

## Jesus Christ: The One and Only (Part 1)

### 1 Timothy 3:16

#### Introduction:

1. When a person stands before God, there are two key questions that will determine his or her eternal destiny. Those questions are **NOT**, “Did you perform religious rituals? Were you baptized? Did you join a certain church? Did you keep the Ten Commandments? Did you keep the Golden Rule?”
2. The key questions are simply this: “What did you **believe** about my Son, Jesus Christ? What did you **do** with my Son, Jesus Christ - did you accept Him or reject Him?”
3. What a person believes about Jesus Christ is the difference between eternal life or eternal judgment. John 3:36; 1 John 5:12
4. We learned in verse 15 that the church is the pillar and ground of the truth, but the church is built upon Jesus Christ as absolute truth. John 14:6; 1 Corinthians 3:11
  - Without a risen Savior, we have nothing to build on!
5. Thus we have, in the next verse, one of the greatest verses on Jesus Christ in the New Testament. Right after Paul tells us that we are the pillar and ground of the truth, he immediately proclaims Jesus Christ in the next breath.
6. If the church is built upon the truth of Jesus Christ, and the church is the pillar and ground of the truth, then this means that the church’s main business should be the proclamation of Jesus Christ.
  - We are the pillar of the truth. We are like a pedestal that holds up a statue for all to see.
  - Philippians 2:16 proclaims that we are “*holding forth the word of life.*”
  - Each member of this local assembly puts Jesus on display in one fashion or another. We either display Him as the One who is Lord and Savior, or that He is simply second-hand stuff.
  - We are to make sure that the truth of Jesus is lifted up for all to see, and that it doesn’t fall by the wayside. A person may say, “But other churches in Daytona...” It doesn’t matter what everybody else is doing. We have a mission from our Lord.
7. When we zealously stand for truth, we may not be popular, but we are pleasing God. The temptation for the church is found in the next verse (4:1). We water down what we read in 3:16, we soften it, we become people-pleasers rather than being pillars that hold up the truth for all to see. This is how Satan gets in and undermines.
8. Our purpose is to proclaim the Person and finished work of Jesus Christ! Notice the word “*And*” in verse 16. It connects it back to the previous verse. If we are the pillar of the truth, what is truth? He answers that question with a resounding proclamation that Jesus Christ is truth!
9. Verse 16 begins, “*And without controversy...*” It is not up for debate. It’s without question. There is one plan of salvation, and one Man that it revolves around.
10. It goes on to say, “*And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness...*”
  - The mystery of godliness literally means, “the gospel scheme.” God, in His infinite wisdom and power, has established a means by which sinners can be forgiven, restored, and reconciled back to God.

- It is a mystery in the sense that it is of divine origin. It is not of human instrumentality. Man couldn't have planned it, figured it out, or accomplished it. God would have to devise the plan, God would have to make it known, and God would have to accomplish it. God did all three.
  - This is why Paul exclaims, "*Great is the mystery of godliness...*" "*Great*" is the Greek word, "*me-gas*." It is the word we use to derive our prefix "mega." (He's mega-rich.)
11. This great and divine gospel plan revolves around and centers in one Person – Jesus Christ. We see six truths about Jesus Christ in this verse, and each of the verbs are action verbs. They represent different parts of Him, who is the truth that we must proclaim.

***“God was manifest in the flesh”***

1. You talk about great – this is MEGA! This is mind-boggling, big stuff! God (who is a spirit) was manifest in a human, fleshly body.
2. We just celebrated Christmas, the birth of Jesus Christ. But the incarnation of Christ is not merely a Christmas story. It is the very life of who Jesus Christ really is. He was Emmanuel, God with us.
3. Paul wants to make sure that we know exactly who Jesus Christ was and is. This is why he says, "*God was manifest in the flesh...*" He is God. He is the One who created all. He is Jehovah. He is the Almighty One of the Old Testament. He took upon Him this robe of flesh, but at no time did He ever cease being God. John 1:1, 14
  - As we said earlier, Satan wants the church to water down this incredible truth. Is it any wonder that many modern versions of the Bible read, "**He** was manifest in the flesh..." They substitute "*God*" with "He." There is nothing miraculous or mysterious when you take the word "*God*" out.
  - "He was manifest in the flesh." This could be said of anybody in this room. But when you say, "**God** was manifest in the flesh." This is mega-big and great. This is something so big that we have problems wrapping our finite minds around it.
  - This is one of the most powerful verses in the Bible on the deity of Christ, and wouldn't you know that Satan has tried to take it out of the verse.
4. In order for a person to be manifest in the flesh (born into this world), it takes the union of a man and woman with the man's seed impregnating the woman.
5. But if **God** is manifest in the flesh, it takes something supernatural and miraculous. This is why Jesus Christ was born of a virgin. What a mysterious and ingenious plan. God bypassed the seed of the father through the miraculous conception of Christ in the woman by the Holy Spirit.
  - This would mean that Christ could be born into our world and take on our humanity, yet not be contaminated by our sin.
6. If Jesus was just a good man that was manifested in the flesh, and not God manifested in the flesh, this would mean that He inherited the sin of Adam, and His death on the cross would have been for His own sins. This means we would be doomed to die in our sins too.
7. But I'm so thankful that "*God was manifest in the flesh...*" One author wrote, "Look at Jesus, and you will see the mind and the heart of God in a form that men can understand."

8. Jesus Christ was born of a virgin and was God in the flesh. When Jesus hung on that cross, it was God shedding His blood for our redemption. It was God making atonement for our sins.
- We sing that great hymn, “Amazing love, how can it be, that thou my God shouldst die for me.” Acts 20:28
  - We better be thankful for that. Anything less than that, and we would still be in our sins.