

INTRODUCTION

What a blessed path we have been walking together! For a little more than two years, I have been standing before you almost every Lord's Day and saying, "1 Timothy." During that time, our dear Lord Jesus Christ has carried His church through troubles, as if on eagle's wings, and has set us down in a blessed situation of peace, for which we are so very thankful.

We have studied in 1 Timothy chapter one about how the church should prioritize the maintaining of sound doctrine, rejecting false teaching and false teachers in favor of the gospel of God which was committed to the apostles' trust, and for the preservation of which we now wage a good warfare, lest we suffer shipwreck, as the false teachers have.

We have studied in 1 Timothy chapter two about how the church is to pray, for government officials to keep us at peace, and for all men to be saved by Christ Jesus, the one Mediator between God and men, who gave Himself a ransom for all; and about how the church is to act properly in worship: the men lifting up holy hands without wrath and disputing; the women dressing modestly and learning quietly in all submission.

We have studied in 1 Timothy chapter three about how the church is to choose its officers: pastors and deacons, by considering men ready to serve in office only if an examination of their character shows them to be blameless. We learned about the nature of the church, that it is the house of God, the congregation of the living God, and pillar and ground of the truth.

Now, in concluding the study of chapter 3, we have had the great privilege of contemplating the great mystery of godliness. Today we work through the last line of the statement of that mystery, taking great joy in the fact that Jesus Christ, God manifest in the flesh, has been received up into glory!

TEXT

1 Timothy 3:14-16

BODY

- I. God Manifest In the Flesh Was Received Up
 - A. Notice how this last line in the mystery forms a suitable counterpart to the first line
 1. He was manifest in the flesh; He had condescended, had come down here from heaven to be with us
 2. When He had finished all He was sent to do here, He was received up
 - B. See the two aspects of it
 1. Taken up from us
 - a) Acts 1:11 from you
 - b) Acts 1:22 from us
 2. Received up into heaven
 - a) Acts 1:11
 - b) Mark 16:19
 - C. Note the evident importance of this in the New Testament scriptures, as inspired by the Holy Spirit
 1. gospel of Mark: it appears as the last thing said about Jesus
 2. Acts: it is stated three times in the first chapter
 3. Paul's first letter to Timothy: it is the closing line in this statement of the "mystery of godliness"
 - D. Don't think that when Jesus Christ was received up, He no longer is God in the flesh
 1. when He was conceived in the womb of the virgin, Mary, He became God in the flesh
 2. He always will be God in the flesh
 - a) that did not change when He was received up
 - b) it never will change

II. God Manifest In the Flesh Was Received Up In Glory; Was Taken Up in Glory

A. What glory is

1. most basically it is brightness or shining or illumination
 - a) 1 Corinthians 15:41 There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory.
 - b) Luke 9:28-32 Now it came to pass, about eight days after these sayings, that He took Peter, John, and James and went up on the mountain to pray. (29) As He prayed, the appearance of His face was altered, and His robe became white and glistening. (30) And behold, two men talked with Him, who were Moses and Elijah, (31) who appeared in glory and spoke of His decease which He was about to accomplish at Jerusalem. (32) But Peter and those with him were heavy with sleep; and when they were fully awake, they saw His glory and the two men who stood with Him.
 - c) Revelation 21:23 The city had no need of the sun or of the moon to shine in it, for the glory of God illuminated it. The Lamb is its light.
2. the word glory is more often used not to mean literally “shining” or “brightness,” but a person’s situation or treatment when his excellence is recognized, and he is praise or honored or rewarded for it
 - a) we say that a brave soldier or a victorious athlete achieved glory
 - b) everyone watches while the person has a medal hung around his neck; then everyone applauds and cheers
3. in the Bible, King Solomon was dressed in splendid clothes, seated on a magnificent throne, housed in an amazingly rich palace, served a sumptuous menu on goldware, attended by thousands of servants, honored by a constant parade of foreign dignitaries; the Lord Jesus spoke of this as “Solomon in all his glory”
4. the Bible speaks often about giving glory to God; by which it means
 - a) recognize Him for who he is
 - b) treat Him as He deserves
 - (1) bow before Him
 - (2) praise Him, thank Him, pray to Him
 - (3) serve Him, obey Him
 - c) make His excellence known
 - d) the Greek word for “glory” is *doxa*, from which we get “doxology,” this is the sense of *doxa* in doxology, speaking to give Him glory

B. He had shared the glory of God before the world was created

1. John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.
2. He had shown brightly
3. He had shared the place of honor with God the Father

- C. He had left that glory when He was manifest in the flesh, and had come down here in humiliation
1. the glory of His divine nature was hidden from our view as He was born a human baby, in very humble circumstances
 2. He submitted Himself to God's law
 3. He endured a life of sorrows and difficulties as a man
 4. He made Himself a servant
 5. He suffered betrayal, beating, scourging, mocking, and even crucifixion, being crucified between two criminals, as though He also were one of them
 6. He endured the outpouring of the wrath of God upon Himself in the place of us sinners who deserved it
 7. He shed His own blood to save us
 8. He willingly died on the cross for our sake
 9. His body was buried in a tomb
 10. His body remained in the tomb long enough for everyone to be sure that He really was dead
- D. But early in the morning on the first day of the week, the humiliation of God manifest in the flesh was over, and His exaltation began!
1. He rose from the dead to live forevermore; He appeared to more than 500 witnesses, showing Himself to be alive
 2. He then was received up into glory, was taken up in glory
 - a) on this side of the divide between earth and heaven, there was His ascension; that is, His disciples saw Him received up into glory as His body rising upward to disappear behind the clouds
 - b) on the other side, there was His session; that is, all those in Heaven saw Him coming in clouds of glory to be seated in His rightful place at the right hand of God the Father
 3. one day His exaltation will be complete when He comes here again to raise the dead; to be the judge of all mankind; to send the unbelieving to everlasting punishment; to receive those who believe in Him to everlasting life
- E. Hear this in the language of our 1689 confession
- 1689.8.4 ...he was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfil it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered, being made sin and a curse for us; enduring most grievous sorrows in his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died, and remained in the state of the dead, yet saw no corruption: on the third day he arose from the dead with the same body in which he suffered, with which he also ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father making intercession, and shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world

CONCLUSION

Oh, sinners, still in your sins, hear of God manifest in the flesh, received up into glory, and tremble at the thought!

He sits enthroned in glory, but on the day God has appointed, He will rise from His seat and come back here, no longer in humiliatio, but in all glory, with the holy angels; on that day, there will be no more mercy for the unbelievers, but only justice;

But when you tremble at the thought of God manifest in the flesh coming to dole out God's terrible justice, understand that the day of judgment has not yet come. Today there is still mercy from God by the hand of the one who is manifest in the flesh, who came here as one of us, not to condemn, but to save.

Believe in Him today; trust in Him; cry to Him; turn from Your sins and be forgiven; be washed clean of all guilt in the blood He shed for you on the cross

Then, believing in Him, rejoice greatly in His exaltation, in His being received up into the glory He so richly deserves. Give Him all the glory. And let thanksgiving fill your heart when you think that He is coming again to take you to be with Him, to make You share in His glory forever and ever!

Roel - Call to Worship and Opening Prayer - Psalm 96:1-3

Alex - Scripture Reading - Daniel 7:13-14

Chris - Congregational Prayer

Benediction - Hebrews 13:20-21

Rita - Prelude

Rita - Trinity 205 "Christ the Lord Is Risen Today"

Allison - Trinity 212 "A Hymn of Glory"

Allison - Trinity 216 "Crown Him with Many Crowns"

Mark 16:9-20 in the 1689 Confession

1689.7.2 - Mark 16:15-16

1689.8.4 - Mark 16:19

1689.29.2 - Mark 16:16

Mark 16:19 NKJV So then, after the Lord had spoken to them, He **was received up [G353 analambano]** into heaven, and sat down at the right hand of God.

Acts 1:1-2 NKJV The former account I made, O Theophilus, of all that Jesus began both to do and teach, 2 until the day in which He **was taken up [G353 analambano]**, after He through the Holy Spirit had given commandments to the apostles whom He had chosen,

Acts 1:10-11 NKJV And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel, 11 who also said, "Men of Galilee, why do you stand gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, who **was taken up [G353 analambano]** from you into heaven, will so come in like manner as you saw Him go into heaven."

Acts 1:21-22 NKJV "Therefore, of these men who have accompanied us all the time that the Lord Jesus went in and out among us, 22 beginning from the baptism of John to that day when He **was taken up [G353 analambano]** from us, one of these must become a witness with us of His resurrection."

John 17

John 17:1 Jesus spoke these words, lifted up His eyes to heaven, and said: "Father, the hour has come. Glorify Your Son, that Your Son also may glorify You,

John 17:4 I have glorified You on the earth. I have finished the work which You have given Me to do.

John 17:5 And now, O Father, glorify Me together with Yourself, with the glory which I had with You before the world was.

John 17:6 "I have manifested Your name to the men whom You have given Me out of the world. They were Yours, You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your word.

John 17:10 And all Mine are Yours, and Yours are Mine, and I am glorified in them.

John 17:22-23 And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: (23) I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.

John 17:24 "Father, I desire that they also whom You gave Me may be with Me where I am, that they may behold My glory which You have given Me; for You loved Me before the foundation of the world.

1 Corinthians 15:40-44 There are also celestial bodies and terrestrial bodies; but the glory of the celestial is one, and the glory of the terrestrial is another. (41) There is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differs from another star in glory. (42) So also is the resurrection of the dead. The body is sown in corruption, it is raised in incorruption.

(43) It is sown in dishonor, it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness, it is raised in power. (44) It is sown a natural body, it is raised a spiritual body. There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body.

Colossians 3:1-4 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God. (2) Set your mind on things above, not on things on the earth. (3) For you died, and your life is hidden with Christ in God. (4) When Christ who is our life appears, then you also will appear with Him in glory.

2 Peter 1:16-18 For we did not follow cunningly devised fables when we made known to you the power and coming of our Lord Jesus Christ, but were eyewitnesses of His majesty. (17) For He received from God the Father honor and glory when such a voice came to Him from the Excellent Glory: "This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." (18) And we heard this voice which came from heaven when we were with Him on the holy mountain.

Mark 16:9-20 in the 1689 Confession

1689.7.2

1689.8.4

1689.29.2

30.

Q. Wherein did Christ's humiliation consist?

A. Christ's humiliation consisted in his being born, and that in a low condition (Luk 2:7), made under the Law (Gal 4:4); undergoing the miseries of this life (Heb 12:2-3; Isa 53:2-3), the wrath of God (Luk 22:44; Mat 27:46), and the cursed death of the cross (Phi 2:8); in being buried (1Co 15:3-4), and continuing under the power of death for a time (Act 2:24-27, 31; Mat 12:40).

31.

Q. Wherein consisteth Christ's exaltation?

A. Christ's exaltation consisteth in His rising again from the dead on the third day (1Co 15:4), in ascending up into heaven (Mar 16:19), in sitting at the right hand of God the Father (Eph 1:20), and in coming to judge the world at the Last Day (Act 1:11; 17:31).

1689.8.4

he was made under the law, and did perfectly fulfil it, and underwent the punishment due to us, which we should have borne and suffered, being made sin and a curse for us; enduring most grievous sorrows in his soul, and most painful sufferings in his body; was crucified, and died, and remained in the state of the dead, yet saw no corruption: on the third day he arose from the dead with the same body in which he suffered, with which he also ascended into heaven, and there sitteth at the right hand of his Father

GEN receiued vp in glorie

KJV received up into glory
NKJV Received up in glory
ESV, CSB taken up in glory

G353 *analambano*
G1391 *doxa*