

apttoteach.org

# THE BEREANS

ACTS 17:11

**1 Timothy 3:16**  
**Lesson #11**  
**The Mystery of Godliness**  
**07/2/2023**

1

*1 Corinthians 1*

“22 For indeed Jews ask for signs, and Greeks search for wisdom; 23 but we preach Christ crucified, **to Jews a stumbling block**, and to Gentiles foolishness, 24 but to those who are the called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.” *1 Pet.2:8*

**The Christian Gospel presented**  
**three stumbling stones for Jews**

1. God appearing in a human form.
2. Gentile inclusion in the Abrahamic blessings.
3. Glory granted by imputed “faith righteousness”.

2

*1 Timothy 3:16*

“And by common confession great is the mystery of godliness:

He who was revealed in the flesh,  
 Was vindicated in the Spirit,  
 Beheld by angels,  
 Proclaimed among the nations,  
 Believed on in the world,  
 Taken up in glory.”

3

*1 Timothy 3:16*

“And by common confession great is the **mystery** of godliness:

**Biblical Mysteries**  
 are truths that are logical  
 only after the whole story is told.

Like a mystery novel, the Biblical Story is confusing  
**until you get to the final chapters.**

4

The Old Testament		The New Testament
The Cry of Man	The Historical Type	The Answer of God
Someone to Reveal	<b>Moses</b> the prophet	<b>Christ</b>
Someone to Redeem	<b>Melchizedek</b> the priest	<b>Christ</b>
Someone to Rule	<b>David</b> the king	<b>Christ</b>
Unexplained Ceremonies		Fulfillment
Unachieved Purposes		Fulfillment
Unmet Longings		Fulfillment
Unrealized Prophecies		Fulfillment

5

**Paul understood the Gospel to have been a **mystery until his day.****

*Ephesians 3:3-5*

“that by revelation there was made known to me the mystery,...which **in other generations was not made known to the sons of men, as it has now been revealed to His holy apostles and prophets in the Spirit;**”

Old Testament - Gospels

**The Gospel**

Acts - Epistles

Old Covenant

6

*1 Timothy 3*

“16 And by common confession great is the **mystery of godliness**: He was

**Three key mysteries**

Revealed **in the flesh**, Was vindicated in the Spirit,  
**INCARNATION of God as a human**

Beheld by angels, Proclaimed **among the nations**,  
**INCLUSION of all humanity**

Believed on in the world, Taken up in glory.”

**IMPUTATION of righteousness through faith for the hope of glory.**

7

Revealed in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit,  
**INCARNATION of God as a human**

*John*

“1 In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and **the Word was God**. ... 9 There was the true light which, coming into the world, enlightens every man. ... 14 And **the Word became flesh**, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

*Acts 17*

“27 that they should seek God, if perhaps they might grope for Him and find Him, though **He is not far from each one of us**; 28 for **in Him we live and move and exist**, ... **For we also are His offspring.**”

8

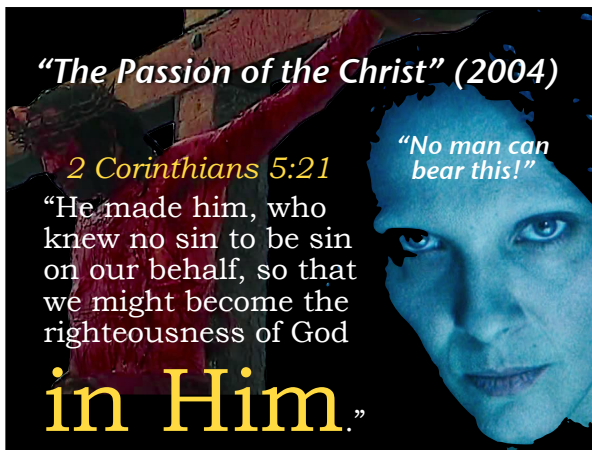
**Jesus**

He gets **Us**, he gets all of **Us**

*Matthew 1:23*

“And they shall call His name Immanuel, which translated means, “God with us”.”

9



“The Passion of the Christ” (2004)

*2 Corinthians 5:21*

“He made him, who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, so that we might become the righteousness of God **in Him.**”

“No man can bear this!”

10

Revealed in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit,  
**INCARNATION of God as a human**

**Human Dignity**

1. As **bearers of God’s Image** all humans are closer to God than we might think.
2. We are **capable** of fellowship with God.

**Divine Humility**

3. God’s **desire for fellowship** with us is stronger than we might think.
4. We do not deserve redemptive love, but we are **worth saving**.

11

Beheld by angels, **proclaimed** among the nations,  
**INCLUSION of all humanity**

*Romans 10*

“11 For the Scripture says, “**Whoever** believes in Him will not be disappointed.” 12 **For there is no distinction between Jew and Greek**; for the same Lord is Lord of all, abounding in riches for all who call upon Him; . . . 14 How then shall they call upon Him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in Him whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? 15 And how shall they preach unless they are sent? Just as it is written, “**How beautiful are the feet of those who bring glad tidings of good things!**” ”

12

Beheld by angels, proclaimed **among the nations**,  
**INCLUSION of all humanity**

### Universal Gospel

1. He has the **whole world** in His sights.
2. We **all have the same need** and are offered the same blessed hope.

### World Ambassadors

3. Those who know this “good news” need to both **show it and spread it**.

13

Believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

### IMPUTATION of righteousness through faith

*Romans 4*

“3 For what does the Scripture say? “*And Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness.*” 4 Now to the one who works, his wage is not reckoned as a favor, but as what is due. 5 But to the one who does not work, but **believes in Him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness,**”

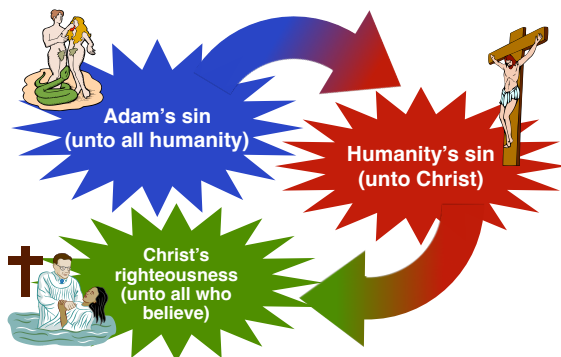
14

### Four kinds of righteousness

1. **God’s perfect character**  
This is the just standard of God for all of us.
2. **Man’s relative virtue**  
This is the false righteousness of the proud.
3. **The imputed virtue of Christ**  
This is the gift of salvation to all who believe.
4. **The implemented life of the Spirit**  
This is the fruit of justification by faith.

15

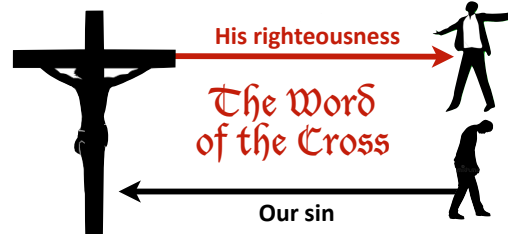
### Three great imputations



16

### The great exchange

*2 Corinthians 5:21*  
“He made Him who knew no sin to be sin on our behalf, **so that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.**”



17

### The two aspects of holiness



18

Believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

### **IMPUTATION of righteousness through faith**

- ✓ It is not a “felt” experience.
- ✓ It is complete and not progressive.
- ✓ It is not dependent on human merit.
- ✓ It is not secured by moral reform.
- ✓ It fully satisfies the demands of a perfectly holy God.
- ✓ It is revealed through teaching and received by FAITH.

19

Believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

### **IMPUTATION of righteousness through faith**

“Holiness is not the way to Christ; Christ is the way to holiness. Better still, Christ is our holiness.”



Charles Spurgeon

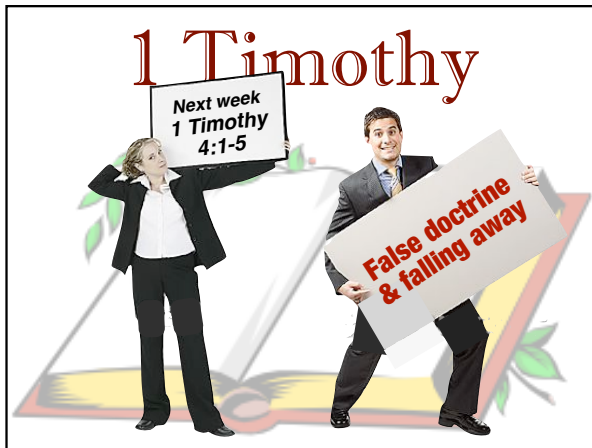
20

### **Major on majors not minors**

(This is MAJOR stuff)

1. Jesus reveals God and our humanity “in Christ”. **KNOW YOURSELF AND GOD.**
2. Jesus is God’s response to the human dilemma. **ACCEPT YOURSELF “IN CHRIST”.**
3. Jesus offers hope beyond this life. **GET OVER YOURSELF IN THIS LIFE.**
4. Jesus calls you to be salt and light as you abide and wait. **GIVE YOURSELF TO FOLLOW CHRIST.**

21



22