

GOD'S INVITATION:

How to Become a Christian

“What it Takes to Get it Right”

The Seventh Movement – The Mystery of Godliness – 1 Timothy 3:16

In a book of poetry to Edgar Guest called *Just Folks* there are two poems that center around Christmas that have been such a joy:

A man is at his finest towards the finish of the year,
He is almost what he should have been when Christmas
season's here;
Then he's thinking more of others than he's thought the
months before,
And the laughter of his children is a joy worth toiling for.

He is less a selfish creature than at any other time;
When the Christmas spirit rules him he becomes close to the
sublime.

When it's Christmas man is bigger and is better in his [part];
He is keener for the service that is prompted by the heart.

All the [petty] thoughts seem to vanish for awhile,
And the true reward he's seeking is the glory of a smile.
Then for others he is toiling and somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas he is almost what God wanted him to be.

If I had to paint a picture of a man I think I'd wait
Til he'd fought his selfish battles and had put aside his hate.
I'd not catch him at his labors when his thoughts are all of
 pelf,
On the long days and the dreary when he's striving for
 himself.

I'd not take him when he's sneering, when he's scornful or
 depressed,
But I'd look for him at Christmas when he's shining at his
 best.

Man is ever in a struggle and he's oft misunderstood;
There are days the worst that's in him is the master of the
 good.
But at Christmas kindness rules him and puts himself aside
And his petty hates are vanquished as his heart is opened
 wide.
Oh, I don't know how to say it, but somehow it seems to me
That at Christmas man is almost what god sent him here to
 be.
(source unknown)

Then he wrote another piece called "Toys":

I can pass up the lure of a jewel to wear
With never the trace of a sigh,
The things on a shelf that I'd like for myself
I never regret I can't buy.

I can go through the town passing store after store
Showing things it would please me to own,
With never a trace of despair on my face,
But I can't let a toy shop alone.

I can throttle the love of fine raiment to death
And I don't know the craving for rum,
But I do know the joy that is born of a toy,
And the pleasure that comes with a drum
I can reckon the value of money at times,
And govern my purse strings with sense,
But I fall for a toy for my girl or my boy
And never regard the expense.

It's seldom I sigh for unlimited gold
Or the power of a rich man to buy;
My courage is stout when the going without
Is only my duty, but I
Curse the shackles of thrift when I gaze at the toys
That my kiddies are eager to own,
And I'd buy everything that they wish for, my Jing!
If their mother would leave me alone.

There isn't much fun spending coin on myself
For neckties and up-to-date lids,
But there's pleasure tenfold, in the silver and gold
I part with for things for the kids.
I can go through the town passing store after store
Showing things it would please me to own,
But to thrift I am lost; I won't reckon the cost

When I'm left in a toy shop alone.
(source unknown)

Our message is focused on 1 Timothy 3:16. Think about a space mission that took place on that first Christmas. It is God's Son, Jesus Christ, becoming a man. It was a great mission and the text is broken down into six parts.

v. 16 And most certainly great is the mystery of godliness: Who was made visible in the flesh, proved to be right by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.

“And most certainly great is the mystery of godliness: Who was made visible in the flesh, proved to be right by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.”

What Paul says in this verse is, first of all:

“great is the mystery of godliness.”

What he's saying is that beyond dispute everyone will certainly agree—“most certainly”—this is one point we can all believe on by common consent—“great is the mystery of godliness.”

The word “great” is the word *mega*. It's the businessman saying there are “mega-bucks” in that “mega-deal.” In other

words, it's a big deal and there's lots of money involved in that. It's tremendous, it's sublime, it's important.

“great is the mystery”

When we come to the word “mystery” we're thinking in terms of this is not something to be preached but rather to be pondered. We think of the depths involved. Mystery is something which we did not expect it would be and it turns out differently than we thought.

It is a truth that has been hidden by God and it is now revealed. For instance the apostle Paul says:

1 Corinthians 13:12, 13

We see through a glass dark, but then face to face; we know in part, but then we're going to know even as we are known...

There are **SIX MYSTERIES** in the Bible:

1. there's the mystery of **GODLINESS**,
2. there's the mystery of our **UNION WITH CHRIST** in the church,
3. there's the mystery of the **CALLING OF THE GENTILES** into the body of Christ,
4. there's the mystery of the **RAPTURE OF THE CHURCH**

that one of these days—and maybe it’s today—the church, the body of Christ will be taken out of here at that trumpet-call of God,

5. and then there is a negative mystery and that’s the mystery of INIQUITY. Why did a holy God allow sin to be in the world?

When we come to the mystery of godliness, “we see through a glass darkly, but then face to face; we know in part, but we’re going to know even as we’re known.”

We’re talking about something that is different than what we thought. When we think of godliness we think of performance. We think that we’re godly by what we have done or what we haven’t done. And the mystery is, that isn’t godliness.

Godliness is all wrapped up in a person not a performance. Our salvation is not wrapped up in our performance either. It’s wrapped up in a person and our godliness is the same way.

Godliness is what we are as a result of God’s work in our life. That’s why it’s a mystery. It’s different than what we thought.

Matthew 7:22, 23

“Many will say unto me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord,’ haven’t we...” and I’ll say ‘Depart from me. I never knew you...’

A lot of people are going to get caught up on the blind side

when they get to glory because they've gone off in fascinating sidetracks instead of discerning well the mystery of godliness.

The Word of God makes it quite clear to us that there are things that we cannot comprehend with our natural mind.

1 Corinthians 2:14

The natural man receives not the things of the Spirit of God, they're foolishness unto him, neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned.

And so when we come to the mystery of godliness we're going to see it in several parts here. It's defined by the SIX VERBS that are in the remaining parts of the verse.

But before we focus on that, let's discuss why Paul says this. He says, "certainly great is the mystery of godliness." Why?

He has just gotten through describing the kind of people who qualify for leadership in the church. The context of it is, the elders and the deacons and the people who serve in the congregation should be these kinds of people. And there's a great list of the qualities of the life of an individual who's going to serve God in a place of leadership in the church.

Now those qualifications lead him to say "great is the mystery of godliness." How can a man once be this way and then become this way? That's a mystery.

So the emphasis of the whole passage is on the personal life and he's writing to his young understudy Timothy. When we get to chapter 4, which just follows the sixteenth verse, it's a contrast of lifestyle. And Paul says something very, very astute. He says, "they have a form of godliness but they're denying the power thereof." (see 2 Timothy 3:5)

In other words, it's a form. It has nothing to do with relationship. It's simply a form—going through the motions, but there's no reality in the life.

Now as we come to consider this, here's an equation:

The MYSTERY = CHRIST.

The mystery of godliness centers in the Lord Jesus Christ and Him alone. Don't put anything else here but Jesus Christ.

GODLINESS = A GODLY LIFE.

Godliness is nothing more than Christ manifest in our conduct and our conversation. If we are for real today, this little baby who came here is now living in our heart and we speak words and we conduct our affairs because He is living in us and we're just not trying to be good.

Matthew 7:16

By their fruits you shall know them.

Genuine godliness is the result of God's work in an individual's life.

Now, "most certainly great is the mystery of godliness." The next six verbs define it.

Some might believe that this beautiful verse is actually a hymn—they sang this.

We have the total panorama that began with blast-off at Christmas and it goes clear through to the taking of Jesus Christ back to Glory. And the whole focus of it is on the person of Christ which makes it so beautiful.

If our focus is anywhere else, we know we're not godly and we are not walking according to truth and we're not growing in our godly life—in our relationship to Him. That the essence of what we're seeing.

Here's a quick lesson in Greek There are six aorist verbs here The Greeks had a tense called the AORIST TENSE. The aorist tense just communicated action without past, present, or future time involvement. It's bam, bam, bam, bam. This gets us to thinking of a mission. We have a mission. We have countdown and when we hit blast off, we blast off. And that thing is timed to detail, to blast off, to touch down. Certain things happen at exactly certain times. And it's like God has this gigantic mission control.

At the fullness of time the button's pushed and Christmas

happens! And again it comes time for Calvary—the button’s pushed and it happens. It comes time for Resurrection—the button’s pushed and the Resurrection takes place. And all of these events in great sequence unfold in this mission that’s before us, and it’s all centered in the Lord Jesus.

There are contrasts here. We have:

1. **MANIFEST** in the **FLESH**—**VINDICATED** in the **SPIRIT**.
2. **SEEN** of **ANGELS**—**PREACHED** to the **GENTILES**.
3. **BELIEVED** on the **WORLD**—**RECEIVED** into **GLORY**.

Man’s sin made Christmas mandatory and we’re going to see these **SIX STEPS**:

Step 1, God comes down. Step 6, God goes back up again. The mission is accomplished.

Now there are **THREE REASONS** why this has to happen:

1. God must become man.
2. He must live a perfect life.
3. He must die to satisfy the justice of God for the sin of man.

Let's get into it.

1. THE MISSION ATTEMPTED—"He who was made visible in the flesh."

When we speak of the subject of godliness, immediately he goes to Christmas. We are godly because of what happened in that little manger when Jesus Christ was born into the world.

There comes a time when the mission must begin. There comes a time when blast off has to take place. There are no holds in this countdown because the mission has been planned before time began. God came down at Christmas. And right on schedule, here He is.

Godliness is impossible without a personal relationship with God Himself in the Lord Jesus Christ. The foundation of godliness all centers in God becoming flesh. He was made **VISIBLE**.

Now why do we see that? That sounds funny in English doesn't it? Stop and think about it. He was made visible indicates that He existed before He was made visible, and that's right.

He is the eternal Son of God. He was only chosen at this time to enter earth's atmosphere and to be made visible. The hardest thing for Jesus, the night before He was crucified was not necessarily the Garden of Gethsemane. The hardest thing for Jesus was the question of Philip—"show us the Father and

it'll satisfy us." Jesus hurt so bad when He said, "Have I been so long a time with you and you haven't even known me? You don't even relate to Me. I am God."

The answers to the crossword puzzle of life are not found on page 86! They are found in the Lord Jesus Christ! He was made visible for all of us to see.

Make no mistake about it, this little baby is not just a man—He is God.

"Though He was rich, yet for our sakes He became poor." (ref. 2 Corinthians 8:9)

Paul says to the Philippians:

Philippians 2:7

He emptied Himself and took on Him the form of a servant, made in the likeness of men.

God has come down at Christmas. Jesus Christ—His name is Jesus. His name is God. Man, Son of David, Son of God, Son of man, Messiah, the Christ, the Servant of God, the Good Shepherd, the Divine Physician, the Savior, the Prophet, the High Priest, the King, the Strong, the Bridegroom, the Bread of Life, the Light of the World, the Door, the Vine, the Way, the Truth, the Life, the Resurrection, the Judge, the Lamb, the Scapegoat, the Apostle, the Forerunner, the Surety, the Mediator, the Leader, the Beloved, the Only, the Chosen, the

Just One, the Amen, the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End.

He's the Head, the Image of God, the Christ of Creation, the Firstborn, the Bright and Morning Star. He's the Lord, the Word, the Master and the Teacher.

The hymn writer says it right:

Man of Sorrows—what a name
For the Son of God who came
Ruined sinners to reclaim,
Hallelujah! what a Savior.
(source unknown)

Second Peter 1:3 says:

2 Peter 1:3

Seeing that His divine power has granted to us everything pertaining to life and godliness through the true knowledge of Him, Jesus Christ, who has called us by His own glory and excellence.

Now when we think of being made visible in human flesh, we don't want you to stop at Christmas. In our mind's eye, in step #1, step from Christmas to Calvary. We see step #1 as **THE MISSION IS ATTEMPTED**, as involving 33 years for just a second.

We think of, first point:

1. HE IS BORN, in that little stable.

But under, being made visible, let's take the 33 years and throughout His life hear words like this: "This is My beloved Son in whom I'm well pleased." (ref. Matthew 3:17)

Let's walk along with Him through the Garden of Gethsemane and then let's see Him hanging on the Cross now as we come to step #2.

2. MISSION ACCOMPLISHED—"vindicated in the Spirit."

The King James, at this point, speaks of "justified in the Spirit." What does that communicate? It's a big "S" like justified or vindicated in the Holy Spirit.

There are some writers who would hold to that position. But this is not spirit in the sense of the Holy Spirit. It's vindicated in His Spirit—the Spirit of Jesus Christ. The whole passage focuses on the person of the Lord Jesus. He is godliness and He is pictured here in that way.

"Vindicated in the Spirit" means this—and it takes on meaning when we listen to these words:

"Tetelestai. It is finished."

"Father, into Your hands I commend My Spirit."

In essence when Jesus prayed that prayer He released His Spirit into the hand of the Father. And in essence what He did in that prayer was to say, “The rest of this mission is in the hands of Mission Control. If it is successful, if it is accomplished, I will be vindicated by the fact that I am not left in the grave! Father, You’re the one who must break the shackles of sin and death and raise Me triumphant from the grave! So I commend to You My Spirit.”

Now it’s all in the hands of the Father. It’s very meaningful here. Because it’s in the hands of the Father, we wait for the Father’s verdict!

Did all that Jesus did from Bethlehem to Calvary count? Was the mission successful? Did He set the satellites in orbit? Did He do everything He was supposed to do? The verdict is still out until on that Resurrection morning the grave is empty and He—Jesus Christ—is vindicated in the Spirit by the Resurrection from the dead. And that makes the message of Christmas incredible.

That’s why every one of the messages we’ve studied in the book of Acts focus on the Resurrection. That’s what makes us unique.

Here’s a great illustration from *Our Daily Bread*:

Harry Rimmer is talking to a man who is Islamic in faith. And they come to the fact that they have got several points of

agreement. For instance, Rimmer told the official, “Christians believe God has given us three revelations of Himself.” And He says, “We believe that too.”

“We believe God revealed Himself in the works of creation.” He says, “We believe that.” Rimmer said, “We believe God has revealed Himself in the book, the Bible.” The Muslim said, “Well we believe that except it’s the Koran.”

And he went on to say, “We believe He revealed Himself in a person.”

“Oh we believe that.”

Jesus Christ—Mohammed.

But then finally Rimmer said, “We believe that Jesus was risen from the dead.” And the Muslim hesitated and this was his reply: “We have no information concerning our prophet after his death.”

(source unknown)

Jesus Christ, to make a successful completion of the mission, thus be vindicated in His Spirit by the acceptance of God the Father of all that He has done. It’s attempted. He was made flesh at Christmas.

Second, we notice it was ACCOMPLISHED because He was VINDICATED in the Spirit when He was raised from the dead. Now that makes number three so special.

Three, HIS MISSION WAS AFFIRMED in the next phrase—
“beheld by angels.”

Angels could not get over the love and grace of God. They’ve never had to deal with this problem. And they were mystified that God would go to such pain for sinful man. And that they would in fact work this out where God’s Son would come down here, and they watched the whole plan.

They’re the ones that carried the Christmas message:

Luke 2:10

Behold we bring you good tidings of great joy which shall be to all people.

They’re the ones that ministered to Him in the hour of temptation after 40 days and 40 nights fighting with the evil one in the wilderness. And they’re the ones that are sitting on the rock and at the head and the foot of the Lord Jesus where He has gone in the empty tomb on that Resurrection morning.

They are the witnesses. They are the audience of all of this that takes place.

In 1 Peter 1:12 it speaks of the promises of the faith being those things which they desire to look into. They just can’t believe the condescension of God and the total unconditional love involved in God coming down at Christmas.

Make no mistake about it, we're not dealing with the son of Mary or the son of Joseph. We're dealing with the Son of God and the angels are just standing in awe at what they see.

The angels were standing there actually winged squadrons in the sky! Thousands of them waiting for the word on alert status to move in and rescue the Son of God at the time of His death. But the order never came. He could have called 10,000 angels but He went on to give His life.

The hymn writer says it well:

Holy, holy, holy is what the angels sing.
And I expect to help to make the courts of heaven ring.
And when I sing redemption's story,
They will fold their wings, for angels never felt the joy that
our salvation brings.
(source unknown)

They're the audience. They're affirming the mission as it is taking place at critical points. Out of the grandeur of glory they watch it.

Now where have we been?

1. The Mission Attempted—"He has become flesh."
2. "He was vindicated in the Spirit."

3. “Beheld by angels.”

This brings us to number 4:

4. THE MISSION IS TO BE ANNOUNCED—it’s to be “proclaimed among the nations.”

On that first Easter morning this is what we read:

Matthew 28:6, 7

He is not here, for He has risen, just as He said. Come see the place where He was lying. And go quickly and tell His disciples that He has risen from the dead; and behold He is going before you into Galilee...

And in Matthew 28:18-20 we read these words:

Matthew 28:18-20

And Jesus spoke unto them, saying, “All authority has been given to me in heaven and on earth. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the age.”

What is it that the Lord wants? Now that the mission has been accomplished, it’s been witnessed by angels. The results of that mission are to be announced. They are to be preached.

They are to be proclaimed.

The hymn writer has it right:

We've got a story to tell to the nations
That shall turn their hearts to the right;
A story of truth and mercy;
a story of peace and light.
(source unknown)

Whereas number 4 is proclaiming it or announcing it

5. Is APPLYING IT to our lives—“believed on in the world”—single condition to make this possible.

Before godliness can ever become a reality we must come to step #5. We must come to the belief in receiving Jesus Christ as our personal Lord and Savior.

John 3:16

God so loved the world that He gave...

But we won't make it our own until we believe in Him and we should not perish.

We're talking about the reception of the Gospel message here. It's given in #4, it's received in #5. It's proclaimed among the nations in #4, it's made personal #5. It's announced in #4, it's applied to the life.

How many of us making the mistake of hearing it again and we're not going to do anything about it? We hear it, we hear it, we hear it. It's proclaimed and preached but never made personal—never applied to the life.

How many of us as Christians are trying to find an excuse for our own resistance to the way God does things in making a person godly? For the same Jesus Christ waits to be totally adequate to us and to meet our every need. Jesus Christ is all and in all. (see Colossians 3:11b)

(Confronting Casual Christianity by Charles F. Stanley)

Nothing has changed except we are two [thousand years] closer to the glorious coming of our Lord.

And neither has our propensity toward a casual, comfort-seeking brand of Christianity—a Christianity without the “cup” and the cross, a line-of-least resistance faith.

In the Christian community there is an inordinate amount of posturing about the problem of indifference in the ranks. Yet, there is a shortage of remedies for that complacency. Will “the last trumpet” be the only instrument to awaken slumbering, groggy Christians? Is there a road away from the debilitating effects of casual Christianity?

I repeat: there is no such thing as partial commitment. When the pilot of a giant airliner is speeding down the runway, there is a certain point where he cannot decide to remain on the ground. When he crosses that line, he is

committed to the air, or either the plane crashes disastrously to the ground. That pilot cannot change his mind when the plane is two-thirds of the way down the runway.

Unfortunately, our churches are filled with members who “have never left the ground.” They have been sitting there for years and years gunning their engines. “Vroomm. Vroomm. Vroomm.” They are always “prepping,” getting ready. They are going to get busy. They have been planning on it, meaning to, wanting to, trying to, going to, aiming to, [and] hoping to. But, tragedy of tragedies, they have never left the ground!

That grieves the heart of God Almighty: God has blessed you, equipped you, [and] gifted you. You have good health, material possessions, plenty to keep you alive and kicking. You have sunshine. [You’ve got] rain. [You’ve got] a free country. You [have] travel anywhere you please, and you are luxuriating in the blessings of the Lord. It breaks His heart to see you sitting on the runway and revving up your engines [with] all these years. You have never left the ground!
(source unknown)

May God speak to us with regard to the mystery of godliness that part of it’s starting to share our faith with other people. These will become personal in our life when we learn how to effectively communicate it—believed on in the world.

And isn’t it great that when we come to #6 we have:

6. THE MISSION ASCENDED—“taken up in glory.”

In essence we see #6 as MISSION ACCOMPLISHED!

Touchdown! We have touchdown.

“taken up in glory”

That’s Acts 1:11. While they were standing there on the Mount of Olives, all of a sudden Jesus was taken up into glory. That’s a pretty picture.

But that isn’t the picture here. This is Kenny Rogers singing “Let’s go out in a blaze of glory!”

This is the last great fireworks of the sky before judgment comes! Barely had died out over on Golgotha’s mount, “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” Now the words of myriads and myriads of angels are singing “Worthy is the Lamb! Glory to God!” The medal winner has come home. It’s a hero’s welcome. He’s caught up in Glory!

Oh what happened on the other side of those clouds as Jesus Christ has accomplished the redemption of man. Our minds can only think of tickertape parades and television interviews and heroes coming home! Oh what a majestic welcome this must have been, as praise to almighty God, continued and continued by thousands and thousands.

Taken up in Glory! Point, time, act, aorist tense, successful completion of the mission.

It’s a phenomenal heaven-shaking response from the angelic

realm. It's an answer to the prayer of Jesus there in the garden in:

John 17:5

Now glorify me with the glory I had with you before the world was.

Isn't it amazing we can come to Christmas, we can be so complacent and so cold and so unconcerned? Heaven was shook that first Christmas with the dangerous mission that was involved. And how can we even think of thinking any less of what heaven was like as He went back?

Yes, most certainly great is the mystery of godliness. Godliness is the result of God's work in our life. If godliness is the result of God's work in our life, then we have to deal with God. And that's how it's all going to happen.

1. We have to come to know Him by faith and salvation.
2. When that person comes into our life, He's totally adequate to produce a likeness to Himself in our life if we'll just let Him.
3. Soon we'll be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is.

My message at Christmas centers in six things that make for godliness:

1. “He was made visible in the flesh.”
2. “He was vindicated in the Spirit by the Resurrection.”
3. “He was beheld by angels.”
4. “He’s proclaimed among the nations.”
5. “He’s believed on in the world.”
6. Then He was “received up into glory.”

The secret to godliness is letting God work in our life. First to initiate salvation when we receive Him. And secondly, to continue that good work to make us like His Son.

John 12:24, 25

...except the corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abides alone. But if it die, it brings forth much fruit...

J. B. Phillips translation of this verse is so beautiful. He is a Greek scholar who did a paraphrase of the New Testament:

1 Timothy 3:13-16

No one can deny that this religion of ours is a tremendous mystery, resting as it does in the One who showed himself as a human being and met as such every demand of the spirit, in the sight of angels as well as of men. Then after His

restoration to the heaven from whence He came, He has been proclaimed among men, of different nationalities, and believed on in all parts of the world.

That's the why the apostle Paul said:

Galatians 2:20

I have been crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live. Yet not I but Christ is living in me, and the life which I am now living in the flesh, I'm living by the faith of the Son of God who loved me and gave Himself for me.

Ian Thomas has written a book called *The Mystery of Godliness*. Speaking of the conversion of Saul of Tarsus this is what he says:

From that moment on, nothing else really mattered. Saul of Tarsus stopped being Saul of Tarsus and became Paul the apostle. He was out of Adam and he was in Christ, and the law of the spirit of life began to operate, introducing the new principle of human behavior which made him a new creature. Paul had found reality in God, and the show was over. He could afford to discard his makeup and lay aside the musty costumes of religious performance. The pompous self-esteem of a godless society no longer impressed him, nor the honors it could bestow upon its servile devotees. The apostle was emancipated. He was released from the hollow art of living in a fool's paradise of faulty values, a world of artificial standards anchored to a cloud and blown by every wind of

fashion. “God forbid,” he says, “that I should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, by whom the world is crucified unto me, and I unto the world” (Galatians 6:14). Losing his life, he found it. Dying to self and buried with Christ, he found himself alive again. He had discovered how much he was worth—[absolutely] nothing. To discover that is to discover how much Christ is worth—everything.

The Christian life can only be explained in terms of Jesus Christ; and if your life as a Christian can still be explained in terms of you, your personality, your will power, your gifts, and your talents, and your money, and your courage, and your scholarship, and your dedication, and your sacrifice, or your anything, then, although you may have the Christian life, you are not living it. If the way you live your life as a Christian can be explained in terms of you, what have you to offer to the man who lives next door? The way he lives his life can be explained in terms of him; and so far as he is concerned, you happen to be religious, but he’s not. Christianity may be your hobby, but it is not his; there’s nothing about the way you practice it which strikes him as at all remarkable. There is nothing about you which leaves him guessing, and nothing commendable of which he does not feel himself equally capable without the inconvenience of becoming a Christian. (source unknown)

We can almost hear the early Christians as they began to sing this particular verse, echoing the words that we have seen here together? Singing triumphantly these words:

Jesus Christ, becoming human flesh

taking upon Him human flesh,
vindicated in the Spirit,
beheld by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up into glory.
(source unknown)

He's the Lion of the tribe of Judah. He's worthy to receive all
glory and honor. Let's bow our heads and hearts today and
worship the living Christ?

O come all ye faithful,
Joyful and triumphant.
Come ye, come ye to Bethlehem.
O come let us adore Him,
O come let us adore Him.
(source unknown)

He is worthy. Let's give Him the glory.

Father, we thank You for Christmas. We thank You that it's
the beginning of a mission. To our eyes in some ways it seems
like mission impossible, that You would love us so much that
You'd go to all this trouble. Thank You for this precious verse
tucked away in Paul's writings to young Timothy, talking
about how a man changes and becomes godly. Thank You that
it's all in Jesus. He is all and in all. And if we would but turn
to Him, get to know Him, soon we would be made like Him,
we'll see Him as He is. Thank You for the precious and blessed

hope this Christmas season. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Copyright © 2023 by Bible Teaching Resources by Don Anderson Ministries. The author's teacher notes incorporate quoted, paraphrased and summarized material from a variety of sources, all of which have been appropriately credited to the best of our ability. Quotations particularly reside within the realm of fair use. It is the nature of teacher notes to contain references that may prove difficult to accurately attribute. Any use of material without proper citation is unintentional. Teacher notes have been compiled by Ronnie Marroquin.

GOD'S INVITATION:

How to Become a Christian

“What it Takes to Get it Right”

The Seventh Movement – The Mystery of Godliness – 1 Timothy 3:16

NOTES

v. 16 And most certainly great is the mystery of godliness: Who was made visible in the flesh, proved to be right by the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory.