

Christmas Sermon – The Incarnation – When God Became A Man Sunday December 25, 2024

1 Timothy 3:16 (NKJV)

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.

1 Timothy 3:16 (Good News Bible)

No one can deny how great is the secret of our religion: He appeared in human form, was shown to be right by the Spirit, and was seen by angels. He was preached among the nations, was believed in throughout the world, and was taken up to heaven.

This verse is often regarded as an early Christian creed or hymn, reflecting the early church's worship and theology, and hence has been written in a certain form.

mystery, secret

referring to divine truths previously hidden but now revealed in Christ

This verse unveils the mystery, or secret that was hidden, but now has been clearly stated for all to understand.

Let's for our understanding, order the verse, in a sequence easy for us to understand.

God (Christ) came in human form Proved to be right by the Spirit Seen by angels Taken up to heaven He is preached among the nations Believed in throughout the world

Each of these statements unveils a mystery or secret that God wants us to understand now.

It was a mystery, because God was actually working on this through time, and yet people did not fully understand, and fully recognize it.

But here we are, on the other side of the event, now having this mystery/secret revealed to us.



Let's focus on just the first statement: God (Christ) came in human form

GOD (CHRIST) CAME IN HUMAN FORM

Obviously, there was a necessity (or a need), a purpose and objective in God having to come in human form. Why did this have to happen?

[As we share these 3 points, please make a simple presentation of the Gospel]

#1, HE BECAME A MAN BECAUSE OF OUR NEED

The Bible teaches us that we had sinned our sins had separated us from God. Jesus Christ came into the world to save us sinners (1 Timothy 1:15).

#2, HE BECAME A MAN BECAUSE OF HIS IMMENSE LOVE FOR US

God did not want us to die in our sins. He created us to be part of His family, to walk in relationship with Him. (Romans 5:8; 1 John 4:9-10)

#3, HE BECAME A MAN BECAUSE NO ONE ELSE COULD DO THIS FOR US.

There was no one who could save us. Only God could bring salvation to us. (1 Timothy 2:5-6)

In closing, we briefly mention the final three statements:

HE WAS TAKEN UP TO HEAVEN

He has been taken to heaven. He is in glory.

HE IS PREACHED AMONG THE NATIONS

He is preached among the nations – this is why we are here.

HE IS BELIEVED IN THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

He is believed in throughout the world – this is the response each of us are invited to make. To believe in Jesus Christ and to live our lives centred around Him, from Him and for Him.

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