

Controversy is the Good News

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“...without controversy, great is the mystery of godliness. God was manifest in the flesh...” (1 Timothy 3:16)

Ironically, many Biblical “3:16s” are laden with controversy. From Genesis 3:16 to the world-famous John 3:16, and, equally astounding, 2 Timothy 3:16. The scriptures are contention-laden for the person trusting religion’s works and not Redeemer’s words.

So, how can the Creator, revealing himself as created, not be controversial? Paul’s words annunciate the reality of our faith. Since faith comes by hearing the words of God, apparent disagreement becomes understanding from the Spirit and acceptance with the beloved. The sinner becomes the saint upon receiving Emmanuel as Lord and Savior.

In the early 2000s, I had the privilege to serve in a SBCV-sponsored church plant. While doing the work of an evangelist, I encountered a young man who said that he had no idea why Christmas or Easter was celebrated. After explaining the precious words of the Lord to him, we prayed together. He did not say, “Yes,” to Jesus, but he heard the word. He heard that the Word became flesh and dwelt among us. That’s not controversial — that’s good news.

