

Biblical Leadership: A Study of 1st Timothy
Lesson 8 “The Mystery of the Faith”

I. Introduction - We are in a series on *1st Timothy*, which is a letter Paul wrote to Timothy in approximately 62 A.D. after he installed him as the pastor of the church in Ephesus.

A. This is personal letter, Paul wrote to mentor Timothy as Timothy took over one of the most significant churches in the 1st century (about 7 years after the revival that started the church). Paul wrote both to speak directly into Timothy’s life and also teach him how to address challenges the church was having (doctrinal, prayer, women, leadership, and how people handled money.)

B. We are called to make spiritual sons like Paul did with Timothy. Replication is the key to saturation.

II. The Mystery of the Faith - While there is a mystery to the faith, God doesn’t want faith to stay a mystery. Tonight we are going to explore three verses of scripture that reveal what the mystery is and the nature of the Father which will cause faith to rise in our hearts. and cause

A. **1 Timothy 3:14-16**

1. **Verse 14** After giving Timothy guidelines for how to select leaders to help him with the work of the ministry, Paul tells Timothy he hopes to come to him shortly.
 - a. Paul was probably ministering in Macedonia when he wrote the letter.
 - b. This had to be an encouragement to Timothy. Paul’s communicating I’m not neglecting you. I’m with you. You have this tremendous responsibility, but you aren’t alone. **This is a powerful leadership lesson.** Ex: Dean Smith - when he died, he left \$200 to each of his players. Who does that? The gesture defined who he was. Players would call him for advice about their careers, marriage, raising kids, etc. What does that do for them? Ex: Buzz Peterson - NC State job.
 - c. The point of all of this is to reveal the nature of the Father. He never withdraws from us even when He feels distant. Knowing this is what causes our faith to work.
 - d. Leadership is about service and elevating others.
2. **Verse 15** Some translations say that you will not know how to conduct the affairs of the church, the house of the living God. Conduct isn’t automatic. It has to be taught which is part of why Paul is writing to Timothy.
 - a. Church - eklesia - called out ones. In the greek, church was a word that meant a people called together for a purpose. In Greece, Eklesia’s were legislative bodies that made decisions that impacted communities. Churches are called to impact communities.

b. The church is supposed to be the pillar of truth. We are supposed to be that which people lean on for truth (not the U.S. Constitution). **Truth comes from God's word!**

3. **Verse 16** According to Colossians 1:26-27 the mystery hidden for the ages that Paul now proclaims to the gentiles was "Christ in you. The hope of glory." The mystery that not only is fulness of the Godhead in Christ, but Christ is in you and you are complete in Him. **Colossians 2:9-10.**

a. Manifested in the flesh - Jesus was both fully God and fully man in a flesh and blood body.

b. Justified in the spirit. Jesus was declared innocent in the spirit. How? **2 Corinthians 5:21** Jesus became sin. He never committed an action of sin so He became sin by faith believing what the word said about Him. This is the same way we become righteous.

i. **Leviticus 16:5-10** Jesus is our scapegoat - we now go free.

ii. How was Jesus justified? He believed the word. **Isaiah**

53:10-12 Jesus was given a portion with the great. This meant sin didn't stay on Him. He was justified. **Revelation 1:5.**

c. Seen by angels - **Matthew 28:1-6**

d. Preached among the gentiles - Peter in **Acts 10**, all of Paul's journeys.

e. Believed on in the world - This nature of a perfect father who pours out blessing and favor on the world is what causes people to believe.

f. Received in glory - now seated at the right hand of the Father. Here's the even greater mystery. We are seated with Him in heavenly places.

i. What are we doing there? **Ephesians 2:6-7** (NKJV and TPT) He's showing us the exceeding riches of His grace for ages to come. This process begins now and will continue into eternity.

ii. When God shows us these things intellectually they are invitations to explore so mystery can be unveiled for others.

iii. Healing testimony from yesterday. Knowledge of a word of knowledge that led me to experience it. Divergence between gnosis and epignosis. **This is what unveils the mystery of Jesus for others.**

III. Conclusion - Jesus sent the Holy Spirit to reveal the nature of the Father. pray for fresh revelation of the father tonight. Experiencing His nature unveils the mystery.

A. Offering Verse: **Proverbs 3:9-10**

B. Call up Prayer Team