**Great is the mystery of godliness – Seen by angels 1 Tim. 3:16**

**Focal Truth: Jesus Christ is the mystery of godliness seen by angels**

Today we consider the wonder that Jesus Christ the great mystery of godliness is seen by angels

Angels are nonhuman, supernatural, created beings.

They are not bound by physical space – they move between heaven & earth

They can be visible or invisible

They are without gender; when they visible, they appear as men never women.

They are multilingual, ageless & immortal

**They exist to serve God, Jesus Christ & the church**

**Observe the order of the hymn**

1. Jesus Christ is revealed in the flesh & vindicated in the Spirit
2. Jesus Christ is seen by angels & proclaimed in the world
3. Jesus Christ believed on in the world & taken up to glory

**The word “seen” = appeared – The angels witness the spectacle of the mystery of godliness Jesus Christ**

*The principalities, & powers in the heavenly places see the glorious spectacle of great mystery of godliness Jesus Christ*

***Jesus Christ is called Wonderful by Isaiah – the angels see the wonder of Jesus Christ the mystery of godliness***

**Observations**

1. **The angels looked with amazement on the spectacle of the sufferings of Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry**
2. The Cherubim cover and look down on the mercy seat to see the glory of God’s mercy on sinners

*the cherubim are to have their wings spread upward, overshadowing the cover with them. The Cherubim are to face each other, looking toward the cover Ex. 25:20*

1. The Living creatures cover their eyes in the majestic presence of the eternal God daring not to look upon God in His glory

*Seraphim stood above Him, each having six wings; with two he covered his face, and with two he covered his feet and with two he flew Isa. 6:2*

1. The angels ministered to Jesus in the wilderness temptations - Matt. 4:11

*The devil left Him and behold the angels came and began to minister to Him*

1. The angels ministered to Jesus in the garden pain – Lk. 22:43

*Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him*

1. **The angels looked with wonder on the spectacle of the glory of Jesus Christ in His earthly ministry**
2. The angels announced the birth of Jesus

* to the Shepherds – Lk. 2:14
* to Joseph – Matt. 1:20
* to Zacharias – Lk. 1:11
* to Mary – Lk 1:30

1. The angels moved the stone from the tomb & in the tomb – Matt. 28:2; John 20:12
2. The angel announced to the women Jesus was risen – Matt. 28:5
3. The angels announced the promised return of the Lord to the disciple – Acts 1:11
4. The angels saw the Lamb of God – Jesus Christ open the book of judgement in heaven – Rev. 5:8 -9

*When He had taken the book, the living creatures & twenty-four elders fell before the Lamb, they sang a new song, Worthy are You to take the book and to break the seals, for you were slain, and purchased for God with Your blood men from every tribe and tongue and people and nation. You have made them to be a kingdom and priests to our God, and they will reign upon the earth*

1. **The angels look with awed observation at the spectacle of the wisdom of God in the salvation of the church – Eph 3:10, 1 Pet. 1:12**
2. The angels of Christ longingly stoop to observe the salvation of sinners 1 Pet. 1:12

*It was revealed to them that they were not serving themselves, but you, in these things which now have been announced to you through those who preached the gospel to you by the Holy Spirit sent from heaven- things into which angels long to look*

1. The angels of Christ now witness the glory of Jesus Christ the mystery in the life of the church – Eph. 3: 10

*to me was given to preach the unfathomable riches of Christ, to bring to light what is the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things; so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the rulers and the authorities in the heavenly places*

1. The angels of Christ now minister to the church of Christ – Heb.1:14

*Are they not all ministering spirits, sent out to render service for the sake of those who will inherit salvation?*

1. The angel of the Lord encamps around those who fear the Lord Ps. 34:7

***Tis mystery all! The immortal dies! Who can explore His strange design? In vain the first - born seraph tries to sound the depths of love Divine! Tis mercy all let earth adore, let angels minds inquire no more, tis mercy all let earth adore, let angel minds inquire no more – Wesley – And can it Be***

**Things to Remember & Do**

1. **The angels of Christ witnessed the glorious spectacle of the mystery of godliness Jesus Christ**
2. **Angels & humans wonder at Jesus Christ the mystery of godliness**
3. **The church & angels praise the Lord Jesus Christ in heaven & on earth!**

*I looked & I heard the voice of many angels around the throne and the living creatures and the elders and the number of them was myriads of myriads, and thousands of thousands, saying with a loud voice, worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches and wisdom and might and honor and glory and blessing. And every created thing which is in heaven and on the earth and under the earth and on the sea and all things in them, I heard saying, to Him who sits on the throne and to the Lamb, be blessing and honor and glory and dominion forever and ever Rev. 5: 11 -13*