

1st Timothy 2: 5-7; “One Mediator Between God and Man”, Sermon # 14 in the series – “To Honor God in the Church”, Delivered by Pastor Paul Rendall on August 3rd, 2014, in the Afternoon Worship Service.

Prayer in the local church is of the first importance. It is good and acceptable in God’s sight because our God is a God who would have all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. He has commanded that the gospel be preached to every creature. He wants His Church to make disciples of all nations. His will of command and His will of desire relate to our responsibility to pray for all men, and to preach to all men, this gospel of Jesus Christ. This is God’s will and His great unchangeable desire, that all people would hear this gospel which will save them, this word which will direct them to knowing God and having a real and personal relationship with Him. The reason that God has had Paul state these things in this way is not so that Christians would choose sides over the issue of God’s sovereignty in salvation, or to doubt His universal love for all mankind in the gospel. Neither should His ability to save all of His elect ever be questioned when the words of these verses are read. These words are here because there is truly only one way in which people can be saved. There is only one God and one Mediator between God and man; the Man Christ Jesus. How then should you and I understand the Man Christ Jesus as the only Mediator? Well I would like to give you 3 statements, and present to you now, how Christ Jesus is the only Mediator. 1st of all – Christ Jesus is the only Mediator because there is only one God. 2nd – He is the only Man with a Divine Nature united to a sinless humanity. And 3rd – He alone could give a ransom sufficient to save all sinners; a ransom efficient enough to save all of God’s elect.

1st of all – Christ Jesus is the only Mediator between God and men because there is only one God.

There is, after all, only one true and living God. And this, all true Christians firmly believe and should promote in their speech with all of their heart. Turn with me over to Psalm 96, verse 1. “Oh, sing to the Lord a new song!” “Sing to the Lord, all the earth.” “Sing to the Lord, bless His name; proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day.” “Declare His glory among the nations, His wonders among all peoples.” “For the Lord is great and greatly to be praised; He is to be feared above all gods.” “For all the gods of the people are idols, but the Lord made the heavens.” “Honor and majesty are before Him; strength and beauty are in His sanctuary.” Here David declares, as He does in 1st Chronicles 16, that those who have come to know the Lord should sing to Lord a new song. He is not only referring to this Psalm, but they are to sing a new song with their lives. They should greatly desire to glorify the one true and living God with Psalms and songs that would have Biblically sound lyrics, and that they should want to proclaim the good news of His salvation from day to day. The purpose of this singing and preaching is to declare God’s glory, His greatness, His strength, and His beauty; to show the peoples of the world that He is a God greatly to be feared above all gods; that all of the people around you who do not worship the God of the Bible should come to understand through you that they worshipping false gods. “For all the gods of the peoples are idols, but the true and living God made the heavens.” (Psalm 96: 5) Let us not be afraid of them. The peoples of the world who have not had our God reveal Himself to them, need to come to church, to God’s sanctuary on Sunday, to the place where His church is gathered; where these praises are sung, and His word is preached, so that they can know Him and worship Him in the way that He is pleased with them.

There is only One God, and so God knew of no better way of bringing fallen sinful men into right and saving relationship with Himself, than by sending His own dear Son to them. He brought Him forth from all eternity. He needed someone to bridge the gap between Himself and them; He being infinitely holy, and they being sadly depraved. In appointing Christ the

Mediator and in sending Him to be the only Savior and Redeemer of His elect; to suffer and bleed and die for them, God has made a New and Living Way that He might be approached. It is through this way that He comes to be known. It is through this way of mediation that God is to be worshiped and adored; worshiped all through our lives, and on into eternity. But there have been some people in both Old Testament times and New, who have during the times of their afflictions, known a sense of God's having deserted them. It seemed to some of them that it was a difficult thing to find Him. We need to thank God that we have a clearer revelation of God's purpose revealed to us, when Christ came into the world. It was God who appointed that there would be only one Mediator; just one Divine Personage, to be the Daysman, to stand in the middle between God and men. And our Lord Jesus Christ is only Mediator that we need to find God and to know God. 1st Corinthians Chapter 8, verse 5 says: "For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live." "However, there is not in everyone that knowledge," Paul says.

But this kind of mediation was just what suffering Job needed, in his day. It was what he was looking for in the middle of his trials, but he could not find God to give him an answer as to why he was suffering. Perhaps this is the way that you feel today, dear Christian. Listen to what Job says in chapter 9, verse 32 of his book. In the King James Version it reads – "For God is not a man, as I am, that I may answer Him, and we should come together in judgment." "Neither is there any Daysman (any Mediator) betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both." You can see that Job believed that God was One, and yet he understood that God was so great and so far above him that he felt that they could not come together in judgment (in a courtroom scene). Job rightly knew that his salvation and his help in times of trial all came from God taking the initiative to save Him. It was His power alone which could keep Job trusting in God, in the midst of the trial. But, O how He longed for a known and present Mediator to undertake on his behalf when he had lost so much of his earthly well-being.

Listen to his young friend Elihu, in Chapter 33: 23. He is trying to encourage Job after all his friends had failed, and he mentions, once again, the need of a Mediator; someone to bring God and fallen man together. He says – "If there is a messenger for him, a mediator, one among a thousand, to show man His uprightness, then He is gracious to him, and says, 'Deliver him from going down to the Pit', 'I have a ransom'; his flesh shall be young like a child's, he shall return to the days of his youth." "He shall pray to God, and He will delight in him." "He shall see His face with joy, for He restores to man His righteousness." "Then he (that is, the suffering or the sinful man) looks at men and says, 'I have sinned, and perverted what was right, and it did not profit me.'" "He will redeem his soul from going down to the Pit, and his life shall see the light." This is the purpose of a Mediator. This is the work which can only be performed by a Redeemer; the Lord Jesus Christ. The purpose in God's appointing a Mediator to save men from their sins, is that He might show man His (that is God's) uprightness, and that He is gracious to all those whom He has an eternal purpose to save. It is God who commands; it is God who stretches forth His hand in mercy through a Mediator, and men are delivered from going down to the Pit. He appoints that they pray to Him, and He delights in them. He gives them saving grace and they confess that they have found a ransom.

Who is doing all the initiatory work here? It is the One true and living God. God's essence is one, His purpose in the creation of the world, and in the salvation of His people was one. His purpose is – to sum up all things in Christ; to collect and gather together in Christ all things in heaven, and which are on the earth; to have a people for His own possession who will honor and worship Him in the way that pleases Him. He is a Jealous God who will not have any other gods before Him. He will not have His people give His praise to graven images. Why should any man

or any creature act as a mediator except His Son? How can Mary, or the saints, make intercession or give a ransom for the souls of sinful people? No, the Mediator, the only Mediator, is Christ Jesus our Lord.

2ndly – Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only Mediator because He is the only man with a Divine Nature united to a sinless humanity.

“For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” Let us understand the greatness of the Mystery of Christ the Mediator. The man Christ Jesus is the only man with the unique qualifications to be the mediator between God and man. The theologian A.A. Hodge says: “The Mediatorial Person Jesus Christ was constituted from two natures; two whole, perfect and distinct natures – The Godhead and the manhood inseparably joined together in One Person without conversion, composition, or confusion.” That is – “The Divine and human natures in Christ are not mixed or confounded into one, but remain two pure and distinct natures, Divine and human, constituting One Person forever.” John Gill says – “A mediator has to interact with two parties – In this case, God and men – And they are at variance with each other.” “Jesus Christ stands between them and lays His hands on both of them; has to bring them together, and make peace between them by the blood of His cross...” (End of quote) Turn with me over to 2nd Corinthians 5, verse 16 – “Therefore, from now on, we regard no one according to the flesh.” “Even though we have known Christ according to the flesh, yet now we know Him thus no longer.” “Therefore, if anyone is in Christ he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold all things have become new.” “Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is that God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation.” “Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God.” This is one of the most beautiful of truths to the sinner seeking salvation: “God was in Christ reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them.”

Let us observe here, that while there is only one God, that the Mediator is also God, and therefore the Father was in the Son, even while He was offering Himself up as a ransom for unworthy sinners; taking their deserved place in judgment, that they might be reconciled, and not be forever alienated from the life of God. The one who believes in Jesus is seen by God as being “in Him”. They are seen by Him as being “in Christ” spiritually, in their being engrafted into Christ’s death and resurrection. They are seen as being “in Christ” in their legal standing before God. They are now seen by Him as His saints; they are justified freely through faith in the righteousness which Christ has procured for them by fulfilling all of God’s holy law; doing His holy will in every particular. It was His blood that was shed for them. And while the Lord Jesus was shedding this blood, the Father was spiritually with Him, and all is accomplished for our salvation. We are “in Christ” because of the Father’s purpose. We are “in Christ” because of the Spirit’s working. The Spirit’s working is based upon Christ’s sufferings which ransomed us from the guilt and power of sin. It is Christ resurrection life in our heart which is our life, and because of it, we are a new creation in Him. All of our sins are not charged to us; they are not imputed to us. We are reconciled to God; the two parties once at enmity are now brought together. God demonstrates His own love for us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

And 3rd – Christ Jesus is the only Mediator because He alone could give a ransom sufficient to save all of God’s elect.

“Christ gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.” Whereas, the “all in the last mention of it in verse 4 refers to all men everywhere, the “all” here refers to elect specifically. And this is because it relates to what Christ actually accomplished and what the Triune God

really applies to the souls of each and every one of God's elect people. Christ gave Himself a ransom for all; all of God's elect. The proof of what I am saying to you is found in comparing Scripture with Scripture. Matthew 20, verse 28 says: "The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many." The many cannot be every person who has ever lived except Christ, because the ransom which Christ offered to God for the souls of those whom God intended to save was not hypothetical. It was a real substitutionary sacrifice for a certain number; the many. Hebrews Chapter 9, verse 27 says: "And as it is appointed for men to die once, but after this the judgment, so Christ was offered once to bear the sins of many." All men are appointed to die once, but only for the "many" did Christ bear their sins. Hosea 13, verse 14 says, "I will ransom them from the power of the grave; I will redeem them from death." "O death, I will be your plagues!" "O Grave, I will be your destruction!" God has specifically designed the atonement of Christ for the application of grace unto salvation, not just the offer of salvation to all men. He shall not fail of His holy purpose because His justice was satisfied for the elect, most certainly and definitely by Christ's remitting the debt which was owed to God.

Let us remember that Christ's resurrection power could only be communicated to us by the power of the Holy Spirit, if He became our Mediator and suffered on our behalf in particular. In reading the Bible carefully, we should come to believe in a particular redemption. This redemption applied is effectually not only to save, but also to sanctify and to keep every believer in Jesus, all the way to heaven. Hebrews 2: 10 and 11. "For it was fitting for Him, for whom are all things and by whom are all things, in bringing many sons to glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings." "For both He who sanctifies and those who are being sanctified are all of one, for which reason He is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying: 'I will declare Your name to my brethren; in the midst of the assembly I will sing praise to You.'" "And again: 'I will put My trust in Him.'" "And again: 'Here am I and the children whom God has given Me.'"

You see here, that it is the Father's loving purpose to bring many sons to glory, and the way that He accomplishes this is by making the Lord Jesus, the Captain of their salvation, who was already righteous, and already holy, perfect through His sufferings. Jesus, in becoming our Mediator, submitted to the Father's holy purpose by being willing to be made flesh, in order that one day on the cross He would pay the ultimate price for our sins. It was by this will, the Lord Jesus doing the will of the Father even unto death, which became the basis of our being sanctified, our being made holy. We are all one in regard to this holy purpose, and our Lord is not ashamed to call us His brethren. Indeed He declared the Father's name, His holy character to His brethren in telling them that He would go to the cross, and then by His overcoming sin and death through these sufferings. This resulted in the joyful outcome; His triumphant resurrection. The Father has adopted us in His predestinating love, and Christ Jesus has died for us, we who believe in Him. Yea, He is risen from the dead, triumphant in His ascension, seated at the right hand of the Father, and He is able to say – "Here am I and the children whom You have given to Me, Father". He is not ashamed of us, even though we at many points are and have been, very sinful people. But His sacrifice is so great, it deserves the reward which He died to purchase – a people who will become holy; a people whom He will sing over one day. Zephaniah 3: 17 – "The Lord your God in your midst, the Mighty One, will save; He will rejoice over you with gladness, He will quiet you with His love, He will rejoice over you with singing."