

The Mystery Of Godliness

1 Timothy 3:16

1 Tim.3:15 – review

- When Paul says truth is the foundation of the church . . .
 - He refers to church's creation and life.
- When Paul says church is the foundation of truth . . .
 - He refers to church's calling and mission.

I. Common Consent

Without Controversy

- Confessedly, by common consent, without question, most certainly
- 'We agree that...'

Great mystery

- God born of virgin...
 - Died on cross for enemies...
 - Raised third day...
 - Church: Jews and Gentiles
- Concerns 'great' God & Savior, Jesus
 - Tit.2:13 . . . Ac.19

Acts 19, Ephesus	1 Tim.3:16, Ephesus
Devotion: dead idol, 24	Devotion: living Christ
Qualification: silver, 24	Creator of all
Object: less...human, 24	God in flesh
Motive: profit, 25, 27	Salvation
Purpose: help 'selves, 27	Help (save) everyone
Conf. Great Diana, 28, 34	Great mystery: God
Action: confusion, 29, 32	Certain knowledge
Destiny: perish	Reign forever

When churches promote fund raisers
and make carnal appeals . . .

they revert to same worldly tactics
as pagans (Ac.19)

- 'Health and wealth gospel'
- Hot air balloon rides . . .

Great mystery
Great mystery

- Not obscurity . . . but importance
- Not something beyond our ability to understand, or better felt than told (mysterious)
- But something unrevealed until God reveals it in gospel. 1 Pt.1:10-12

Great mystery
Great mystery
Mysteries of NT

- 1 Co.15:51

Behold, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed

Great mystery
Great mystery
Mysteries of NT

- 1 Co.15:51
- Eph.3

⁴ by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ) ⁵ which in other ages was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed by the Spirit to His holy apostles and prophets ⁶ that the Gentiles should be fellow heirs, of the same body, and partakers of His promise in Christ through the gospel

Great mystery
Great mystery
Mysteries of NT

- 1 Co.15:51
- Eph.3:4-6
- Eph.5:32

This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.

Great mystery
Great mystery
Mysteries of NT

- 1 Co.15:51
- Eph.3:4-6
- Eph.5:32
- 2 Th.2:7

For the mystery of lawlessness is already at work; only He who now restrains will do so until He is taken out of the way.

Great mystery
Great mystery
Mysteries of NT

- 1 Co.15:51
- Eph.3:4-6
- Eph.5:32
- 2 Th.2:7
- 1 Tim.3:9

Holding the mystery of the faith
with a pure conscience.

Great mystery
Great mystery
Mysteries of NT

- 1 Co.15:51
- Eph.3:4-6
- Eph.5:32
- 2 Th.2:7
- 1 Tim.3:9
- 1 Tim.3:16

And without controversy great
is the mystery of godliness . . .

Great mystery
Great mystery
Mysteries of NT

- 1 Tim.3:16

And without controversy great
is the mystery of **godliness** . . .

- Godliness: awesome respect accorded to God, piety; devoted to God
- Verse 16 focuses on Christ Himself

I. Common Consent

II. Christ's Characteristics

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

1. Chronological: each item follows consecutive order

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

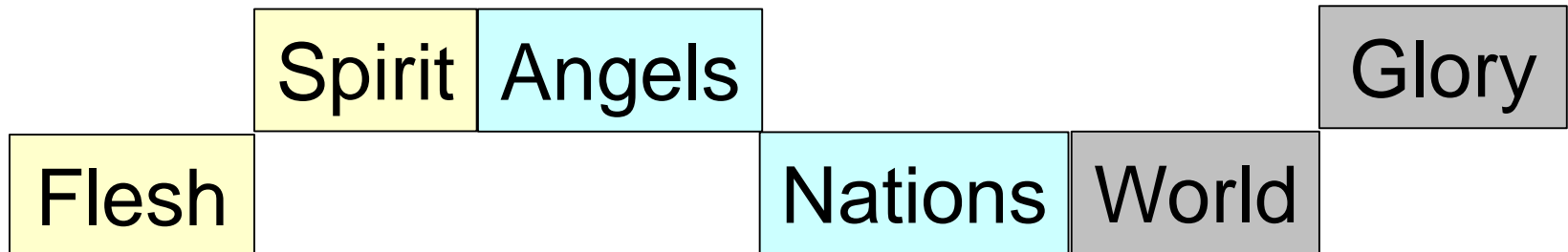
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2. Triplets: first three allude to His earthly ministry, second three to His exaltation

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

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3. Couplets: opposites –
 1. Flesh and spirit: earthly ministry
 2. Angels & nations: spread of gospel
 3. World and glory: reception on earth and in heaven

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

1. Chronological: each item follows consecutive order
2. Triplets: first three allude to His earthly ministry, second three to His exaltation
3. Couplets: antithesis between –
 1. Flesh and spirit: earthly ministry
 2. Angels & nations: spread of gospel
 3. World and glory: reception on earth and in heaven



Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

1. Textual criticism: 'God' [N]KJV; 'He' (ESV); 'He who' (NASB) etc.

The reading θεός arose either **(a)** accidentally, through the misreading of ος as ΘΣ, or **(b)** deliberately, either to supply a substantive for the following six verbs, or, with less probability, to provide greater dogmatic precision – Metzger.

θ̄ō̄ and OC.

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

1. Textual criticism: 'God' [N]KJV; 'He' (ESV); 'He who' (NASB) etc.
 - **Who** can refer to **only one Person** in history (v.16)
 - No more is needed to affirm His person and legacy

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

Secret Shared

1. **Manifested in flesh:** proves deity.
 - Includes incarnation and entire earthly life. Jn.1:1-3, 14
 - Heart of human history: count time by His coming

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

Secret Shared

2. Justified in spirit:

- NOT as Lk.10:29
- NOT as sinner, pardoned (Hb.4:14)
 - Vindication.
 - Men rejected Him (Jn.1)
 - Resurrection vindicated His every claim (Ac.3:13-15)

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

Secret Shared

2. Justified in spirit:

- If 'Holy Spirit": vindicated by Spirit
- If His own 'spirit' (ASV): parallel between flesh and spirit.

Lk.23:46; Jn.8:46

What do these rejecters
think of Him now?

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

Secret Shared

3. Seen of angels:

- Heralds at His birth, Lk.2:13-14
- Strengthened Him, Lk.22:43
- Post-resurrection announcements, Lk.24:4ff
- Ac.1:10, ascension

**Angels above men; worship Christ,
Hb.1:6; Rv.22:8-9**

**Angels nearest to God; Gentiles
farthest away...**

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

Secret Shared

4. Preached among Gentiles (nations):
 - God separated Abraham from others; Jewish descendants
 - Served God's purpose, Jn.4:22
 - Shock: Jew and Gentile unite in His church, Is.2:2-3; Mt.28:19

Preaching Christ: Ac.8:5, 12, 35-36, etc.

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

Secret Shared

5. Believed on in world:

- Many rejected evidence, Jn.1:11
- 1 Co.15, quickly became multitudes
- Galilean carpenter . . . Col.1:23
- 'Believed' – not mere agreement

1 Tim.1:16, Paul's
salvation is pattern.

Acts 22:16

Tit.3:5, washing of
regeneration IS
salvation by mercy

Symmetry of 1 Tim.3:16

Selection

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6. Received up (taken up) in glory:

- Acts 1:2 (9)
- Lk.24:26
- Jn.17:5

His narrative ends where it began
– in heaven. Who else . . . ?

1. People judge us and Lord by what we...

*say...do...wear...where we go

*Ac.4:13

‘The Christian is the world’s Bible,
and in the majority of cases a
Revised Version is needed.’

2. Each fact proclaims Jesus to be the Christ, the Son of God.

* What are you doing with Jesus?

* Neutrality is impossible –

He who is not with Me is against Me, and he who does not gather with Me scatters abroad – Mt.12:30

3. Our lives as Christians revolve around the Lord.

* 'Brother X let me down...'

I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church – Col.1:24