

Fully Man and Fully God

1 Timothy 3:16, Part 2

“Someone has said that the Gospel in the first century was carried by a good system. It was called the **teleperson** system, and it truly got results, better than we do today with our telephones, televisions, and so on. The woman of Samaria carried the Gospel after her meeting with Christ by the teleperson system. It is said that “many of the Samaritans ... believed on Him for the saying of the woman” (John 4:39).”¹

Clock Of Life

“The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just when the hands will stop,
At late or early hour.

“To lose one’s wealth is sad indeed.
To lose one’s health is more.
To lose one’s soul is such a loss
That no man can restore.

“**Thirty-nine people died** while you read this short poem. Every hour 5,417 go to meet their Maker. What are YOU doing to help reach them with the Gospel e’re they are cast into Hell?”²

“The late **Dwight David Eisenhower** had the distinction of being the only American President to have been baptized and received into church membership upon confession of faith while in office. The memorial service in the Washington Cathedral witnessed strongly to his faith—there can be no mistaking of it. The simple service, the hymns sung by choir and congregation, the Scriptures read,

¹ Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979.

² Ibid.

the prayers given, the Apostles Creed—**all bore witness to Ike's faith in his Lord**. The leaders of one hundred nations were present and they heard the witness. More than that, national television brought the witness before the American people.

“We were not only reminded of Eisenhower's faith, but of his humility. There might have been much pomp and ceremony. Eisenhower was the Commander of the Allied forces for the invasion of Europe. He was one of the world's most decorated military men. Many honors had been heaped upon him in life. In death, the services were simple. It had been planned that way. He was buried in a casket just like those used for common soldiers. This speaks of the humility of the man. With all the honors bestowed upon him, and having been the 34th President of the United States, and having enjoyed a personal popularity seldom matched in America, he chose the common lot.”³

As we closed last week we had raised the question as to the exact meaning of “**ALL**” and “**WHOLE**” in the Bible passages we had looked at (Romans 1:5; John 12:19; Mark 1:5; 1 John 5:19). Did it mean “*all*” as in each and every person, or “*whole*” as in the entire group, or did it mean “*some of all sorts of people*.” Well, we found that the meanings in the original Greek language suggested both interpretations to be valid.

Now I believe a satisfactory explanation of this is that these passages contain what is referred to as **hyperbole** (exaggeration). Let us try to clarify this by giving you some further examples:

John 12:17-19 HCSB:

¹⁷ *Meanwhile the crowd, which had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the tomb and raised him from the dead, continued to testify.*

¹⁸ *This is also why the crowd met Him, because they heard He had done this sign.*

¹⁹ *Then the Pharisees said to one another, “You see? You've accomplished nothing. Look—**the world** has gone after Him!”*

Now the whole world, meaning each and every person in it, did not go after Jesus, did they?

John 4:41-42 NAS:

⁴¹ *Many more believed because of His word;*

⁴² *and they were saying to the woman, “It is no longer because of what you said that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves and know that this One is indeed **the Savior of the world**.”*

³ Ibid.

The whole world was not going to be saved, was it? Only those who believed Jesus would be saved. The Pharisees' angry expression, "***Look, the world has gone after Him,***" represents the extent of their confusion. They resort to using exaggeration to express intense disappointment or anger. Did you ever say or hear someone else say, "*Nobody likes me!*" Someone might say that in a moment of extreme disappointment or anger as well. So we find that this kind of hyperbole is used frequently in the Bible; the term "***world***" refers to people in general, not everyone in particular.⁴

We hope you now have a better understanding of hyperbole and how it is used in the Bible. Words are used that greatly exaggerate something for the purpose of making them as meaningful as possible. Just imagine that two thousand years from now in the year 4010 A.D., one of the descendants in your family finds your journal or diary on the bookshelf. They open it up and read some of the things you wrote.

- ☞ "Today Doris and I each had a mile high ice cream cone."
- ☞ "When I got home I was dead on my feet."
- ☞ "Today I told my boss to get off my back."
- ☞ "Those politicians fight like cats and dogs."
- ☞ "You could have knocked me over with a feather."
- ☞ "I'd climb the highest mountain, swim the deepest ocean, and cross the largest desert for your love."

Now can you imagine the confusion this poor descendant would experience after reading this? After two thousand years, in 4010, people might not have this exaggerated way of expressing themselves, so they might not understand hyperbole at all and take the meaning literally. They might think to themselves, "*Gee, grandpa must have been awful tired when he finally got back from that trip up the mountain, across the ocean, and through the desert. That was pretty mean of grandma to make him do that just to get her to accept his proposal.*"

We probably use hyperbole almost every day. We need to be discerning as we read our Bibles knowing that the **prophets who wrote them under the direction of God** used **hyperbole** as well. We especially need to keep that in mind as we interpret certain passages.

Last week we began looking at the hymn in 1 Timothy 3:16 that expresses attributes that Jesus alone possesses. We managed to get through the first two:

- 1) Jesus was revealed in the flesh, and
- 2) Jesus was vindicated in the Spirit

Now let us move on to the third attribute, the third phrase in this hymn.

⁴ John MacArthur, *MacArthur New Testament Commentary – John 12-21*, (Chicago, IL: Moody Publishers, 2008), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 24.

3) The third attribute that Jesus alone possesses is, Jesus Christ was “*seen by angels.*” The Greek word, *Horaō* (seen) means “*to see,*” “*to visit,*” “*to observe.*” Angels were attending to Jesus continually while He was on earth. The **angels** observed Him, and attended to Him. They were there at His birth, announcing it to the shepherds. They ministered to Him at His temptation, and strengthened Him in Gethsemane.

Matthew 4:8-11 NAS:

⁸ *Again, the devil took Him to a very high mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory;*

⁹ *and he (Satan)⁵ said to Him, "All these things I will give You, if You fall down and worship me."*

¹⁰ *Then Jesus said to him, "Go, Satan! For it is written, 'YOU SHALL WORSHIP THE LORD YOUR GOD, AND SERVE HIM ONLY.' "*

¹¹ *Then the devil left Him; and **behold, angels came and began to minister to Him.***

Luke 22:42-43 NLT:

⁴² *“Father, if you are willing, please take this cup of suffering away from me. Yet I want your will to be done, not mine.”*

⁴³ *Then **an angel from heaven appeared** and strengthened him.*

Angels were also at His resurrection.

Luke 24:1-6 NAS:

¹ *But on the first day of the week, at early dawn, they came to the tomb bringing the spices which they had prepared.*

² *And they found the stone rolled away from the tomb,*

³ *but when they entered, they did not find the body of the Lord Jesus.*

⁴ *While they were perplexed about this, behold, **two men suddenly stood near them in dazzling clothing;***

⁵ *and as the women were terrified and bowed their faces to the ground, the men said to them, "Why do you seek the living One among the dead?"*

⁶ *"He is not here, but He has risen. Remember how He spoke to you while He was still in Galilee,*

4) The fourth unique attribute of Jesus was that He was “*proclaimed among the nations.*” Before Jesus ascended into Heaven He instructed His disciples in:

Matthew 28:19-20 NLT:

¹⁹ **Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations,** baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

²⁰ *Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.”*

Acts 1:8 NLT:

⁵ Parentheses Mine.

⁸ *But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you. And you will be my witnesses, **telling people about me everywhere**—in Jerusalem, throughout Judea, in Samaria, and to the ends of the earth.”*

Every nation was to hear the Gospel of Jesus.

So for years one of the main jobs of the church has been to send out missionaries to preach the Gospel far and wide. They have gone all over the world carrying the good news of Jesus’ love, His death, and His resurrection.

John 3:15-17 NLT:

¹⁵ *so that **everyone who believes in him will have eternal life.***

¹⁶ *For God loved the world so much that he gave his one and only Son, so that **everyone who believes in him will not perish but have eternal life.***

¹⁷ *God sent his Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through him.*

1 John 2:1-6 NLT:

¹ *My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous.*

² ***He himself is the sacrifice that atones for our sins**—and not only our sins but the sins of all the world.*

³ *And we can be sure that we know him if we obey his commandments.*

⁴ *If someone claims, “I know God,” but doesn’t obey God’s commandments, that person is a liar and is not living in the truth.*

⁵ *But those who obey God’s word truly show how completely they love him. That is how we know we are living in him.*

⁶ *Those who say they live in God should live their lives as Jesus did.*

It is only this kind of man or woman who can tell people everywhere they go about Jesus, and be believable.

5) Jesus was “*believed on in the world.*” As the apostles traveled to various parts of the world proclaiming the Gospel, many people believed and accepted Jesus as their Savior.

John 2:23 NAS:

Now when He was in Jerusalem at the Passover, during the feast, many believed in His name, observing His signs which He was doing.

Acts 11:20-21 NAS:

But there were some of them, men of Cyprus and Cyrene, who came to Antioch and began speaking to the Greeks also, preaching the Lord Jesus.

When Peter first preached the Gospel after Jesus' ascension, 3,000 people were saved. What a glorious day that must have been. And thousands more came to faith in the next few days. It was Paul and his fellow ministers in Christ who later took the message far and wide in the known world, establishing churches and educating the people about Jesus and His Gospel message.

And indeed, the fact is that we are here today worshiping the risen Christ, as are congregations in Canada, South America, Europe, Israel, Africa, and China who are also praising Christ because they and we have believed in Him.

6) Jesus Christ was **taken up in glory**.

Acts 1:9 NAS:

⁹ *And after He had said these things, **He was lifted up** while they were looking on, and a cloud received Him out of their sight.*

Hebrews 1:1-3 NLT:

¹ *Long ago God spoke many times and in many ways to our ancestors through the prophets.*

² *And now in these final days, he has spoken to us through his Son. God promised everything to the Son as an inheritance, and through the Son he created the universe.*

³ **The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God, and he sustains everything by the mighty power of his command. When he had cleansed us from our sins, he sat down in the place of honor at the right hand of the majestic God in heaven.**

Philippians 2:7-11 NLT:

⁷ *Instead, he (God in the form of Jesus the man)⁶ gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form,*

⁸ *he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross.*

⁹ *Therefore, **God elevated him to the place of highest honor** and gave him the name above all other names,*

¹⁰ *that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth,*

¹¹ *and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

Jesus' ascension showed that the Father was pleased with Him and accepted His work. In six short stanzas, this hymn in 1 Timothy 3:16 summarizes the Gospel. **God became a man, died for our sins, triumphed over death, was honored by angels and feared by demons, and ascended into Heaven.** This message has been preached all over the

⁶ Parentheses mine.

world and many have believed and received salvation. That is the heart of the message; it is our mission to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus to the world. When we have done that, then the Holy Spirit can bring people to salvation.

“A businessman landed at the Dallas airport and realized he had one hour and 20 minutes before his next plane connection. He thought, ‘How can I be used of the Lord here?’ He had a supply of Gospel tracts with him. He inserted one of his business cards inside each tract. Then he gave these to single men sitting waiting for their planes.

“But **he didn’t just hand them out** and pass on. Instead he said to each man, ‘Pardon me. I have a little booklet here that explains how a person can become a Christian. Inside is my business card. I would like you to read this over and if you have any questions, I will be sitting over there. I have some time before my plane takes off. Or if you would like to write, my address is there.’

“At the end of the hour and 20 minutes, men were standing four deep to ask questions about how to become a Christian. And, for weeks afterwards, the businessman received correspondence because of the business cards in the tracts.”⁷

Now let us go into all the world and make disciples of all nations! May we never miss an opportunity to talk to someone about Jesus.

⁷ Op Cit., Tan, Paul Lee: