

Subject: *Jesus Christ is Our Mediator*

Scripture: *1 Timothy 2:5-6*

This text is like John 3:16 in that it contains the whole Gospel in a verse. This text states there is only one God, refuting the false teaching of polytheism that there are many gods. This text states there is only one mediator or Savior, refuting the false teaching that there are many ways to God. This text states that Jesus Christ is both God and man, refuting the false teaching that Jesus was not God or not man or that He was not both God and man. This text states that Jesus died as a ransom, refuting the false teaching that He died as a martyr or as a good example. His death accomplished God's plan of redemption once and for all.

This text reaching from verse 4-6 reveals some very profound truths:

- God desires all people to be saved
- There is only one God
- There is only one mediator between God and man
- Jesus Christ is that one mediator
- Jesus died as a ransom for all men

In other words, the right person came at the right time to do the right thing for the right reason. In this sermon I want to focus on Jesus as our mediator.

THE ROLE OF CHRIST AS MEDIATOR

The word "mediator" comes from the Greek, *mesites*, which means go-between or middle man. Years ago we made some Christian t-shirts with three crosses just like the crucifixion scene and this question under the crosses: "Do you know the middle man?" That begs the question as to why we need a middle man or mediator.

Christ resolved the conflict between us and God

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 deadly 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.

Christ ratified (confirmed) the covenant between us and God

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.

THE REQUIREMENTS OF CHRIST AS MEDIATOR

Christ was the perfect person to represent both God and man

Jesus is perfectly qualified to represent both parties since He is fully God and fully man.

Christ made the perfect sacrifice to reconcile God and man

A mediator must do whatever it takes to reconcile the parties. Jesus did this when He laid down His life on the cross. To resolve conflict on a purely human level an arbitrator 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.

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. We are no longer in bondage or captivity. Jesus came into the world for this reason. **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.*

THE RESULTS OF CHRIST AS MEDIATOR

Christ restores the relationship between sinful man and holy God

As God's middle man, Jesus restores our relationship with God, the relationship that sin has broken. Where there once was alienation, there is now reconciliation. Where there was once hostility, now perfect harmony. The issue in salvation is not between man and Satan. The issue is not between man and the church. The issue is between man and God. I want to ask the question: "Do you know the middle man?" Christ is the only mediator and His work is available to all, but it is not automatic.