**Great is the mystery of godliness – Taken up in glory – 1 Tim. 3:16**

*Taken up in glory – taken up = raised – raised up in glory- that is the ascension!*

Today we celebrate the ascension of the Lord Jesus Christ the great mystery of godliness

His ascension was a **mysterious**! His ascension was **glorious**! His ascension was **stupendous!**

**He was taken up – He was taken away from the earth & taken to heaven**

*Mk. 16:19 – He was received into heaven & sat down @ the right hand of the Majesty on High*

*Lk. 24:51 – He was carried up to heaven – among a great hosts of angels*

*Eph. 4 – He ascended giving grace to those who believe in him on earth*

*1 Pet. 3:22 – He ascended after angels, powers & principalities had been made subject to Him!*

**He was taken up in glory – the glory of His resurrected body & authority over all things**

**He was taken up in glory – He ascended physically, bodily into heaven! This is a glorious thing!**

*When His work was completed – after He was revealed in the flesh, vindicated in the Spirit, seen of angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world,* ***He was taken up in glory!***

*He who humbled himself as the suffering Savior now ascends the glorious Lord over all!*

*The Lord made careful final preparations with the Apostles before His ascension to heaven!*

**Focal Truth: Jesus Christ the great mystery of godliness was taken up in glory**

**Observations**

1. **Jesus Christ was taken up in glory after He gave commands to the Apostles Acts 1:1 -2**

*About all that Jesus began to do and teach until the day when He was taken up to heaven, after He had by the Holy Spirit given orders to the apostles whom He had chosen*

1. The Lord Jesus gave orders that the gospel of repentance & the forgiveness of sins be preached to the nations
2. The Lord Jesus gave orders to go to all the world and make disciples, baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son and the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe what He has commanded, remembering that the Lord was always with them.
3. **Jesus Christ was taken up in glory after He presented Himself alive from the dead**

**Acts 1:3**

*To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, appearing to them over a period of forty days and speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.*

1. The Lord Jesus revealed Himself alive from the dead to Apostles over 40 days
2. The Lord Jesus taught them additional truths about the kingdom of God which they would give to the church to come
3. **Jesus Christ was taken up in glory after He promised the coming of the Holy Spirit**

**Acts 1: 4-8**

*Gathering them together, He commanded them not to leave Jerusalem, but to wait for*

 *wait for what the Father had promised, which He said, You heard from Me; for John*

 *baptized with water, but you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days from*

 *now.*

1. The Lord Jesus commanded the disciples to wait in Jerusalem for the baptisms of the Holy Spirit
2. The Lord Jesus commanded the disciples to be witnesses to the world about Jesus Christ

*You will receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be My witnesses both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria and even to the remotest part of the earth. Acts 1:8*

1. **Jesus Christ was taken up in glory & will come again to earth in glory Acts 1: 9 -11**

*When He had said these things, He was lifted up while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight. And as they were gazing intently into the sky while He was still going, behold two men in white clothing stood beside them. They said Men of Galilee why do you stand looking into the sky? This Jesus, who has been taken up from you to heaven, will come in just the same way as you have watched Him go into heaven*

1. The disciples who were with Jesus witnessed Him being taken up in the sky
2. The disciples who were with Jesus watched with amazement the Lord Jesus being taken up in the sky
3. The angels reminded the disciples who watched Jesus ascend into the sky that Jesus Christ had been taken up from them to heaven
4. The angels promised the disciples who watched Jesus ascend into the sky that Jesus Christ would come in the clouds when He returns to the earth

*The hymn says: Behold He comes with the clouds, the King of kings to be; and every eye His face shall see shine forth in dreadful majesty. Behold He cometh with the clouds, the Victor over sin; Lift up your heads, O ye gates and let the King come in; Be lifted up, ye everlasting doors, now let His reign begin!*

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **Worship the living Lord Jesus Christ who reigns in heaven as King of King & Lord of Lords Luke 24:50 -53**

*He led them as far as Bethany and He lifted up his hands, and blessed them. While He was blessing them He was parted from them, carried up into heaven. And they worshipped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy. And they were continually in the temple, praising and blessing God. Amen*

1. **Set your mind on the living Lord Jesus Christ our great high priest ministering in heaven today Heb. 12:2**

*Fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of faith, who for the joy set before Him endured the cross, despising the shame, and has sat down at the right hand of the throne of God*

1. **Come to the living Lord Jesus Christ at the throne of grace for mercy today Heb. 4:14 -16**

*Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our confession. For we do not have a high priest who cannot sympathize with our weaknesses, but One who has been tempted in all things as we are, yet without sin. Therefore let us draw near with confidence to the throne of grace, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.*

***Great is the mystery of godliness he was taken up in glory!***

***To the praise of the glory of His grace! The Lord is near to the door! Come Lord Jesus!***