**One Mediator Between God and Men**

*1 Timothy 2:5*

**Introduction**

1. God desires Christians to pray for all men. This will lead to a better environment for service to God – **1 Timothy 2:1-2**
2. God desires Christians to pray for all men because God desires all men to be saved – **1 Timothy 2:3-4**
3. This is why Jesus was sent – to bridge the gap between God and mankind – **1 Timothy 2:5-7**
   1. Mediator – *mesitēs* – “lit., "a go-between" (from *mesos*, "middle," and *eimi*, "to go")” (Vine)
      1. "one who mediates" between two parties with a view to producing peace” (Ibid.)
      2. “mediator, arbitrator, one who mediates between two parties to remove a disagreement or reach a common goal” (Arndt and Gingrich; 508).
   2. Mediators needed between – management and labor; spouses; etc.
   3. Jesus is the ONE MEDIATOR – The need for salvation implies a rift between God and man – sin. Jesus is the means whereby man is reconciled to God in a state of peace. He is the third party who steps between God and man on man’s behalf to appease the wrath of God, and aid man in obtaining and maintaining a right relationship with God.
4. The Need for a Mediator
5. Examples
   1. **Isaiah 6:1-5** – God is one of whom we have no business being before.
      1. Isaiah realizes the greatness of God, and is one, as a godly man, who would desire his presence.
      2. However, he is undone because unclean!
   2. **Deuteronomy 5:23-27** – Moses recollects the scene of Sinai, and the peoples request for him to be a go-between for them with God.
      1. **Exodus 20:20** – Moses explained that by such a scene God was testing them, and putting fear in them that they wouldn’t sin.
      2. They sinned anyway – making the golden calf – Moses had to step between them and God to save them from God’s wrath – **Exodus 32:7-14**
      3. In a time of Babylonian captivity, God sought for such a righteous man to stand in the gap between Him and the people, but there was none – **Ezekiel 22:29-30**
   3. Others lament the lack of a mediator:
      1. **1 Samuel 2:25** – Eli to his rebellious sons.
      2. **Job 9:1-2, 32-33** – In pleading his case of innocence, Job considers the predicament of if he were guilty before God. (“mediator” same Greek word in LXX)
6. The Problem of Sin
   1. **Isaiah 59:1-2** – sin separates man from God.
   2. Need for a mediator:
      1. **Distance** – not simply the distance because of how great God is as creator, but the distance we created by sin. A holy God cannot be in fellowship with sinners.
      2. **Desire for fellowship** – we indeed desire fellowship with God, and God desires fellowship with us. We need a mediator to reconcile us together with Him, and help maintain that reconciled state!
7. Jesus, the One Mediator
8. Qualification
   1. A mediator, especially one in such a great spiritual context, must be able to relate to both parties involved.
      1. A mediator is a “go-between” not simply because they assume the position, but because they meet certain prerequisites of knowledge or experience.
      2. They can accurately convey the thoughts and needs of both parties so as to bring them together through the mediation.
   2. Jesus is the ONE mediator – **1 Timothy 2:5**
      1. One God – the subject is God’s desire for the salvation of man **(v. 4)** – there is but ONE GOD to be reconciled to.
      2. One Mediator – only one meets the necessary qualifications to be the “go-between” for God and man.
         1. “the MAN CHRIST JESUS” – Man – *anthrōpos*; from 435 and ὤψ ōps (the countenance; from 3700); man-faced, i.e. a human being. (Strong)
            1. Not the word for male, but mankind.
            2. He shared in humanity (**cf. Hebrews 2:14** – shared in flesh and blood).
         2. “Christ Jesus” – He who is Jesus who holds the office of the anointed of God.
            1. What do you think about the Christ? – **Matthew 22:41-46** – He is deity.
            2. **Cf. 1 Timothy 1:15** – came into the world.
         3. Jesus, being both God and man, can adequately, and accurately understand, communicate, and execute the will of the Father, and the needs of man. (ONLY ONE WHO IS IN THIS POSITION.)
9. Sacrificial Death
   1. He is the One mediator ultimately by means of His sacrificial death – **1 Timothy 2:5-6**
      1. Ransom – a redemption price; what is given in exchange for another as the price of his redemption, ransom. (Strong)
      2. Slaves of sin, but redeemed to God through the paid ransom of Christ’s death.
      3. **Cf. 1 Peter 3:18** – to bring us to God.
   2. God shows His love in that HE PROVIDED the mediator:
      1. **John 3:16** – sent His only begotten Son.
      2. **Hebrews 10:5-10** – what will satisfy God? Not any offerings of animals, but a body prepared for His Son for sacrifice.
   3. Christ’s mediation via sacrifice is magnified by its voluntary nature:
      1. **1 Timothy 2:6** – WHO GAVE HIMSELF.
      2. **Hebrews 9:13-14** – animals under OT offered by priests. Christ as Hight Priest under NT offered Himself.
      3. **John 10:17-18** – laid down His life of His own accord.
         1. Go-between – **John 10:11, 14-15** – Knows sheep and knows Father.
         2. Understand the Father’s will, and the need of the sheep, and volunteers as needed mediator.
   4. **Romans 5:10-11** – Enemies of God, yet reconciled to Him THROUGH Jesus, the Mediator.
10. Resurrection and Exaltation
    1. The Dispensation of Salvation
       1. If Christ is not raised – **1 Corinthians 15:17** – still in sins.
       2. Among other reasons, we could not be reconciled to God without the mediation of Christ in His resurrected and exalted state because He would not be in position to grant us the BENEFITS OF HIS DEATH.
       3. **Acts 3:26** – God raised Jesus to be able to send the blessings of His sacrifice.
       4. Made Lord and Christ in resurrection – **Acts 2:36; 5:31** – exalted to position of ultimate authority at God’s right hand to issue forth the remission of sins.
          1. **Acts 4:12** – salvation only in His name – i.e. by His authority.
          2. **John 14:6** – only through Him do we get to the Father.
       5. **Acts 3:26** – “sent Him to bless you” – How? In the preaching of Jesus:
          1. **1 Timothy 2:5-7** – to be testified in due time through preaching.
          2. Paul appointed ***“to bring to light what is the administration of the mystery which for ages has been hidden in God who created all things” (Ephesians 3:9*** – NASB).
             1. I.e. he was appointed to dispense God’s will in Christ through preaching.
    2. The Perpetually Available Intercession
       1. **Cf. 1 Samuel 2:25** – who will intercede?
          1. We have been reconciled to God through the mediation of Jesus, but what if we need reconciliation again?
          2. **1 John 2:1-2** – advocate or helper to bring us back to God.
       2. **Hebrews 7:24-25** – “unchangeable” – perpetual – always available to make intercession on our behalf before God.
       3. **Romans 8:34** – Christ, as being risen, is always available to intercede on our behalf.
    3. The Conquest of Death
       1. **1 Corinthians 15:50** – flesh and blood can’t inherit kingdom. Cannot ultimately be where God is in flesh and blood.
          1. **1 Corinthians 15:45** – the Last Adam, or Christ, is our mediator between us and God through His resurrection to give us a body capable of inhabiting heaven.
          2. **1 Corinthians 15:21-22** – in Christ all are made alive.
       2. **Hebrews 2:10-15** – He acted as mediator to bring us to God when He inserted Himself into the world to destroy Satan through overcoming death that we might do the same.

**Conclusion**

1. Jesus became the mediator we all needed.
2. Without Jesus we could not be brought to the peaceful relationship with God.
3. Jesus bridged the gap between God and man so that we might have salvation.