

The Manifestation of Godliness

The necessity of Jesus Christ.

1 Timothy 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.”*

Last week we looked at the Incarnation of the Son of God and the Son of man also known as “the seed of the woman” Gen. 3:15 The necessity of the seed of the woman was to crush the head of the serpent by redeeming a remnant of souls that were condemned through the works and power of Satan. The Son of God was manifested in the seed of the woman, God was manifested in the flesh. No other man could have been a redeemer, no other man could have had the necessary pureness to have delivered us from the power of Satan’s blinding. Jesus the Christ was indeed the perfect man and the perfect sacrifice because He was God manifested in the flesh.

- A. Jesus Christ was the “image” of God. **Hebrews 1:3** *“Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high;”*
1. God said that Jesus Christ was “*the express image of his person*” This word means Jesus Christ was “*an exact copy*” of God.
 2. The word means He was the image of His substance, after His likeness; therefore, Jesus was created as a visible manifestation of God for the purpose of representing God on the earth, in an exact way.
 3. God had created Adam for this purpose, but his fall prevented him from remaining in the image of God. **Colossians 3:10** *“And have put on the new man, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him:”* God created man in Adam to be acquainted with his Creator. But this was lost in the fall. The fall prevented Adam from being a perfect instrument for the representation of God.
 4. Jesus said in His actual prayer to the father in **John 17:2** *“As thou hast given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him.”*
 - a. “*thou hast given him power over **all flesh***” Not just the elect but power over every soul. Paul wrote in **Philippians 2:9** *“Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given*

him a name which is above every name:" – "that he should give eternal life to as many as thou hast given him" John 17:2

- b. This power over all flesh, His name is Saviour, that He should be able to break all barriers and wall's and deliver salvation of all that God had given Him before the foundation of the world. Jesus Christ was without question *"God was manifest in the flesh"* The perfect Saviour.
5. **1 Timothy 2:5 - 6** *"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus; (6) Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time."* - A mediator is defined as - a go between, or a reconciler – Strongs.
- a. Vines – had these comments, *"one who mediates" between two parties with a view to producing peace, though more than mere "mediatorship" is in view, for the salvation of men necessitated that the Mediator should Himself possess the nature and attributes of Him towards whom He acts, and should likewise participate in the nature of those for whom He acts (sin apart); only by being possessed both of deity and humanity could He comprehend the claims of the one and the needs of the other; further, the claims and the needs could be met only by One who, Himself being proved sinless, would offer Himself an expiatory sacrifice on behalf of men; (b) "one who acts as a guarantee" so as to secure something which otherwise would not be obtained."*
 - b. **Hebrews 8:6 - 7** *"But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises. (7) For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second."* What is the "better covenant" it is the eternal covenant made before the foundation of the world between the Father and the Son. This covenant actually gives eternal life.
 - c. **W. E. Best wrote of this,** *"It is not enough that hindrances be removed; one must be qualified to enjoy eternal life. He who gives eternal life as Mediator supplies the qualification for the enjoyment of it. To bestow eternal life on lost sinners is the glory of the Father; to be the means and channel for the application of that eternal life is the glory of the Son— who was made flesh."* – Only Jesus Christ, God's own Son could accomplish this task of giving "eternal life". The eternal Covenant is the best covenant, but it took God to accomplish it.
- B. Why did it take the manifestation of God and godliness to accomplish this?

1. Because of the judgments of God. All sin must have been paid for without error.
2. Look at God's judgments, **Deuteronomy 4:24** *"For the LORD thy God is a consuming fire, even a jealous God."* And in the New Testament, **Hebrews 12:28 - 29** *"Wherefore we receiving a kingdom which cannot be moved, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear: (29) For our God is a consuming fire."*
 - a. *"God is a consuming fire"* – never believe that sin is not accountable for, people will spend eternity in the "lake of fire" that is never quenched. These are not just words, these are "absolute truth" God will eternally consume them with fire, not as they burn-up but rather suffer eternally. Lost people will see this side of God!
 - b. *"whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"* Fear keeps the believer walking in the Spirit, when our fear fails we fall away.
 - c. Jesus Christ, God's own Son suffered that fire of suffering for us. *"let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with reverence and godly fear:"*
3. Only Jesus Christ, God's Son, God in the flesh could accomplish this. **Romans 8:3 - 4** *"For what the law could not do, in that it was weak through the flesh, God sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh, and for sin, condemned sin in the flesh: (4) That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit." – nothing else was sufficient.*
4. It is not just that Christ died, but that Jesus Christ is in the believer never to forsake and never to leave, continuously redeeming us. Only God could do that. **2 Corinthians 4:10-11** *"Always bearing about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our body. For we which live are always delivered unto death for Jesus' sake, that the life also of Jesus might be made manifest in our mortal flesh."*