

## Paul's Three Crosses

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Just as there were three literal crucifixions on Calvary (Matthew 27:44; Mark 15:32), so there were three figurative crucifixions of Paul in Galatians.

First, Paul crucified himself (Galatians 2:20). He lived for Christ. In the same way, our allegiance is to live for Christ from the point of our faith and baptism onward (Galatians 3:26-27). We are no longer to let self interests ("me-ism") dictate what we do each day. Our "self" is to have no attraction anymore (Romans 6:3-6).

Second, Paul crucified the flesh (Galatians 5:24). He did not serve his own desires. In the same way, our allegiance is to the Holy Spirit, not to the flesh (Galatians 5:13-26; 6:8). We are no longer to let our fleshly desires and habits dictate what we do each day. Our flesh is to have no attraction anymore (Romans 8:12-14).

Third, Paul crucified the world (Galatians 6:14). He did not live for or like the world. In the same way, our allegiance is to Christ, not the world (Galatians 1:4). We are no longer to let the world dictate what we do each day. The world is to have no attraction anymore (1 John 2:15).

Question. Are you a tired Christian, retired Christian, or flat-tired Christian? It's time to pick up that cross if you have laid it down. You can do it. The Christian is crucified and has a Calvary that he goes to (Hebrews 13:12-13)! - *Chris Reeves*

## Sentence Sermons

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- The real strength of a man is not physical, but moral and spiritual.
- It does not profit one to go to worship on Sunday if he plans to go to the devil the rest of the week.
- Greatness depends on who controls us, not on who we control.
- Some people evidently do not enjoy worshipping God. They come late, leave early, and are bored while they are there.

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## THE WARFIELD BULLETIN

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For though we walk in the flesh, we do not war according to the flesh, for the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.  
- 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 -

# The Mystery of Godliness

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*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness;  
He who was manifested in the flesh,  
Justified in the spirit,  
Seen of angels,  
Preached among the nations,  
Believed on in the world,  
Received up in glory.”  
- 1 Timothy 3:16 -*

Paul wrote, “great is the mystery”! What truth does the church uphold, support, and confess (1 Timothy 3:14-16)? It upholds the great mystery of the gospel.

“Mystery” (Gr. *mysterion*) does not mean something that cannot be understood. It refers to what has been hidden in the past and now revealed through the apostles of Jesus Christ (Romans 16:25-26; Ephesians 3:3-4; Colossians 1:26). “Godliness” (Gr. *eusebeia*) means “piety; a reverent and respectful attitude toward God.”

Paul summarizes the life of Christ in six statements of truth and with just 18 words in the original! “Godliness” is embodied in and communicated through these great truths concerning Jesus Christ. Let’s learn about the great “mystery of godliness.”

## **Manifested in the Flesh**

First, Jesus was manifest in the flesh.

He was a real human with flesh and bones (1 John 1:1-4; 4:2-3). Godliness embraces and rests upon the truth of Jesus’ humanity.

## **Justified in the Spirit**

Second, Jesus was justified in the spirit. He was human “in the flesh” (*en sarki*), but he was deity “in the spirit” (*en pneumati*). He was justified (vindicated, proved to be right) in the spirit (in his spirit, Romans 1:3-4; 1 Peter 3:18) as he revealed his true nature as the Son of God (John 2:25; 7:46; 8:46). Jesus was not just an ordinary man. He was God manifest in the flesh (John 1:1, 14). He was fully man and fully deity (Matthew 1:23; Romans 9:5; Philippians 2:5-6; Colossians 2:9; Titus 2:13; Hebrews 1:3). Godliness embraces and rests upon the truth of Jesus’ divine spirit.

## **Seen of Angels**

Third, Jesus was seen of angels. He was seen of angels when they appeared to him from the beginning to the end of his life (Matthew 4:11; Luke 2:8-14; 22:43; John 20:12; Hebrews 1:6). He was also seen of angels when he appeared to them (Ephesians 1:20-21; 1 Peter 3:22). Godliness embraces and rests upon the truth of Jesus’ honor and glory.

## **Preached Among the Nations**

Fourth, Jesus was preached among the nations. He himself preached among the nations in his Galilean ministry (Matthew 4:12-17; 15:21-28), and he also sent his apostles

into all the world to preach the gospel (Mark 16:15-16; Colossians 1:6, 23). The apostles preached to the nations (Gentiles) to give them hope (Ephesians 2:11-15; 3:6-8, 10). Godliness embraces and rests upon the truth of the saving gospel for all mankind.

## **Believed on in the World**

Fifth, Jesus was believed on in the world. He, from humble origin (Luke 2:7, 22-24) and meager means (Matthew 8:20), was believed on by those who accepted his teaching (John 3:16-18). Jesus demands our belief too (Romans 10:9-10). Godliness embraces and rests upon the need to believe and confess Jesus as the Christ.

## **Received Up In Glory**

Lastly, Jesus was received up in glory. He ascended back into heaven and into glory (Mark 16:19; Luke 24:26; John 17:5; Acts 1:9). He sits at the right hand of God to rule over all (Dan. 7:13-14; Ac. 2:33-35; Eph. 1:19-23; 1 Pet. 1:11; 3:22). Godliness embraces and rests upon the glorious authority of Jesus.

## **The Mystery of Godliness**

Now, will you accept Jesus’ humanity and his deity, his honor and glory, his gospel and belief, and his power and authority? Will you partake of the great mystery of godliness today? - *Chris Reeves*