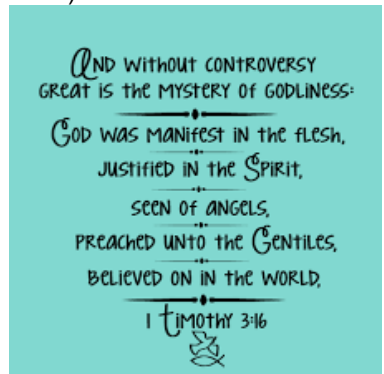


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“The Mystery of Godliness (I Tim 3:16).”

A “mystery” in the Bible is an important truth which could not be known to mankind if God had not revealed it to us, by His grace for our spiritual benefit. There are several “mysteries” in the New Testament, all of which contain vital truths which we do well to seek to understand. Examples are: (1) the mystery of the revival of Israel (Rom. 11:25); (2) the mystery of the resurrection (I Cor. 15:51); (3) the mystery of God’s plan for mankind (Eph. 1:9); and (4) the mystery of iniquity (II Thess. 2:7). These are some of the “mysteries” given to us in the New Testament. Our concern here is to explain the “mystery of godliness” (I Tim. 3:16).

The Apostle Paul refers to this “mystery of godliness” in these terms: “And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed up into glory” (I Tim. 3:16). Our concern now is to seek to understand what Paul means in these six phrases by which he sheds light for us on the “mystery of godliness”.



I. The **first** explanatory **phrase is: “God was manifest in the flesh”**. The reference is to our Lord Jesus Christ. He is God the Son, the second Person of the holy trinity. Christ was eternally God and He took on a human nature in order to save his people. Christ was invisible until He took on His human nature. But He became visible when He became incarnate. One consequence of this was that some, especially men of no true religious faith, made the terrible mistake of supposing Christ was a mere man like themselves. They rejected His claim to be the Messiah and, tragically, they crucified Him. There are many people today who refuse to believe He is God with a human nature. Our wisdom is to believe what our Saviour says about Himself in many ways, such as “I

and my Father are one" (John 10:30); "he who hath seen me hath seen the Father" (John 14:9).

It is a mystery beyond all human understanding. But it is absolute truth to believe that Jesus is both God and Man. To be blind to this truth is to lack illumination. But by the New Birth God gives understanding to His people to recognise Christ to be the God-Man Redeemer.

- II. Christ was "**justified in the Spirit**". Christ did all His miracles by the anointing which He had. The Holy Spirit came upon Him at His baptism. Jesus informs us that God gave to Him the Spirit in complete fulness and "not by measure" (John 3:34). The miracles of every sort – healing, casting out the devils, walking on the water, raising up the dead – were all done by Christ as He was anointed without measure by the Holy Spirit, the Third Person of the holy Trinity. This was true of our Lord's own resurrection after being in the grave for three days. The sealing of the Spirit on our Lord Jesus Christ was the fulfilling of the scriptural promise, as our Lord tells us: "This day is this scripture fulfilled in your ears" (Luke 4:17f).

Christ was "justified in the Spirit" in that the doubts, denials and false accusations which were so often cast at Him were all visibly and perfectly answered and refuted. If Christ could do His miracles and, at the end of His earthly ministry, rise up to heaven in His ascension, then all the objections of unbelievers were, are, and ever will be shown to be invalid. If Christ could do all those miracles and rise up to glory after His resurrection, then He was and is justified in His "I am's" and all His claims to be God the Son.

- III. Christ was "**seen of angels**". Angels treated Christ in His years on earth with the highest respect and love. They worshipped Him (Hebr. 1:6). As it is so well put in Matthew Henry's Commentary: "They attended his incarnation, his temptation, his agony, his death, his resurrection, his ascension; this is much to his honour and shows what a mighty interest he had in this upper world." What a perfect example this love of the angels for our Lord Christ is to us. May we all seek to honour and exalt Him here on earth. If we do so we shall treat every aspect of His words and works as divine, sacred and heavenly.
- IV. Christ is "**preached unto the Gentiles**". This is a great privilege for us gentiles. We ought, as gentile believers, to remember that we were shut out of the Kingdom of God in Old Testament times. But now, in the eternal purpose of our gracious God, we are invited to believe the gospel and to become members of the mystical Body of Christ, which is His Church. As gentiles we should remember to pray for the Jews, now for centuries largely shut out of the Church of Christ. It should be our prayer, as gentiles, that God would soon fulfil the prophecy which informs us that the Jews are one day to be "grafted" back into the

Church (Rom. 11:24). When, in God's providence, this happens we are assured that it will be a blessing to the whole world: "what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead" (Rom. 11:15).

V. "**Believed on in the world**". This is a wonder of wonders. In our own day there is such widespread unbelief that it should rouse us to amazement to remember that Christ was believed on in the world of gentiles, as well as Jews, from the day of Pentecost and onwards.

In our twenty-first century, in spite of the deadness of the Church in many places, there are true believers in almost all parts of the world. They often have to suffer persecution and hatred. But they love Christ and are honoured members of His Church on earth. We must not fail to notice the good news, which we read in our time, that there are large numbers of Jews now coming to faith in our Lord Jesus Christ. God's gospel is scoffed at by many in our modern world. But the eyes of many are being enlightened to recognise Jesus as the Mystery of Godliness.

VI. "**Received up into glory**". After our Lord's crucifixion He was raised up from the dead. He showed Himself alive to His disciples and then ascended up on high. He is now seated in glory at God's right hand. One day, known only to God, Christ will come again in all His glory to judge all men and all angels, to receive His believing people into glory and to consign wicked men and wicked angels to everlasting punishment. Time will then be over. He will make new heavens and a new earth and He will marry His Church and receive all His believing people into eternal glory.

No wonder Paul, in telling us of these wonderful truths, refers to the great "mystery of godliness"!

Let us meditate often on this wonderful mystery. And let us spend our short time here on earth seeking to live to God's glory and to honour Him in every way that we can.

No wonder the Bible closes with this prayer: "Even so, come, Lord Jesus" (Rev. 22:20).



Rev Maurice Roberts

Free Church of Scotland Continuing

Webinar on Understanding & Responding to the Cults

The cults and the occult are very much alive and kicking in Singapore and the region, even during a pandemic. On 22 June, a Christian youth organisation organized a training webinar to equip their staff on how to identify wrong teachings using scripture and reach out and witness effectively to cultic groups in Singapore if needed.

Thank God for a fruitful discussion with more than 30 participants from different churches across 6 countries, with good questions being asked. In attendance were some former bible college graduates in Linda (Indonesia) and pastor Sokha (Cambodia) and pastors Babu (India)



and Francis Onyango (Kenya), besides Eld Samuel Tan and a few deacons (Dn John Tann of Melbourne) and Becky Rodriguez (Chile) and members from our BPCs in Australia and Malaysia as well.

One of the poly students asked a good question on whether watching horror movies is considered engaging the occult, and a Staff worker asked how to treat a student from a certain cult group who is attending their meeting.

One asked about the criteria to identify a cult and how to reach out to the eastern lighting cult which are operating in Singapore and Malaysia, which we discussed accordingly.

These are all relevant questions and we need to address them, especially for our young people as they may come into contact with these in the polys, ITEs or junior colleges. We shared from 1Jn 4:1-4 and 2Pet 2:1-4, 1Pet 5:8,9 among other texts and looked at a biblical basis to engage them in the word of God, in a gracious manner. Do pray for them as they apply the lessons learnt.

Jack Sin

Sharing by a Chinese brother ***Christian Attitude towards Life & Service of God***

On June 27, 2021, I accepted Pastor Sin's invitation to participate in the online Chinese evening gathering of the Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church. Thank God for this regular evening service.

A total of 15 brothers in the Lord, from different parts of the world and Singapore attended the meeting. The chairman of the meeting was Brother Lian Wei who led us in singing. After a hymn, he prayed and entrusted the meeting to God. After that, we sang the second hymn, "Christ forever." Then the Chairman read the Bible aloud, Romans 12:1-13 before the sermon.

Pastor Sin gave the background to Romans 12:1-13 as Paul wrote this to encourage brothers and sisters to serve the Lord sacrificially: Paul said, so brethren, I persuade you with God's mercy to offer your body as a living sacrifice, which is holy and pleasing to God. Often we use



money as an offering to God during the service which is not wrong, but the real offering is ourselves when our lives are consecrated to Christ. We are not to conform to this world. Each person has his own gifts and talents as God endows them. We need to discover and develop them and use them to serve God in the church. Our service is to be holy, consecrated and pleasing to God. The church should not accept ill-gotten gains.

The attitude of a Christian life is more than just giving of money, but it is a life of holiness and non-conformity to the world. For example, we are not to compromise with the world in smoking, drunken drinking, gambling, stealing, etc.

He gave the example of the ship, the Mayflower, in which the pilgrim fathers sailed in 1620 to America in search of **GOD** and the USA was greatly blessed of the Lord, but the Spanish came to Latin America in the 16th century in search of **GOLD**. The difference is one L, just like **WORD** and **WORLD**, but it is a vast difference between them as the latter are often debt-ridden

countries. We are either interested in **Hollywood** or the **Holy Word**, but not both as they are contradictory.

The search is either for God or the search for wealth, it is either a holy life or a corrupt life. They are exact opposites and it affected the destiny of the 2 parts of America. It is more than just a fine line. Pastor Sin encouraged the brothers and sisters in the Lord to come to church to worship God in person as a gathered church and spend some time in caring about the body of Christ and sharing with one another in the Lord. After Pastor Sin's message, we sang the third hymn "In Humility Follow the Lord". There was a fruitful time of discussion and sharing by the different brothers and sisters as we shared answers to the first 2 of 4 questions below:

1. In what ways can we practically not be conformed to the world that we are living in?
2. How do we seek and ensure that we are walking in the will of God?
3. How do we discover and develop our spiritual gifts and use them for the edification of the saints?
4. How can we enhance a deeper loving relationship among members of the church in the midst of the crisis?

After the discussion and sharing, Pastor Sin led us in the closing prayer at the end of the online service. We thank the Lord for being with us. Amen.

Bro Kam Weng

Welcoming
our new
visitors to
church.



FINISHING WELL THE RACE OF LIFE

Lord's Day Program from Jul - Sep 2021

JULY

- 4 The Power of a Sound Mind (2 Tim 1:1-7)
- 11* Hold Fast to Sound Words (2 Tim 1:8-18)
- 18 The Imageries of a Christian (2 Tim 2:1-14)
- 25 Study to be a Biblical Practitioner (2 Tim 2:15-19)



AUGUST



- 1 A Sanctified Vessel for God (2 Tim 2:20-26)
- 8* The Characteristics of the End Times (2 Tim 3:1-9)
- 15 Fruitfulness through the Word (2 Tim 3:10-17)
- 22 The Sacred Duty to Share the Gospel (2 Tim 4:1-5)
- 29 Perseverance in the Ministry (2 Tim 4:6-10)

SEPTEMBER

- 5 Faithful Coworkers Labouring Together (2 Tim 4:11-22)
- 12* Love and Truth in Action (2 John)
- 19 The Case Study of 3 Persons (3 John)
- 26 Consider God in Troubled Times (1 Kings 4:1-11)



Memory Verse

2 Tim 1:7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind.

Announcements

1. Welcome to our Worship Service! For our visitors, do leave us your contact numbers in our guest book before you leave.
2. Pastor Jack speaks today on "***The Power of a Sound Mind (2 Tim 1:1-7)***", the new quarterly theme on "Finishing Well the Race of Life - The Epistle of 2 Timothy".
3. Pastor Jack speaks next Sunday on "***Hold Fast to Sound Words (2 Tim 1:8-18)***". The Lord's Supper will be served.
4. Pastor will be speaking to the ***Global Assembly English Service*** on **4 Jul at 5pm**. Those interested to attend may approach him for the zoom link.
5. Pastor Jack speaks at a Webinar on Current Concerns on **Mon, 5 Jul at 10am** via Zoom on "***Understanding Depression & Anxiety from the Biblical Perspective***". Those interested to attend may approach him for the zoom link.
6. Sunday School classes continue after worship service:
 - WCF Shorter Catechism Class – Pastor Jack
 - New Testament Survey – Dn Choo Siang
 - Studies in Numbers – Dr Kwong Leen
7. Chinese Fellowship meets on Sunday night at 7pm via Zoom with both local and overseas brethren.
8. Do send your prayer items to Pastor and join us for Church Prayer Meeting on Wed at 8pm via Zoom. The Jun prayer list is available from Dn Choo Siang.
9. Monthly Neighbourhood Bible Class meets on the first Friday of each month in church on the study of 2 Samuel.
10. The Pandemic book can be purchased through Dn Yue Kay (Hp: +65 97450311) or via email at sovereignhopebpc@gmail.com.
11. Do kindly observe the safety measures of the church and assist with the weekly cleaning of the premises.
12. Love gifts, Offering and Tithes to the Lord can be given in the following ways:
 - **Cheque** payable to **Sovereign Hope Bible Presbyterian Church** and mail to church address. (Kindly write the full name of the church as indicated.)
 - **Fund transfer** to Church **UOB** Account **392-308-825-1**
 - **PayNow** to Church UEN: **T19SS0116FSOV**
