

“ONLY ONE WAY”

I Timothy 2:5-7

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INTRODUCTION

Centuries ago Job complained that God was not a man with whom he could argue his case, and that he did not have a go-between to approach God ((Job 9:33: only occurrence in the LXX of the word used here for “mediator”). How can man approach such an all-holy and righteous God? No one is pure; no one is innocent; no one is worthy. No one deserves to enter His presence. All stand condemned. **We are lost, condemned, without hope, the wrath of God hangs over our heads, we dangle by a string over the pits of hell!** Who can help us? Who can reconcile us with such a holy and just Creator and God?

Job’s complaint has been answered in the person of Christ Jesus; Jesus is the Mediator of the New Covenant (Hebrews 12:24) and the only Mediator between God and men.

- Mary is not our mediator—or even our Co-mediator!
- Saints are not mediators for us.
- Angels are not our mediators.
- There are no other divine beings who can mediate.

There is only **one God** and **one Mediator** between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus

What is the basis and ground of the prayers (vv. 1-4) for the salvation of unbelievers? Here we see that it is the mediatory work of the God-man Jesus Christ who gave himself as a ransom for all and authorizes the proclamation of salvation to all. The same God who ordains the end—the salvation of souls—also ordains the means to that end—**prayer and preaching** of the Word. As seen in vv. 1-4, the neglect of prayer is an insult to God, and thus also to the work of mediation through Jesus Christ. **Prayer must not be merely for ourselves, but must also be for lost souls!**

- We pray for all (v. 1)
- Because Christ died for all (v. 6)
- And because it is God’s will that ‘all’ be saved (v. 4).
- We must give ourselves to God to be a part of His worldwide program to reach people before it is too late.
- How awful are the consequences of hindering that testimony by life rendered useless through a lack of prayer.

YOU MUST BE RECONCILED WITH GOD, AND THEN MUST PROCLAIM THE MESSAGE OF RECONCILIATION!

- I. WE HAVE ONLY ONE GOD (5)
 - A. Therefore, all are accountable to him—whether Jew or Gentile etc. No one can answer to another god.
 - B. No one can find a way of salvation apart from Him.
 - C. He desires all men to be saved (4)
 - D. He desires us to pray for all men (v. 1)
- II. WE HAVE ONLY ONE MEDIATOR (5)
 - A. A mediator is between two parties
 1. To bring reconciliation between them.
 2. To establish a covenant or treaty between them
 - B. A mediator must share the nature of both parties and be able to relate to them.

1. Christ Jesus is God (John 1:1; Hebrews 1:3).
2. Christ Jesus is man.
 - He is man generically—fully human in every way.
 - Yet, he is perfect man—tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin (Heb. 4:15).
 - He conquered sin, death, and hell by rising from the dead and ascending to Heaven (R. 1:4)
 - Therefore he “can save to the uttermost them that come unto the Father by Him” (H. 7:25).

III. WE HAVE ONLY ONE SAVIOR (6) [cf. v. 3—“God our Savior”]

- A. He voluntarily “gave Himself”—his entire person, being; sacrificial death—See **Matthew 28:20**.
 - Note, ransom for “many” here becomes “for all.”
 - His death on the cross where he took upon himself the sins of the world, but includes His entire sacrificial life lived perfectly, suffering untold agonies for us [Active and Passive obedience].
- B. He became our “Ransom.”
 1. The simple noun means “payment price for a slave”; the equivalent for his freedom.
 2. The compound noun with the preposition *anti-* has the meaning “**substitution, exchange.**”
 3. Substitutionary atonement is the **only valid interpretation here.**
 4. All of this was “for our benefit” and as a substitute for us—doing what we are helpless to do for ourselves.
- C. The Testimony was borne [no verb in the text] at the exactly right time—Christ came in the fullness of time (Gal. 4:4) and John the Baptist bore him witness, the Father bore witness to Him, his works bore witness to Him, He bore witness to Himself, His resurrection bore Him witness [see John 5 etc.].
- D. The testimony is being witnessed since the day of Pentecost by the Christian community.
- E. The testimony will continue to be witnessed by believers until His return.

IV. WE HAVE ONE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY (7).

- A. Divinely appointed—the apostle Paul; and we continue his testimony.
- B. Three-fold office: herald, apostle, teacher
 1. Apostle—with special commission and authority, now continued in Scripture; our authority there.
 2. Herald—important proclamation, with vigor, loudly, clarity, only sharing *exactly what he has been sent forth to proclaim—nothing else!*
 3. Teacher—teaching believers to obey all that Christ has taught.
- C. Sphere of faith and truth
 1. Content of **truth**.
 2. Reception by **faith**.

CONCLUSION

One God; one Mediator; One Savior (Redeemer); One Responsibility.

It isn’t complicated; let us do our Job!

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