

Read v.14-15. Paul likely never returned to Timothy. What do you think Timothy was feeling the longer Paul was delayed? What if the leaders in your church were unable to come to you? Would you be ready for the responsibility of leadership? Would you know how to instruct people how they are to behave as the church? Is God calling you to step up leadership and responsibility in your home, school, business or church?

1) The message for the church is clear. (v. 15)

- **We are family.** *“the household of God”*

To what degree do you feel connected to your church family?

- **We are alive.** *“the church of the living God”*

What evidences of life do you see in our church?

- **We are strong.** *“the pillar and buttress of truth”*

Are you holding firm to the truth? What challenges your grip?

Are you holding high the truth? Is it difficult for you to speak the truth in our culture?

2) The mystery of godliness is solved. (v. 16)

Mystery is the result of a lack of clarity about some area of truth. Does the story of the Bible seem mysterious to you?

Does achieving godliness seem like a mystery to you? If someone asked you, “What does a person have to do to achieve godliness?” what would you say? Do you find yourself listing a bunch of do’s and don’ts? If you do, you haven’t solved the mystery of godliness.

Do you ever feel like you are a mystery to yourself? Do you think things and do things that you later wonder, “Why did I do that?” Is it ever a mystery to you why you are not more passionate and obedient in your relationship to God and his Word?

In order to solve the mystery of godliness you have to understand that achieving godliness is not the result of anything you do or don’t do. ***The mystery of godliness is solved by the person and work of Jesus.***

The remaining mystery is this: ***In light of who Jesus is and what he has done, why do I ...***

- ***Live like God is distant?***
- ***Question if Jesus is enough and if his way is best?***
- ***Am so fearful of what men can do to me?***
- ***Keep the good news of the gospel to myself?***
- ***Fail to trust him with everything?***
- ***Live with so little hope that God can change people and circumstances?***

How many of the above realities apply to you? To what degree? In what ways?

The mysterious thing is no longer how man can be right with God. The mysterious thing is why so few people don’t want to accept his offer to become godly. Each one of these affirmations have massive implications for your life.

Six affirmations that solve the mystery of godliness.

- **If I really believed Jesus was manifested in the flesh, I wouldn't feel like God is distant.**

Do you live like God is distant? Do you talk to him as a friend? Do you hear him speak to you when you read his Word? Is Jesus enough or do you secretly search for more revelation apart from what God has graciously given in Christ? Do you sin and think you can get away with it?

- **If I really believed Jesus was vindicated by the Spirit, I wouldn't question anything he says or does.**

Do you believe Jesus is the exclusive way the Father has given to know Him? Do you live like you know better than he does in regard to marriage, sexuality, money, forgiveness and other areas? Do you look for ways to explain away the hard teachings of Jesus? Do you really believe he came out of the grave alive? Do you live victorious over the lust of the flesh because you are filled with the power of God's spirit?

- **If I really believed Jesus was seen by angels, I would not fear what man can do to me.**

Do you live in fear of persecution, intimidation, or death? Are you aware that God and his angels are watching when you suffer for righteousness? Are you more concerned with what others think of you or what God thinks of you? Do you have courage that comes from the knowledge of God's promise of protection?

- **If I really believed Jesus is proclaimed among the nations, I would proclaim him wherever I am too.**

How knowledgeable are you of parts of the world where Christ is not named? Do you pray for those nations? What are you doing to advance the gospel in the hardest places? Who was the last person you shared the good news of Jesus' life, death, and resurrection with? How will you engage the person you are now thinking of with the gospel?

- **If I really believed Jesus is believed on in the world, I would trust him right here, right now.**

The gospel requires a response of faith to have any impact on your life. It not only saves but sanctifies. What are you having trouble believing God for right here, right now?

- **If I really believed Jesus is taken up in glory, I would never lose hope in the power of the gospel.**

To what degree do you live in expectancy of the soon return of Jesus? How often do you feel hopeless? How does the thought of Jesus reigning supremely over all things in Heaven and on Earth change your perspective?

Additional Scripture

- Eph. 3:1-12
- 1Thess. 2:7, 11-12
- Matt. 16:18-19
- Eph. 1:19-22
- Matthew 1:23
- Matt 12:18

SMALL GROUP PULPIT CURRICULUM

- Luke 2:13-14
- Mark 1:13
- Eph. 6:19-20
- Romans. 3:21-22
- Romans 10:16
- Mark 9:23
- Acts 1:11
- 2Cor. 3:18