

MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

By Keith Greer

In Paul's first letter to the young evangelist Timothy, a truth hidden from men's knowledge previously, is now going to be revealed.

"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." {1Timothy 3:16} Let us examine this verse more closely.

What is godliness? **"To be devout, denotes that piety which is characterized by a Godward attitude, does that which is well pleasing to Him; Godliness as embodied in, and communicated through the truths of faith concerning Christ."** {Vine's Expository Dictionary of Old & New Testament Words}

GOD MANIFESTED IN THE FLESH. Jesus was God in the flesh. Living in the "form and fashion" of a man, yet maintaining His deity as God's "only Begotten Son"! John 1:1- 3; Philippians 2:6-8; Matthew 1:23.

JUSTIFIED IN THE SPIRIT. Jesus was given the Spirit "without measure." Jesus did many miracles showing God was with Him .John 3:2: 3:34.

SEEN BY ANGELS. Even while the Son of man was on earth, they saw Him as the eternal deity. They announced His ascension, Acts 9:1-11; ministered to His needs, Matthew 4:11; announced His resurrection, Matthew 28:5,6.

PREACHED AMONG THE GENTILES. He was proclaimed as the Savior of all mankind- to all men despite nationality, color, sex, or position of life. All men were sinners and were in need of His saving blood and grace. Acts 10:47,48; 15:3; Galatians 3:28,29.

BELIEVED IN THE WORLD. Those that heard the wonderful proclamation concerning His death, burial and resurrection were so convinced that they obeyed in great numbers. The same is still true today. The seed which is planted in an honest heart, will bring forth "much fruit." Acts 8:39; 11:24; 13:12; 19:18-20.

RECEIVED UP IN GLORY. Many angels received Him and escorted Him to the throne of God, where He was crowned King of kings. Luke 24:51; John 17:5. "And to make all see what is the fellowship of the mystery, which from the beginning of the ages has been hidden in God who created all things through Jesus Christ; to the intent that now the manifold wisdom of God might be made known by the church to the principalities and powers in the heavenly places, according to the eternal purpose which He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord." {Ephesians 3:9-11}

God had a plan since the foundation of the world to bring one to this earth who could once again reconcile man unto God. The plan would be brought together by His only begotten Son, Christ Jesus, our Lord! Praise be to Him!!

How would man know the "great mystery" if it had not been revealed unto Him? "But God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches all things, yes, the deep things of God." {1 Corinthians 2:10}

The mystery is no longer hidden, but revealed for all to know and accept. God desires that all men come to this knowledge in their lives, to accept Christ as the answer to man's spiritual needs.

Now that you know the mystery, what will you do with this knowledge? Who had the credentials of Jesus Christ? God sent His Son into this world for the answer to man's greatest problem – the sin problem! God is waiting for your answer! ***