

THE PASTORAL EPISTLES

God's Vision for the Church as His Faithful Family

**Week 3: The Gospel, Good Works
& The Church**

Almighty God, you sent your son Jesus Christ to reconcile the world to yourself. We praise you and bless you for those whom you have sent in the power of the Spirit to preach the Gospel to all nations. We thank you that in all parts of the earth a community of love has been gathered together by their prayers and labors, and that in every place your servants call upon your Name; for the kingdom and the power are yours, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

COLLECT FOR
**THE MISSION OF
THE CHURCH**

THE GOSPEL, GOOD WORKS & THE CHURCH

- **The Gospel as God's plan of Redemption for the whole world**
- **The Relationship between the Gospel & good works**
- **The Relationship between the Gospel & the Church**

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION
FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

The Mystery of Godliness

- > Scripture & Summary
- Mystery & Epiphany
- The Creed

The Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3.14–16 (ESV)

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, a pillar and buttress of the truth. Great indeed, we confess, is the mystery of godliness:

*He was manifested in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,
proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up in glory.*

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION
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The Mystery of Godliness

Passage Summary

- St. Paul's reason for writing
- The Nature of the Church
- The Mystery of godliness/Creed

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION
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The Mystery of Godliness

Mystery & Epiphany

- hiddenness & revealing/appearance
- Romans 16.25–27; 1 Corinthians 2.1, 7, 4.1, 15.51; Colossians 1.25–27, 2.2–3, 4.3; Ephesians 1.9, 3.2–6, 5.31–32, 6.19.

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The Mystery of Godliness

Mystery & Epiphany

...to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all [the Gentiles], according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith—to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

– Romans 16.25–27 (ESV)

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The Mystery of Godliness

Mystery & Epiphany

...I became a minister...to make the word of God fully known, the mystery hidden for ages and generations but revealed to the saints. To them God chose to make known the riches of the glory of his mystery, which is Christ in you, the hope of glory...

– Colossians 1.25–27 (ESV)

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The Mystery of Godliness

Mystery & Epiphany

...assuming that you have heard...how the mystery was made known to me by revelation, as I have written briefly... You can perceive my insight into the mystery of Christ, which was not made known to the sons of men in other generations as it has now been revealed to his holy apostles and prophets by the Spirit. This mystery is that the Gentiles are fellow heirs, members of the same body, and partakers of the promise in Christ Jesus through the gospel.

– Ephesians 3.2–6 (ESV)

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The Mystery of Godliness

Mystery & Epiphany

Canonical Summary of the Mystery:

- How will God restore his relationship with sinful human beings?
- How will God restore the full goodness of creation? (cf. Romans 8.19–23)
- Answer: Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, revealed in his earthly life and the proclamation of the gospel.

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The Mystery of Godliness

Mystery & Epiphany

The Inclusion of the Gentiles

- How will God restore his relationship with sinful human beings?
- How will God unite both Jews and Gentiles into one covenant community?
- Answer: Through the person and work of Jesus Christ, revealed in his earthly life and the proclamation of the gospel.

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FOR THE WHOLE WORLD

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- > **The Creed**

The Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3.16 (ESV) – The Creed

*He [Christ], was revealed in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,*

*Proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up into glory.*

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The Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3.16 (ESV) – The Creed

*He [Christ], was revealed in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,*

- Bookends: Incarnation and Resurrection.
- Both events are a “revealing”
- Calls to mind all of Christ’s life and earthly ministry.

*Proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up into glory.*

GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION
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The Mystery of Godliness

1 Timothy 3.16 (ESV) – The Creed

*He [Christ], was revealed in the flesh,
vindicated by the Spirit,
seen by angels,*

*Proclaimed among the nations,
believed on in the world,
taken up into glory.*

- Last line refers to the ascension of Christ.
- God's future kingdom comes into the present through the proclamation of the gospel.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOSPEL AND GOOD WORKS

- **In The Mystery Revealed (1 Timothy 3.14–16)**
- **Jesus, The Good Shepherd & Catechizer of our Souls**
- **Salvation, Not by Works Done in Righteousness, But God's Grace and Mercy**

THE GOSPEL &
GOOD WORKS

> **In the Mystery Revealed**

Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls

Salvation, not by works done in
righteousness.

In the Mystery Revealed

1 Timothy 3.14–15

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that, if I am delayed, you may know how one ought to behave in the household of God...

THE GOSPEL & GOOD WORKS

> In the Mystery Revealed

Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls

Salvation, not by works done in
righteousness.

In the Mystery Revealed

Timothy's Charge

- I urge you...to remain in Ephesus so that you may instruct certain people not to teach any different doctrine... (1.3)
- This charge (sound doctrine) I entrust to you... (1.18)
- ***Know and teach how one ought to behave in the household of God (3.15)*** Related to Paul's focus on critiquing opponent's behavior/fruit.
- Guard the deposit entrusted to you (6.20)

THE GOSPEL & GOOD WORKS

> In the Mystery Revealed

Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls

Salvation, not by works done in
righteousness.

In the Mystery Revealed

Relationship between the Mystery and Good Works

- *Great indeed we confess is the mystery of godliness... (3.16a, ESV)*
- “of” – Preposition of relationship
- Here, denotes *source*. See footnote in supplemental material for nerdy language stuff.
- *...the mystery from which true godliness springs... (3.16a, NIV2011)*

THE GOSPEL &
GOOD WORKS

> **In the Mystery Revealed**

Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls

Salvation, not by works done in
righteousness.

Jesus, Good Shepherd & Catechizer of our Souls

Titus 2.11–14 (ESV)

For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people, training us to renounce ungodliness and worldly passions, and to live self-controlled, upright, and godly lives in the present age, waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Savior Jesus Christ, who gave himself for us to redeem us from all lawlessness and to purify for himself a people for his own possession who are zealous for good works.

THE GOSPEL & GOOD WORKS

In the Mystery Revealed

> **Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls**

Salvation, not by works done in
righteousness.

Jesus, Good Shepherd & Catechizer of our Souls

- Main Idea: “The grace of God has appeared” (epiphany language!)
- Results of its (his) appearing:
 - Salvation made available to all; both Jew and Gentile (remember the *mystery* language)
 - Trains us in renouncing ungodliness & worldly passions
 - Trains us in godly lives

THE GOSPEL & GOOD WORKS

In the Mystery Revealed

> **Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls**

Salvation, not by works done in
righteousness.

Jesus, Good Shepherd & Catechizer of our Souls

- Note the parallels in vv13–14 to 11–12:
- *For the grace of God has appeared, (v11)
...the appearing of...Jesus Christ (v13)*
- *...bringing salvation to all (v11)
He it is who ...redeems us from all iniquity
(v14)*
- *...training us to renounce ungodliness...and
live godly...lives (v12)
And purify for himself a people...zealous for
good works (v14)*

THE GOSPEL & GOOD WORKS

In the Mystery Revealed

Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls

> **Salvation, not by works done
in righteousness.**

Salvation, Not by Works Done in Righteousness.

Titus 3.1–8 (ESV)

Remind [the Church] to be submissive to rulers and authorities, to be obedient, and to be ready for every good work, to speak evil of no one, to avoid quarreling, to be gentle, and to show perfect courtesy to everyone. For we ourselves were once foolish, disobedient, led astray, slaves to various passions and pleasures, passing our days in malice and envy, hated by others and hating one another, but when the goodness and loving kindness of God our Savior appeared, he saved us, not because of works done in righteousness, but according to his own mercy, by the washing of regeneration and renewal of the Holy Spirit, whom he poured out on us richly through Jesus Christ our Savior, so that being justified by his grace, we might become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.

THE GOSPEL &
GOOD WORKS

In the Mystery Revealed

Jesus, Good Shepherd &
Catechizer of our souls

> **Salvation, not by works done
in righteousness.**

Salvation, not by works done in Righteousness.

Titus 3.1–8 (ESV)

- Verses 1-3 subtly references false teachers.
- Verse 3 – “We were once like them.”
What changed?
- Verses 4-8: God’s grace and mercy given through the Holy Spirit in the proclamation of the gospel.
- Good works/behavior/godliness is fruit of a salvation already secured.

THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE GOSPEL AND THE CHURCH

- **The Pillar and Bulwark of the Truth**
- **The Household of God**

THE GOSPEL &
THE CHURCH

The Pillar & Bulwark of Truth

The Household of God

The Gospel & The Church

1 Timothy 3.14–15

I hope to come to you soon, but I am writing these instructions to you so that...you may know how one ought to behave [having already been saved and now empowered by the Holy Spirit] in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and bulwark of the truth.

THE GOSPEL & THE CHURCH

> The Pillar & Bulwark of truth

The Household of God

The Pillar & Bulwark of Truth

- “The Truth” – shorthand for the gospel and sound doctrine which conforms to the gospel (1 Timothy 1.11).
- The Church is the “pillar” of truth, because it *holds up* (supports) and *holds forth* (presents) the gospel to the unbelieving world.
- The Church is the “bulwark” of truth, defending and stewarding the gospel through teaching and preaching sound doctrine, rebuking false doctrine, and church discipline.

THE GOSPEL & THE CHURCH

The Pillar & Bulwark of truth

> **The Household of God**

The Household of God

The Church as the Family of God

- Adam, God's son (Luke 3.38)
- Israel, God's firstborn son (Ex. 4.22-23)
- "Out of Egypt I brought my son" (Hos. 11.1; Matt. 2.15)
- Jesus, The Father's beloved Son (Matt. 3.17, Luke 3.22, Mark 1.11)
- Jesus's true family (Mark 3.32-34)
- We are adopted as sons and daughters of God (Eph. 1.5, Gal. 4.5, Rom. 8.14-17)
- Cf. 1 Timothy 1.2, 5.1-2; Titus 1.4

TODAY'S SOURCES

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- Walter Bauer, *A Greek English Lexicon of the New Testament and Other Early Christian Literature*, 3rd ed. Revised and edited by Frederick W. Danker.
- William D. Mounce, *Pastoral Epistles*.