

TRUTH & RIGHT

the bulletin of the Wellsburg church of Christ

 **WELLSBURG**
CHURCH OF CHRIST



www.wellsburgchurchofchrist.com

Volume 14 Issue 4

January 27, 2019

THE MYSTERY OF GODLINESS

“By common confession, great is the mystery of godliness: He who was revealed in the flesh, was vindicated in the Spirit, seen by angels, proclaimed among the nations, believed on in the world, taken up in glory,” 1 Timothy 3:16. He who was revealed in the flesh is the incarnate Son of God, Immanuel, who was Jesus Christ. “And the Word became flesh, and dwelt among us, and we saw His glory, glory as of the only begotten from the Father, full of grace and truth,” John 1:14. By coming down to this earth to the level of sinful man, God was able to communicate, truthfully, His reaction to the awful plight we find ourselves in trapped in a sinful condition. God became man Himself, to show us His utter sympathy and compassion for the horrid state we allowed ourselves to become, that He

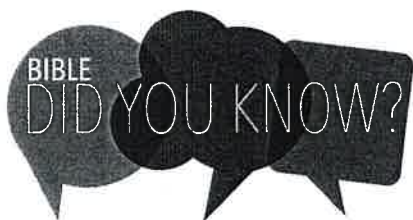
might offer the Divine help we needed and rescue us from ourselves and bring us to the God who created us and loves us. “For God did not send the Son into the world to judge the world, but that the world might be saved through Him,” John 3:17. “Therefore, He had to be made like His brethren in all things, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For since He Himself was tempted in that which He has suffered, He is able to come to the aid of those who are tempted,” Hebrews 2:17-18. His saving power was truly vindicated in the Spirit through the constant display of miraculous signs He performed, validating His Heavenly origin and assuring His authority over all to forgive sins. “But the testimony which I have is

greater than the testimony of John; for the works which the Father has given Me to accomplish – the very works that I do – testify about Me, that the Father has sent Me,” John 5:36. Perhaps the most vivid display of vindication in the Spirit in this manner was in the way He restored the lepers back to becoming clean again as a sign of His willingness and ability to restore us from our sins and highlighting the true purpose of His coming. “And a leper came to Jesus, beseeching Him and falling on his knees before Him, and saying, ‘If You are willing, You can make me clean.’ Moved with compassion, Jesus stretched out His hand and touched him, and said to him, ‘I am willing; be cleansed.’ Immediately the leprosy left him and he was cleansed,” Mark 1:40-42. The work Jesus came to perform on behalf of sinful man was seen by angels, and demonstrated how truly concerned they are for us to see us fully restored by the merciful redeeming work of the Savior by coming to His side to encourage Him in His most darkest hours in the midst of His work. “Then Jesus was led up by the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil...Then the devil left Him; and behold, angels came and began to minister to Him,” Matthew 4:1.11. “And He

withdrew from them about a stone’s throw, and He knelt down and began to pray, saying, ‘Father, if You are willing, remove this cup from Me; yet not My will, but Yours be done.’ Now an angel from heaven appeared to Him, strengthening Him. And being in agony He was praying very fervently; and His sweat became like drops of blood, falling down upon the ground,” Luke 22:41-44. Once the redemptive work of Christ on behalf of mankind was complete, the good news of salvation in Jesus was proclaimed all over the world, including heathen Gentile nations. Remarkably, the grace and mercy of Jesus would extend to the vilest of sinners and would have the power to transform the most rebellious of mankind. “For so the Lord has commanded us, ‘I have placed You as a light for the Gentiles, that you may bring salvation to the end of the earth,’” Acts 13:47. From the chiefest of sinners among the Jews to the most disgraceful Gentile, the message of the gospel of Christ would bring hope and light to the darkness. “I thank Christ Jesus our Lord, who has strengthened me, because He considered me faithful, putting me into service, even though I was formerly a blasphemer and a persecutor and a violent

aggressor. Yet I was shown mercy because I acted ignorantly in unbelief; and the grace of our Lord was more than abundant, with the faith and love which are found in Christ Jesus. It is a trustworthy statement, deserving full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners, among whom I am foremost of all. Yet for this reason I found mercy, so that in me as the foremost, Jesus Christ might demonstrate His perfect patience as an example for those who would believe in Him for eternal life," 1 Timothy 1:12-16. As equally astonishing as the inclusion of the worst sinners throughout the world into God's plan to redeem man is the admission on the part of these sinners that they needed a Savior and sought to be restored as He was believed on in the world. "When the Gentiles heard this, they began rejoicing and glorifying the word of the Lord; and as many as had been appointed to eternal life believed," Acts 13:48. The crowning achievement of the gospel rests upon the power of the resurrection as the crucified Christ was raised from the dead and taken up in glory. As the gospel promises the authority of Christ to remit our sins and cleanse us from every sinful deed, the ultimate purpose of this is so we may finally be

presentable and able to stand before God almighty who desires us to be with Him for all eternity. "Then we who are alive and remain will be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air, and so we shall always be with the Lord," 1 Thessalonians 4:17. "Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy, to the only God our Savior, through Jesus Christ our Lord, be glory, majesty, dominion and authority, before all time and now and forever. Amen," Jude 24-25.
– Daniel Ruegg



***"We will know by this that we are of the truth, and will assure our heart before Him in whatever our heart condemns us; for God is greater than our heart and knows all things. Beloved, if our heart does not condemn us, we have confidence before God."
1 John 3:19-21***

BIBLE TRIVIA

C H A L L E N G E

DIRECTIONS: After searching through your Bible, circle which answer is correct.

1. Jesus said to beseech the Lord of harvest to send out ____ into His harvest.

- a) Dinner
- b) Laborers
- c) Horses
- d) Rewards

2. Jesus said, "I was watching ____ fall from heaven like lightning."

- a) Monkeys
- b) Women
- c) Money
- d) Satan

3. The one who showed ____ proved to be a neighbor to the man left for dead.

- a) Mercy
- b) Strength
- c) Truth
- d) Justice

4. She was worried and bothered about so many things when one thing was necessary.

- a) Elizabeth
- b) Chloe
- c) Mary
- d) Martha

5. The heavenly Father will gladly give this to those who ask Him.

- a) Holy Spirit
- b) Food
- c) Beauty
- d) Intelligence

6. Jesus said, "Give that which is within as ____, and then all things are clean for you."

- a) Hunger
- b) Beauty
- c) Reward
- d) Charity

7. "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is ____."

- a) Bread
- b) Pop-Tarts
- c) Hypocrisy
- d) Moldy

8. One who stores up treasure and is not rich toward God is a ____.

- a) Genius
- b) Fool
- c) Planner
- d) Stallion

9. "Unless you ____, you will all likewise perish."

- a) Survive
- b) Breakdance
- c) Repent
- d) Eat

10. That which is highly esteemed among men is ____ in the sight of God.

- a) Holy
- b) Precious
- c) Elevated
- d) Detestable

ANSWERS & VERSES:

- 1) B, Reference: Lk. 10:2
- 2) D, Reference: Lk. 10:18
- 3) A, Reference: Lk. 10:36-37
- 4) D, Reference: Lk. 10:41-42
- 5) A, Reference: Lk. 11:13
- 6) D, Reference: Lk. 11:41
- 7) C, Lk. 12:1
- 8) B, Lk. 12:20-21
- 9) C, Lk. 13:3
- 10) D, Lk. 16:15