

## 'HIM (Hymn) FOR THE HOLIDAYS' (*'A Song of Our Savior' – An Ancient Christmas Chorus*)

Studies in 1 Timothy 3:16

### A Christmas Carol

'Tis the season' for itinerant musicians to be on the move again. Christmas time is 'open season' for door to door singers, mall courtyard programs and even 'flash mob' carolers to emerge. And then, what to our wondering ears will we hear? All kinds of Christmas music and cheer. A virtual holiday sound track to insure an audibly blessed holiday and a happy New Year. We aren't certain about the songs and choruses sung by the first Christians of the Church Age, but we do know that Spirit-filled singing flowed from their hearts when they worshiped (***Ephesians 5:19***). Except for the lyrics of the chorus we will study in our Christmas series, we can only speculate about the worship songs of our ancient ancestors of the faith. It is thought by most biblical scholars that the 'spiritual song' that Paul included in his Ephesian letter, was sung by gathered assemblies to express unitedly the essential doctrinal truths about the Lord Jesus Christ. Since they didn't have written copies of the New Testament yet, this song and probably others like it, were taught by the apostles, prophets and teachers of the early church. We can only imagine the musical melodies, harmonies and tunes to which these beautiful lines were attached, but we can be blessed just as they were with these awesome truths about God's most precious Gift ever to the world – Jesus Christ, the Lord, come in the flesh, to be our Savior. This Christmas, during this series, ask the Holy Spirit to compose '***new song***' music to accompany His beautiful lyrics about the Savior (***Psalms 40:3, 144:9; Revelation 5:9***). Even if you don't sing it door to door or perform it for a crowd, I'm pretty sure God will help you at least '***...make melody (of it) in your heart to the Lord...***' (***Ephesians 5:19***). PtL

## Christmas: God's Incarnation Celebration

(*'God in the Flesh' – The early church's musical 'Master Piece'*)

1 Timothy 3:16

### Background & Context:

The Apostle Paul wrote the pastoral epistle, **1<sup>st</sup> Timothy**, following his release from prison (*A.D. 62 or 63*). Paul had been unjustly incarcerated for 4 years (*2 in Israel and 2 in Rome on appeal*). But when not a single accuser appeared after all that time, he departed prison and began following up the '*prison epistles*' (***Ephesians, Philippians, Colossians & Philemon***) he wrote during imprisonment. Upon leaving Rome Paul apparently traveled toward Asia Minor by way of Crete where he assigned Titus the task of establishing a biblical New Testament church with recognized leadership for the many individual believers who had come to faith in Christ (***Titus 1***). Then traveling on to Ephesus on the western coast of Asia Minor, he assigned Timothy to stay as his apostolic representative and settle the issues confronting the church there (***1 Timothy 1***). From there Paul went on to Macedonia in northern Greece, keeping his promise to visit the Philippian church when freed (***Philippians 1***). It is likely that Paul wrote **1 Timothy** and **Titus** from Macedonia (*probably Philippi*) in A.D. 62 or 63.

Paul's pastoral letter to Timothy encouraged his young ministry apprentice to address the problems happening at the church in Ephesus (*unbiblical teaching / 1:3-4; women usurping authority of the leadership by teaching and ruling over the Christian men of the church / 2:11-12; making sure that elders and deacons (and their wives) were spiritually qualified to lead / 3:1-13; warning the church about sinister false teachers / 4:1-5; taking care of biblical widows and addressing criticism of the elders / 5:3-22; warning the members against love of money and materialism / 6:3-19*). In summary the purpose of Paul's letter was: "***...so that you will know how you ought to conduct yourself in the house of God which is the church of God, the pillar and ground of the truth***" (***1 Tim. 3:14-15***).

## **Christmas Series Overview:**

*“...And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness:*

*12/3 “God was manifested in the flesh” (The Incarnation of Jesus Christ)*

*12/10 “...justified in the Spirit” (or ‘spirit’)  
(The Declaration of Jesus Christ)*

*“...seen (acknowledged) by angels”*

*12/17 “...preached among the Gentiles” (The Presentation of Jesus Christ)*

*12/24 “...believed on in the world” (The Salvation of Jesus Christ)*

*12/31 “...received up in glory.” (The Exaltation of Jesus Christ)*

## **The Immaculate Conception**

*(The Messiah’s Mission to Mankind)*

*“And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifested in the flesh...”*

*1 Timothy 3:16*

## **The Son’s Manifestation Pictures**

*(O.T. sketches & snap-shots; a N.T. high definition motion picture)*

## **The Son’s Incarnation Prophecies**

*(Genesis 3:15, Isaiah 7:14 & 9:6; Jeremiah 31:22; Micah 5:2; Matthew 1:23, John 1:14)*

## **The Son’s Visitation Purposes**

*(Acts 1:28, 2 Corinthians 5:18-19, Colossians 1:18-20, Hebrews 1:1-3)*