

## Lesson F. Great Is The Mystery Of Godliness.

**1 Tim 3:16** *And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory. Who was God manifested in the flesh? Who was received up into Glory? Jesus Christ is the answer. **Deut 6:4** *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD: 5 And thou shalt love the LORD thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy might. 6 And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart:* How many God{s} is there according to this scripture? ONE! God told Israel to brand these words in the heart “The Lord our God is one Lord.”*

Jesus pointed this out in *Mark 12:29* *And Jesus answered him, THE FIRST of all the commandments is, Hear, O Israel; The Lord our God is one Lord:30 *And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind, and with all thy strength: this is the first commandment. This is repeated twice to the Jews; be it understood that there is ONE LORD OUR GOD.**

### 1. His Disciples Understood This Great Mystery.

**John 14:7** *The Lord told Thomas: “If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him, and have seen him. Philip saith unto him, Lord, shew us the Father, and it sufficeth us. Jesus saith unto him, Have I been so long time with you, and yet hast thou not known me, Philip? he that hath seen me hath seen the Father; and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father? Jesus told them plainly if you have seen me then you have seen the Father. How can you ask such a question as “show us the Father”?*

### After the resurrection Jesus visited Thomas.

*John 20:27* *Then saith he to Thomas, Reach hither thy finger, and behold my hands; and reach hither thy hand, and thrust it into my side: and be not faithless, but believing. And Thomas answered and said unto him, My Lord and my God. 29 *Jesus saith unto him, Thomas, because thou hast seen me, thou hast believed: blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.**

Thomas called Jesus his Lord and God. He knew that there was “one Lord our God” and he called him Jesus. Phillip also knew that Jesus Christ was the “one Lord our God” because he baptized his disciples in the name of Jesus. **Acts 8:16** *(For as yet he was fallen upon none of them: only they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus.) Acts 7:59* *And they stoned Stephen, calling upon God, and saying, Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.*

When Stephen saw God, by what name did he call him? Lord Jesus. **Col 1:15** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: God is invisible but he became a visible image when he manifested himself in flesh.*

**Acts 9:5** *And he{Paul} said, Who art thou, Lord? And the Lord said, I am Jesus whom thou persecutest: it is hard for thee to kick against the pricks. Here we see the “The Lord our God is one Lord” calls himself Jesus. There is one Lord, he is one God and his name is Jesus. **Eph 4:5** *One Lord, one faith, one baptism, 1 Cor 8:6* “But to us there is but one God,” Who is that God? *the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; {Notice the Semi colon meaning that Christ is the answer to the sentence before it} and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we by him. 7 Howbeit there is not in every man that knowledge:**

The knowledge that “the Lord our God is one Lord” or Jesus is Lord and he is God was recognized by all the Disciples of Christ. Peter recognized this in Acts 2:38, Acts 7:59, Acts 10:44-48, When he obeyed Matthew 28:19 by baptizing in the name of Jesus. Paul proved that he had this knowledge when he baptized in the same in Acts 19:1-6, Romans 6:1-6, Galatians 3:27.

## **2. What is the Mystery?**

The mystery is how could the fullness of God dwell in flesh and Jesus was the flesh of God. **Col 1:26** *Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is made manifest to his saints: {Here we see that it is not a mystery to his saints} 27 *To whom God would make known what is the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory: 28 Whom we preach, warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom; that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus:**

**Col 1:15-19** *Who is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn of every creature: For by him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers: all things were created by him, and for him: And he is before all things, and by him all things consist. And he is the head of the body, the church: who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead; that in all things he might have the preeminence. For it pleased the Father that in him should all fulness dwell;*

**Col 2:9-12** *For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: In whom also ye are circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, in putting off the body of the sins of the flesh by the circumcision of Christ: Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

**John 1:14** *And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth.* {When was the Word made flesh?} **1 Tim 3:16** “without controversy {There is nothing to debate; it is fact} “God was manifest in the flesh,” **2Cor 5:19** “that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself,”

**Jude 1:25** “To the only wise God our Saviour,” **Luke 1:47** “And my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Saviour” and 11 “For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.”

**Isa 43:11-13** *I, even I, am the LORD; and beside me there is no saviour.* {One Saviour, he is God} *I have declared, and have saved, and I have shewed, when there was no strange god among you: therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God. Yea, before the day was I am he; and there is none that can deliver out of my hand: I will work, and who shall let it?* **John 4:42** “...for we have heard him ourselves, and know that this is indeed the Christ, the Saviour of the world. **Acts 13:23** *Of this man's seed hath God according to his promise raised unto Israel a Saviour, Jesus:*

**Isa 44:6** *Thus saith the LORD the King of Israel, and his redeemer the LORD of hosts; I am the first, and I am the last; and beside me there is no God.* {There is only one Redeemer: Jesus Christ is both King and Redeemer} **Isa 44:8** *Fear ye not, neither be afraid: have not I told thee from that time, and have declared it? ye are even my witnesses. Is there a God beside me? yea, there is no God; I know not any.* **Isa 44:24** *Thus saith the LORD, thy redeemer, and he that formed thee from the womb, I am the LORD that maketh all things; that stretcheth forth the heavens alone; that spreadeth abroad the earth by myself; {He, the Redeemer, the LORD made all things} **Isa 45:5** I am the LORD, and there is none else, there is no God beside me: I girded thee, though thou hast not known me: 6 That they may know from the rising of the sun, and from the west, that there is none beside me. I am the LORD, and there is none else. {Always when you see LORD in Capital letters it is Jehovah God}*

Peter declared: **Acts 4:12** *Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved. **Isa 9:6** For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.*

Paul was sent and commanded by God to preach salvation unto the Gentiles: **Acts 13:46** *Then Paul and Barnabas waxed bold, and said, It was necessary that the word of God should first have been spoken to you: but seeing ye put it from you, and judge yourselves unworthy of everlasting life, lo, we turn to the Gentiles. For so hath the Lord commanded us, saying, I have set thee to be a light of the Gentiles, that thou shouldest be for salvation unto the ends of the earth.* What were the words in the message of salvation Paul preached? Acts 19:1-6 Paul preached: *“that they should believe on him which should come after him, that is, on Christ Jesus. “...When they heard this, they were baptized in the name of the Lord Jesus. And when Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Ghost came on them; and they spake with tongues, and prophesied.*

### **3. Did Paul obey Christ?**

Christ told the disciples *“that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem”.* {Luke 24:47} **Matt 26:28** *For this is my blood of the new testament, which is shed for many for the remission of sins. Acts 2:38* *Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.*

**Acts 10:43** *To him give all the prophets witness, that through his name whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins. Rom 3:25* *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; Heb 9:22* *And almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without shedding of blood is no remission. Heb 10:18* *Now where remission of these is, there is no more offering for sin.<sup>19</sup>Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus.*

**1 Cor 1:13** *Is Christ divided? was Paul crucified for you? or were ye baptized in the name of Paul? 1 Cor 1:23* *But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews a stumblingblock, and unto the Greeks foolishness; 24* *But unto them which are called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God, and the wisdom of God.* Was Paul trying to stop strife and prevent further arguments concerning baptism? Yes! He tells the congregation that it was Christ that was crucified, it was his name that they were baptized in and He is the one that shed his blood for the remission of sins and no one else deserves the glory and no other name will save. {Acts 4:12}

#### 4. Who is the Redeemer?

Paul told Titus that Jesus is. *Titus 2:1 4 Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works. 1 Cor 6:20 For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Cor 7:23 Ye are bought with a price; be not ye the servants of men. Isa 47:4 As for our redeemer, the LORD of hosts is his name, the Holy One of Israel. Col 2:8 Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. 9 For in him dwelleth all the fulness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power: ... Buried with him in baptism, wherein also ye are risen with him through the faith of the operation of God, who hath raised him from the dead.*

Would you allow someone to take care of your kids without running a background check, would you in trust their lives to someone without knowing if they are trust worthy. I would not and never could. The Jews trusted in themselves and never bothered to do a background check on Jesus but the Apostles did a background check and realized that he was the fulfillment of many prophecies. John {7:52} *They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet. 53 And every man went unto his own house.* These people did not do any research to find that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.

The word trinity is not found anywhere in the bible, it is a man made idea that was adopted into the church in 325 AD almost three hundred years after the church was born. Today many denominations are using the word trinity without doing any background checks to see if it was a doctrine of the apostles or instituted by man.

Would you search out your own salvation as Paul told the church? *Phil 2:12 Wherefore, my beloved, as ye have always obeyed, not as in my presence only, but now much more in my absence, work out your own salvation with fear and trembling. 13 For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure. Heb 2:3 How shall we escape, if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him.*

The next question I would ask a person is this: did anyone in the bible baptize anyone in the titles of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Ghost? If they said yes I would say show me the chapter and verse. No one has ever been able to show me in the bible where anyone was baptized in that way. Why? Any person with an eight-grade education should be literate enough to recognize that name is singular and that “of” is a preposition.

In Matthew 28:19 even those first century uneducated fisherman knew this fact because Peter baptized in the name of Jesus and not in the prepositional phrases “of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit” coming from the word “name” not names. Because the word “name” is singular and not plural the apostles never baptized in the titles of the name, “of the Father, of the Son and of the Holy Spirit”

Questions:

- 1 Deut 6:4 According to Moses how many God are there? A. One; B. Two; C. Three; D. Fifteen.
2. I Tim. 3:16 Jesus Christ was God manifested himself in the flesh? True \_\_\_ or False \_\_\_
3. Isa. 44:8 Was there ever another God beside God? Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_
4. Col. 1:26 Is godliness a mystery to the saints of God? Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_
5. When Thomas asked Jesus to show him the Father did Jesus say: he that has seen me has seen the Father? Yes \_\_\_ or No \_\_\_
6. Who is the image of the invisible God? \_\_\_\_\_
7. **John 7:52** *They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of \_\_\_\_\_ ? Search, and look: for out of \_\_\_\_\_ ariseth no prophet. 53 And every man went unto his own house.* These people did not do any research to find that Jesus was born in Bethlehem.
8. **Col. 2:9** *For in him dwelleth all the \_\_\_\_\_ of the Godhead bodily.*
9. Which is the correct statement? A. The Godhead is in Christ; B. Christ is in the Godhead. C. There isn't any godhead.
10. **Acts 10:43** *To him give all the prophets witness, that \_\_\_\_\_ \_ whosoever believeth in him shall receive remission of sins.*
11. **Rom 3:25** *Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his \_\_\_\_\_, to declare his righteousness for the \_\_\_\_\_ of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God;*
12. **Heb 9:22** *“ almost all things are by the law purged with blood; and without \_\_\_\_\_ of blood is no remission ”*
13. **Heb 10:18-19** *Now where remission of these is, there is no more \_\_\_\_\_ \_ for sin. Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of \_\_\_\_\_ .*