas truly is – God came down and dwell with man.**

II. THE INCLUSIVNESS OF THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS

A. His being JUSTIFIED in the Spirit is a part of mystery.

- 1. Jesus, God in the flesh, had declared Himself to be God.
This was the basic charge brought against Him at His trial.**
- 2. He began His ministry by declaring, “Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up.” He spoke of the temple of His body.**
- 3. Many other times He spoke of His coming death and resurrection. Matthew 16:21; 17:23; 20:19.**
- 4. Truly, He was justified by the Holy Spirit raising Him from the dead. Romans 8:11 verifies this, “But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you.”**

B. Being seen of angels is also a part of the mystery of Christmas.

- 1. Matthew 28:5 “And the angel answered and said unto the women, Fear not ye; For I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here: for he is risen, as he said. Come see the place where the Lord lay.”**
- 2. Luke 24:5-7 Angels said, “Why seek ye the living among the dead? He is not here, but is risen:”**

C. Being received up into glory is a part of the mystery of Christmas.

- 1. Acts 1:10, 11 Angels spoke, “This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.”**
- 2. Acts 7:55 records Stephen’s looking into heaven and seeing Jesus standing on the right hand of God.**
- 3. Paul verified this part of the mystery in Hebrews 9:24 “For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;”**

III. THE PREACHING OF THESE TRUTHS TO THE GENTILES IS A PART OF THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS.

- A. Up to this time God's message of salvation had been proclaimed through the temple system of worship by the sacrifices and ordinances displaying the gospel message and primarily to the Jews.**
- B. But, now, the gospel message of How Christ (God in the flesh) died for our sin according to the Scriptures and was buried and rose again the third day according to the Scriptures is to be preached not only to the Jews, but to the Gentiles.**

IV. THE BELEIVING OF THIS IN THE WORLD IS ALSO A PART OF THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS.

- A. This great revelation of truth of how God took upon Himself the form of man, was manifest in the flesh, died for our sin, was buried and rose again the third day for our justification servers God's purpose ONLY when it is BELIEVED.**
- B. Believing is each person's responsibility and is God's purpose in all that is involved in what I have referred to as THE MYSTERY OF CHRISTMAS.**

CONCLUSION:

- A. Let each of us thank God for loving us so much that He stepped down from glory and took our place and died to pay our sin debt.**
- B. Let us thank God that He rose again and offers salvation to the whole world of sinners.**
- C. Let each of us ask self, "Have I truly repented of my sin and trusted Jesus Christ to save my soul?"**
- D. Let each ask, "Does my life demonstrate true thankfulness for all Christ has done for me?"**