

Christ: The Mediator

1 Timothy 2: 4-6

As I considered this passage, I imagined a courtroom. On the bench sat a sovereign judge. The evidence had been presented, and there was absolutely no doubt the defendant was guilty. Crimes had been committed and judgment was deserved. Just prior to judgment being handed down, one approached the bench. It was the son of the judge. He pleaded the case of the defendant, and even offered to endure the punishment the defendant deserved. Strangely the judge agreed, and passed judgment on his son rather than the guilty defendant.

That is exactly what we have in Christ. He stood in our place, interceding on our behalf. He bore our sin and suffered the righteous judgment we should have endured. Now He is seated at the right of God where He continues to serve as our intercessor and mediator. He pleads our case before the Father.

In the Old Testament, prior to the sufferings of the cross, the people looked to a priest as their representative to God. Those who are born again in Christ no longer need to look to a priest or any man to stand as their representative. We have Christ as our representative to God. I want to consider the [facts](#) Paul shares as we think on: [Christ – The Mediator](#).

I. The Desire of the Savior (4) – [Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth](#). This reveals the divine desire of Christ. We see that He desires:

A. The Salvation of Men (4a) – [Who will have all men to be saved](#). It is the will of Christ that all men be saved. This speaks of *His sovereign wish, desire, intention, and pleasure*. It is the will and desire of Christ that all men be saved. That is why He suffered and died upon the cross. He offered Himself that men might be saved!

- Some argue that Christ didn't die for all men, nor does He desire all to be saved. The word all implies "*the whole, speaking of totality*." I choose to believe the Lord said what He meant and meant what He said. Clearly His desire is that **all** men be saved. He desires that each one here today be saved and placed within the family of God. (All will not come to Christ in salvation, but He desires all be saved.) [2 Pet.3:9 – The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is longsuffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance.](#) Titus 2:11 – [For the grace of God that bringeth salvation hath appeared to all men.](#) These verses share the same Greek word translated *all* in the text.

B. The Sanctification of Men (4b) – *Who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth.* Clearly Paul reveals the essence of salvation in this verse. One cannot come to Christ in salvation without knowledge of the truth. One must see Christ as Savior and Lord, realizing apart from Him we are separated from God and doomed in our sin. We must comprehend that Christ is the only means of salvation if we are to receive salvation.

- I am convinced this also speaks of an ongoing process following salvation. The knowledge spoken of reveals “*an influence in the form of life; personal involvement; and shows the relationship of the pupil to the object of knowledge.*” This certainly is indicative of the salvation experience, but it also reveals the relationship with Christ following salvation. His grace in our lives influences the lives we live. Our relationship involves personal involvement on the part of both parties. It speaks of our relationship to Christ.
- We are cleansed of sin and made partakers of eternal life in Christ, but our relationship also affects the daily lives we live in this life. We are no longer the same person. Our lives are transformed in Christ. As we walk with Him, we learn more of Him, being drawn closer to Him, and more like Him. Our lives are sanctified in Christ!

II. The Distinction of the Savior (5) – *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;* Paul reveals what separates Christ from all others. Notice:

A. His Majesty – We are reminded yet again that *there is one God*. He exists as One and yet He exists as three distinct persons: Father, Son, and Spirit. Christ is one with God, possessing all the deity and power the Father does. *Phil.2:6 – Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God:*

- We must also consider the exclusive way of salvation. God came in the form of a man, offered Himself on the cross for our sin, and purchased our redemption. Christ is the only way of salvation and reconciliation to God. He isn't a good way, or even the best way; He is the only way! If there is only one God, and we know He alone is God, then there can only be one way to come to God, and that is through God Himself in Christ the Son!

B. His Mediation – *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men.* Christ stands as our mediator to God. He alone stands as our access to God. We come to God through Christ in salvation and we approach the throne of God through Christ when we pray. He stands as our advocate to the Father. He stands as our representative. We enjoy access because of Christ!

Heb.4:16 – Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

- What a blessing to know we can approach the throne of grace and make our intercessions known through Christ our Lord. We no longer look to man to intercede for us. Every believer has the same access to God in prayer through Christ. I am happy to pray for you and with you, but you can access the Lord as good as I can!

C. His Mercy (5) – *For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus;* We are also reminded of the very essence of Christ. He is God and He is man. The God of heaven chose to be robed in flesh so He might atone for our sin. He came to this earth and lived as we do. He faced every temptation we face, yet without sin. He knows how we feel and the struggles we face. He is the eternal God-Man. What mercy was bestowed on humanity!

- We must understand that His coming in the form of a man was not a temporary existence. Christ was born of a virgin womb in the form of man and He continues to possess that form. He does not inhabit flesh as we do, in that His body is prone to sin. He inhabits a glorified body, but He maintains the form of a man. *Luke 24:39 – Behold my hands and my feet, that it is I myself: handle me, and see; for a spirit hath not flesh and bones, as ye see me have.* *Rev.5:6 – And I beheld, and, lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four beasts, and in the midst of the elders, stood a Lamb as it had been slain, having seven horns and seven eyes, which are the seven Spirits of God sent forth into all the earth.*

- We now dwell in a body cursed by sin, dealing with the difficulties associated with the curse of sin. These bodies age, suffer disease, and die. The redeemed in Christ will one day be resurrected, and we will receive a new, glorified body like our Lord. *1 John 3:2 – Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.*

III. The Deliverance of the Savior (6) – *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.* Here we discover the deliverance Christ made for humanity lost in sin. Consider:

A. The Payment – *He gave himself a ransom for all.* He did not purchase our salvation with money, land, or kingdoms. He offered Himself as the atonement for sin. He paid the ransom for all. This speaks of the price paid for redemption. It has the idea of “*an exchange of something for another.*” Christ offered His absolute righteousness in exchange for our sin. He became sin on the cross so we might be forgiven of sin and pardoned of God. We stood on the slave block of sin,

hopeless within ourselves of ever experiencing freedom. Jesus came and offered Himself as our payment. He purchased us from sin, and delivered us to God!

B. The Proclamation (6) – *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.* This was not “Plan B” on the Lord’s calendar. Long before creation, God knew there would need to be a perfect sacrifice to redeem fallen man, and Christ was appointed as that sacrifice. He came in accordance with the will of God and secured redemption for humanity. *Gal.4:4-5 – But when the fulness of the time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, ^[5]To redeem them that were under the law, that we might receive the adoption of sons.*

- As Jesus lived upon the earth, He revealed Himself as the Son of God. He testified who He was and what He came to accomplish. He fulfilled all He came to do and ascended back to the Father. Paul and the other apostles then took the Gospel to the world, testifying of the grace of God and redemption in Christ. We continue to present Christ as the Savior of humanity and encourage others to embrace the Gospel in salvation! I am glad the Gospel was shared with me and I was given the opportunity for salvation.
- We continue in the day of grace. The opportunity for salvation remains. As the children of God, we have an obligation to share the good news with others!

C. The Persuasion (6b) – *Who gave himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time.* The phrase “due time” is compelling. It literally has the idea of “*a personal responsibility to receive the Gospel during the right season or opportune time.*” *2 Cor.6:2 – (For he saith, I have heard thee in a time accepted, and in the day of salvation have I succoured thee: behold, now is the accepted time; behold, now is the day of salvation.)* We are living in the midst of due time. Now is the accepted time; now is the day of salvation. All who hear the Gospel are responsible for what they have heard. You are responsible for embracing Christ as Savior and placing your faith in Him!

- You may be here and have felt the drawing of the Lord toward salvation. You may have decided to put it off, waiting for a more opportune time. Now is the time; we are living in due time. Tomorrow may be too late. None are promised tomorrow. If the Lord has dealt with your heart, today is the day of salvation!

Conclusion: I rejoice to know that I have Christ as my Mediator and Lord. He offered Himself for my redemption and yours. We have hope through Christ. Do you know Him as Savior? Have you trusted Him in salvation? If not, now is the time!! Please come as He leads!