

# 1 TIMOTHY

Lesson FOUR  
Chapter 3:14-16

What have we learned so far?  
(Hopefully, a LOT!)

[A] 1:1-2 Benediction

Paul's greeting was different this time: "Grace, **MERCY**, and peace." In chapter one, he wrote of the **MERCY** he found in Christ Jesus that could not be found in the Law.

[C] 2:1-3:13 Christian Duties

[D] 3:14-15 Intended Visit

[E] 3:16 Mystery of Godliness

[E] 4:1-12 Mystery of Iniquity

[D] 4:13-16 Intended Visit

[C] 5:1 to 6:2 Christian Duties

[B] 6:3-21a Admonition, Practical

[A] 6:21b Benediction

[A] 1:1-2 Benediction

[B] 1:3-20 Admonition:

Paul charged Timothy to instruct others to “teach other doctrine,” and warned against false teachers who “concerning faith have made shipwreck.”

[D] 3:14-15 Intended visit

[E] 3:16 Mystery of Godliness

[E] 4:1-12 Mystery of Iniquity

[D] 4:13-16 Intended Visit

[C] 5:1 to 6:2 Christian Duties

[B] 6:3-21a Admonition, Practical

[A] 6:21b Benediction

[A] 1:1-2 Benediction

[B] 1:3-20 Admonition

[C] 2:1 to 3:13 Christian Duties

Paul instructed men and women on prayer and holiness, and listed the qualifications for a **bishop**, and for a **deacon** and **his wife**.

[D] 3:16 Mystery of Godliness

[E] 4:1-12 Mystery of Iniquity

[D] 4:13-16 Intended Visit

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[D] 4:13-16 Intended Visit

[C] 5:1 to 6:2 Christian Duties

[B] 6:3-21a Admonition, Practical

[A] 6:21b Benediction

This lesson examines just three verses:

Look for the answers to these questions:

1. According to 1 Timothy 3:14, what was Paul hoping to do when he wrote this letter?
2. According to 1 Timothy 3:15, what was Paul's reason for writing this letter?
3. What is the Greek word translated "church" in 1 Timothy 3:15? What does it mean?
4. Who is the pillar and ground of the truth?

### Match the number to the letter

- |                     |                      |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| 5. God was manifest | a) up into glory     |
| 6. Justified        | b) unto the Gentiles |
| 7. Seen             | c) in the flesh      |
| 8. Preached         | d) of angels         |
| 9. Believed         | e) in the Spirit     |
| 10. Received        | f) on in the world   |

### Bonus question (20 points)

Why is it important for Christians to know how to behave in the house of God?

## Paul's Intended Visit [3:14-15]

Paul had finished his work in Macedonia and wanted to meet Timothy in Ephesus. But he did not know how long it would take him to get there, so he sent the letter that we now call "1 Timothy".

### 1 Timothy 3:14

<sup>14</sup> These things write I unto thee,  
hoping to come unto thee shortly:





## Paul's Intended Visit [3:14-15]

Here is Paul's reason for writing this letter with all of the instruction it contains.

### **1 Timothy 3:15**

<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long,  
that thou mayest know how thou  
oughtest to behave thyself in the  
house of God,  
which is the church of the living  
God, the pillar and ground of the  
truth.



## Paul's Intended Visit [3:14-15]

This is the main subject of 1 Timothy –  
How should Christians behave in the  
house of God?

### 1 Timothy 3:15

<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long,  
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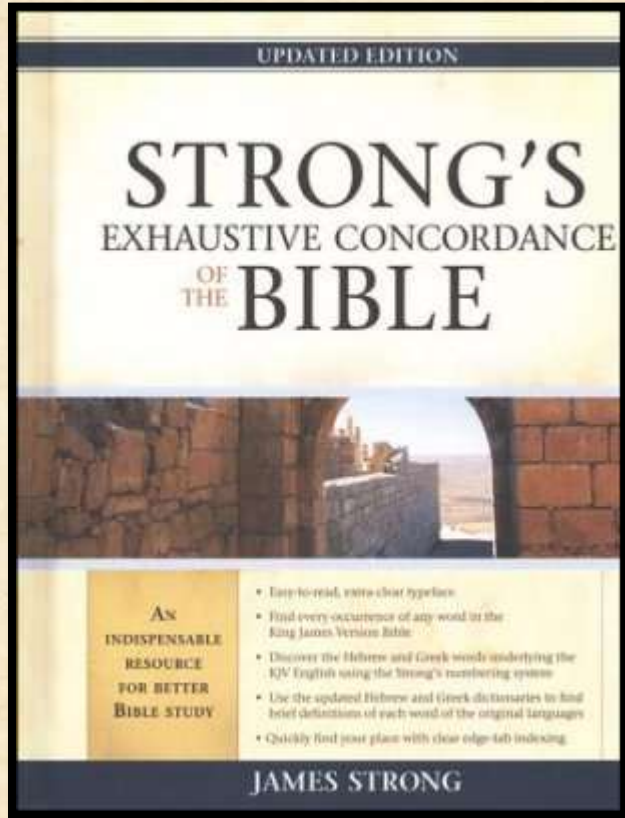
## Paul's Intended Visit [3:14-15]

In the Old Testament, God dwelt in the tabernacle and the temple. But in the New Testament, he dwells in the people of his church.

### 1 Timothy 3:15

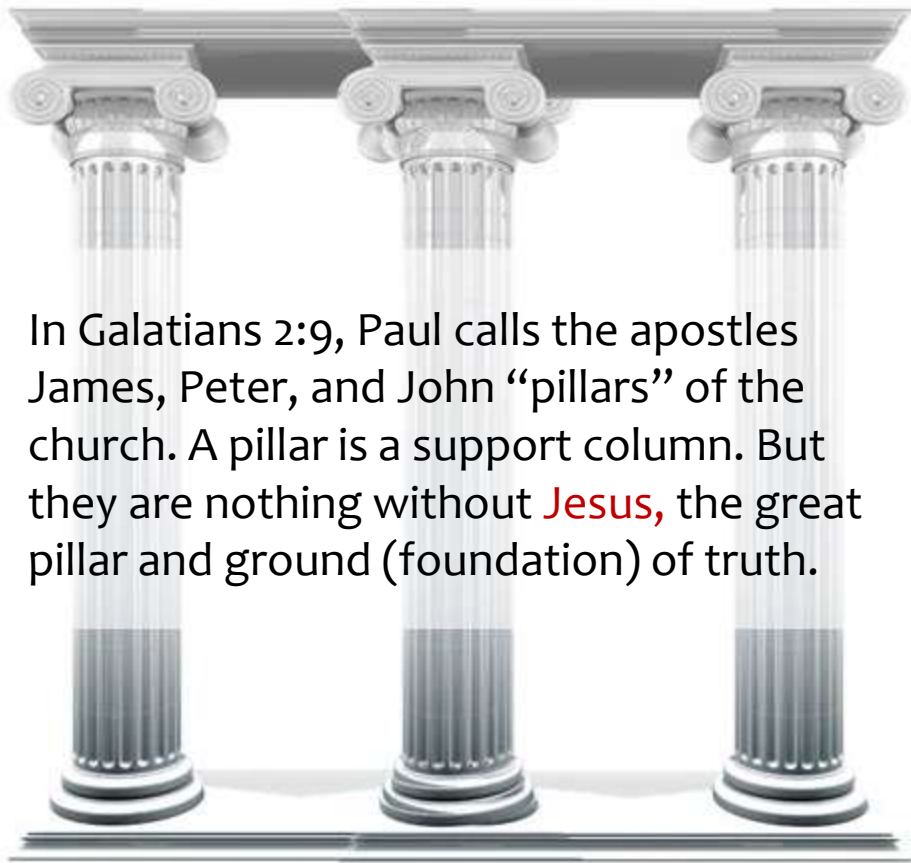
<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long,  
that thou mayest know how thou  
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house of God,  
**which is the church of the living  
God,** the pillar and ground of the  
truth.





“the church [ἐκκλησία *ekklēsía*] of the living God”

The “ekklesia” (from *ek*, “out from and to” and *kaléō*, “to call”) are the “called out” of God. They are the people *called out from* the world and to God. This is the universal (total) body of believers whom God calls out from the world and into His eternal kingdom.



In Galatians 2:9, Paul calls the apostles James, Peter, and John “pillars” of the church. A pillar is a support column. But they are nothing without **Jesus**, the great pillar and ground (foundation) of truth.

### 1 Timothy 3:15

<sup>15</sup> But if I tarry long,  
that thou mayest know how thou  
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house of God,  
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[A] 1:1-2 Benediction

[B] 1:3-20 Admonition

[C] 2:1 to 3:13 Christian Duties

[D] 3:14-15 Intended Visit

[E] 3:16 Mystery of Godliness

Jesus was God in the flesh. This is the MYSTERY OF GODLINESS that Paul writes about next.

[D] 4:13-16 Intended visit

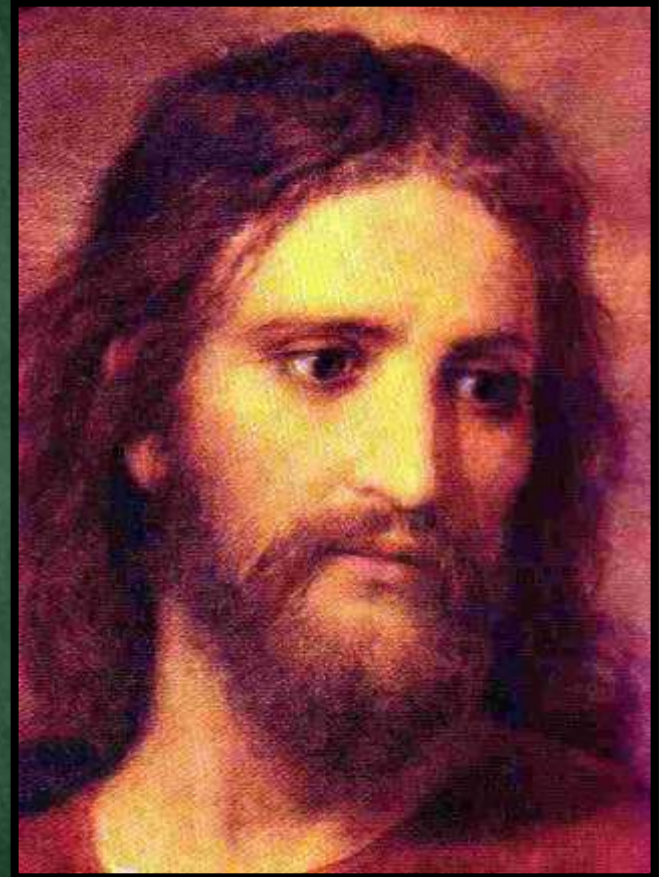
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## The Mystery of Godliness

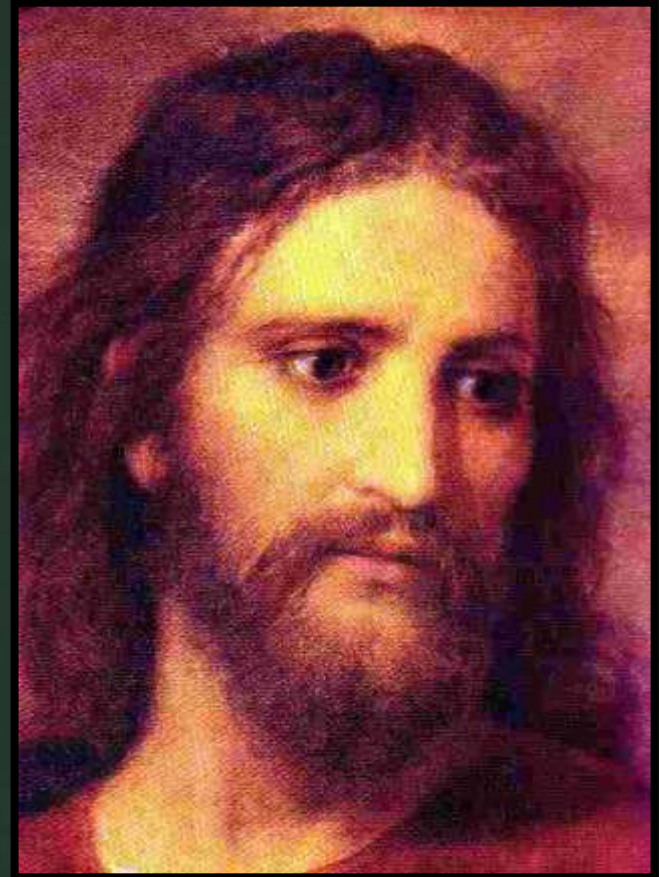
Jesus looked and sounded like any other man from Galilee, but Jesus was much more than a man. Paul lists six ways that Jesus showed that he was God:



## The Mystery of Godliness [3:16]

### 1 Timothy 3:16

<sup>16</sup> 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.





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Jesus was the invisible God made  
visible for everyone to see.

### John 1:18

<sup>18</sup> No man hath seen God at any  
time; the only begotten Son,  
which is in the bosom of the  
Father, he hath declared *him*.

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Jesus was condemned by man, but  
blameless before God.

### Matthew 3:16-17

<sup>16</sup> And Jesus, when he was baptized,  
went up straightway out of the  
water: and, lo, the heavens were  
opened unto him,  
and he saw the Spirit of God  
descending like a dove,  
and lighting upon him:

<sup>17</sup> And lo a voice from heaven, saying,  
This is my beloved Son,  
in whom I am well pleased.

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The angels of God ministered to him  
after his temptation in the wilderness,  
and on the night of his arrest.

### Luke 22:43

<sup>43</sup> And there appeared an angel unto  
him from heaven, strengthening him.



## The Mystery of Godliness [3:16]

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great is the mystery of godliness:

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believed on in the world,**

received up into glory.

The message of salvation has been  
heard and received all over the world.

### Acts 13:48

<sup>48</sup> And when the Gentiles heard this,  
they were glad, and glorified the word  
of the Lord: and as many as were  
ordained to eternal life believed.



## The Mystery of Godliness [3:16]

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God was manifest in the flesh,  
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Countless religious leaders have lived and died. Only Jesus was raised from the dead to die no more.

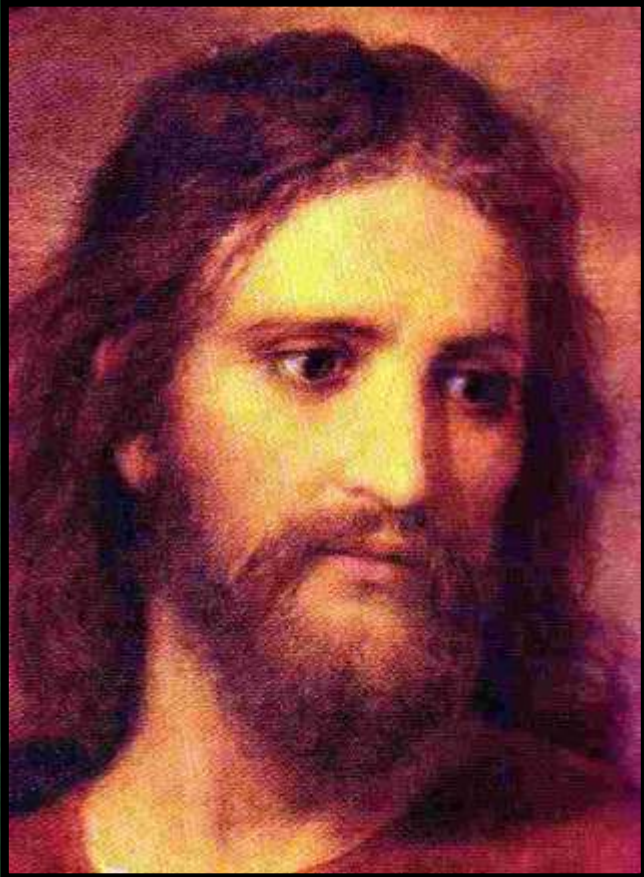
### Luke 24:50-51

<sup>50</sup> And he led them out as far as to Bethany, and he lifted up his hands, and blessed them.  
<sup>51</sup> And it came to pass, while he blessed them, he was parted from them, and carried up into heaven.



People cannot see God. They cannot see Christ. They can only see his people, his church. And that is why it is so important that we behave in a way that will not bring shame on the gospel.





Let us make this mystery known.

**2 Corinthians 5:19-20**

- <sup>19</sup> To wit, that God was in Christ, reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them; and hath committed unto us the word of reconciliation.
- <sup>20</sup> Now then we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God did beseech you by us: we pray you in Christ's stead, be ye reconciled to God.

[A] 1:1-2 Benediction

[B] 1:3-20 Admonition

[C] 2:1 to 3:13 Christian Duties

[D] 3:14-15 Intended Visit

[E] 3:16 Mystery of Godliness

Paul's discussion of the mystery of godliness brings Chapter 3 to an end.

[D] 4:13-16 Intended Visit

[C] 5:1 to 6:2 Christian Duties

[B] 6:3-21a Admonition, Practical

[A] 6:21b Benediction



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[E] 4:1-12 Mystery of Iniquity

[D] 4:13 Chapter 4 begins with a *different* mystery – one that pulls people *away* from Christ.

[C] 5:1 to 6:2 Christian Duties

[B] 6:3-21a Admonition, Practical

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## Questions to test your understanding of this lesson:

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### Bonus question (20 points)

Why is it important for Christians to know how to behave in the house of God?

Each question is worth 10 points. Do NOT share your answers with other students.



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