

# Great is the Mystery of Godliness

(1 Timothy 3:16)

- Introduction:
1. There are many things in life that are and will remain a mystery to me, even though I know some things about it.
  2. The Bible says “without controversy” or more literally, “by common confession,” great is the mystery of godliness (1 Timothy 3:16).
  3. Let’s consider this great mystery of how we become godly.

## I. God was Manifested in the Flesh

- A. (John 1:1;14; Matthew 1:23; Romans 1:3).
- B. This simple statement was a battleground in the first century with incipient Gnosticism.
- C. To die for us required that Jesus take on flesh.

## II. Justified in the Spirit

- A. Justified or vindicated in or by the Spirit.
- B. Consider how the Spirit vindicated him.
  1. At his birth (Luke 2:25-35).
  2. Descended upon him (John 1:29-34).
  3. Raised him from the dead (Romans 8:11).
- C. Consider also all the miracles he did by the Spirit (John 3:34).

## III. Seen by Angels

- A. The angels had personal interest in our salvation (1 Peter 1:12).
- B. They announced his birth (Luke 2:8-14).
- C. They ministered to him after his temptation (Matthew 4:11).
- D. An angel strengthened him (Luke 22:43).
- E. They were present at his ascension (Acts 1:10-11).

## IV. Preached Among the Gentiles

- A. Thus, fulfilling the promise to Abraham (Genesis 12:1-3).
- B. (Matthew 28:19; Romans 1:16).
- C. (Acts 10:34-35).

## V. Believed on in the World

- A. (John 3:16).
- B. (1 Corinthians 1:23).

## VI. Received up into Glory

- A. Acts 1 takes us full circle; Jesus ends up where he began.
- B. (Philippians 2:9-11).

- Conclusion:
1. These lines in verse 16 are thought to be a part of an early Christian hymn that they sung.
  2. It’s worthy to be sung whether that is correct or not.
  3. My salvation is not by my own merit, but by the work of God.
  4. I still don’t understand all of it, but I believe all of it.