

Subject: *Christ the Mediator*

Scripture: *1 Timothy 2:1-6*

Verses 4-6 contain some fundamental and profound truths of the Christian faith.

- God desires for all people to be saved.
- Salvation comes only when people know and believe the truth.
- The truth is there is only one true God.
- The truth is there is only one mediator between God and man.
- The truth is that Jesus Christ is the one and only mediator.
- The truth is that Jesus died as a ransom for all men.

But in this message I want to focus on verse 5. Of all the truths in the Bible, there is none more despised or rejected than the truths found in this verse. These truths are absolutely hated by the vast majority of people in the world. These truths are not always appreciated or tolerated even in the church. The world considers it a virtue to be broad-minded and inclusive or tolerant of all religious teachings and the world considers it the worst kind of sin to be narrow-minded or exclusive or intolerant of all religious teachings.

The world doesn't have a problem with us having our doctrines, just as long as we keep them to ourselves. Just don't be dogmatic. In other words, it's wrong to really believe your beliefs.

If verse 5 teaches anything, it teaches us there is only one God and there is only one mediator between God and men and He is Jesus Christ. The world doesn't like that and it doesn't believe that. The church often says it believes it, but it doesn't always speak up and say it with clarity and boldness...because it may offend somebody.

Salvation is exclusive. No matter what other religions may teach and no matter what other people may believe, there is only one true and living God, and there is only one appointed mediator to bring us into fellowship with God, the Lord Jesus Christ.

1. THERE IS ONLY ONE GOD

Either that is true, or it's not. The Bible says it is true, and it says it many, many times.

Deuteronomy 4:35 *Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.*

Deuteronomy 6:4 *Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.*

Isaiah 45:22 *Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.*

John 17:3 *And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.*

2. THERE IS ONLY ONE MEDIATOR

Why do we need a mediator and what does a mediator do?

We need a mediator for many reasons. God is our Creator and we are His creatures. God is eternal and we are limited by time; God is perfect and we are imperfect. God is spirit and we are flesh. God is invisible and we are visible. God dwells in heaven and we live on earth. God is unchangeable and we are always changing. God is holy and we are sinful. God must judge and punish sin and we are guilty and deserve punishment. We are estranged, alienated, and separated from God...and we can't do anything to change or remedy that. For all these reasons we need a mediator between us and God.

The word "mediator" (Gk., *mesites*, means someone who goes between or serves as a middle man. Job didn't use the word mediator, but that is what he needed and wanted.

Job 9:32-33 *For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both.* The word "daysman" means "an umpire or judge" or someone who brings two parties together to settle a dispute.

A. Christ resolved the conflict between God and sinners

We are all familiar with conflict. We hear of conflict in the world between nations, conflict in the workplace between management and labor, conflict in government between Republicans and Democrats, and conflict in the family between husbands and wives, parents and children. Conflict often requires an arbitrator, ambassador, negotiator, attorney, or counselor who will step in, bring the parties together, and resolve the dispute. More important than any conflict on a human level is the conflict between holy God and sinful man. For a time Adam and Eve enjoyed unbroken fellowship with their Creator. But sin separated man from God. It drove a spiritual wedge between man and God.

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.* Jesus is the only mediator who can resolve the conflict and restore the fellowship broken by sin.

B. Christ ratified (confirmed) the covenant between God and sinners

In the Old Testament God confirmed or ratified the covenant between Him and the people with the shed blood of animal sacrifices. The word mediator is found three times in the book of Hebrews. Each time God reminds us that Christ has confirmed a new covenant with us through the shed blood of Jesus Christ.

Hebrews 8:6 *But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

Hebrews 9:15 *And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.*

Hebrews 12:24 *And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.*

Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant. He is the one who confirmed or ratified God's covenant to bless those who trust Christ and obey Him. He secures the blessings we have in salvation. The role of Jesus as our mediator is crucial.

What kind of mediator do we need?

C. Christ is the divinely chosen mediator

He is the “Christ” (anointed one, chosen, appointed by God). Christ is a very significant title because Jesus is God’s anointed one to serve as Prophet, Priest, and King. As our Prophet, Christ speaks to us and tells us what we need to know. As our King, Christ rules over us, provides for us, and tells us what to do. As our Priest, Christ represents us to God and takes care of our sin and guilt. Christ is more than our Priest, He is the perfect sacrifice for our sins.

D. Christ is the perfectly qualified mediator

Jesus is able to represent us as the mediator since He is fully God and fully man. If Jesus was only a good man, he could not be our mediator. If Jesus was only God, he could not be our mediator. If Jesus was only part God and part man, he could not be our mediator.

E. Christ is the fully committed mediator

A mediator must do whatever it takes to reconcile the parties. As our mediator Christ laid down His life on the cross. To resolve conflict on a purely human level a mediator or negotiator often makes a deal by means of a compromise involving give and take. He sits down with representatives of both parties and “cuts a deal.” But that’s not the way it works with God. He doesn’t cut any deals. He cannot and will not compromise. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, offering Himself as a ransom, and thereby satisfying God’s justice and offering man a full reconciliation. Christ not only took the assignment and filled the role as our mediator, He also accomplished the task. He died for our sins and then applied the blessings of His sacrifice (“It is finished” or paid in full).

The word “ransom” is a word found only here in the Bible (Greek, *antilutron*). It is a compound word with the preposition, *anti*, meaning instead of or in the place of, and *lutron*, which is a price for release. Jesus paid the price in our place and He released us from the power of sin and Satan. He paid the ransom (redemption) price in full.

Matthew 20:28 *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

3. THERE IS ONLY ONE HOPE

As God’s appointed mediator, Christ makes us right with God. Where there once was alienation, there is now reconciliation. Where there was once hostility, now there is harmony. Without Christ as mediator, we have no hope. Christ is not our best hope...He is our only hope. The Bible is clear...sin separates us from God.

Isaiah 59:2 *But your iniquities have separated from you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.*

From Luke 16, we know between heaven and hell there is a great gulf fixed. But we also know that between the holy God and sinful men there is a great gulf fixed and only Christ can bridge that gulf.

The Bible is clear...there is only one way to God.

John 10:9 *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Some people resent it that there is only way to God, when they should be grateful that He gave us ONE WAY. So here is the question: is Christ your mediator? He will be your mediator only if you repent of your sins and commit your life and soul to Him.