

One Mediator Between God & Men — Jesus Christ

A Study on 1 Timothy 2.5

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TEXT: 1 Timothy 2:3-5

³ τοῦτο καλὸν καὶ ἀπόδεκτον ἐνώπιον τοῦ σωτήρος ἡμῶν θεοῦ, ⁴ ὃς πάντας ἀνθρώπους θέλει σωθῆναι καὶ εἰς ἐπίγνωσιν ἀληθείας ἐλθεῖν. ⁵ εἷς γὰρ θεός, εἷς καὶ μεσίτης θεοῦ καὶ ἀνθρώπων, ἄνθρωπος Χριστὸς Ἰησοῦς,

Author's Translation

For this is good & acceptable before God our Savior, Who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth. For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.

The glory of the gospel announces that man has a desperate need that he is wholly unable to fulfill. God solved the problem. Jesus Christ accomplished the work necessary for hellbound sinners to receive a full, free, and eternal reconciliation with God. All of this stems from the gracious desire of God to save sinners.

I. Man's Helpless Need

This text implies the utter helplessness of mankind to bring salvation to himself through his own devices. No man can contribute to his own redemption. No man could ever conjoin his works with God's so as to accomplish his own atonement. Every person who enters the world is born dead in sin, depraved in iniquity, rebellious at heart, darkened in his understanding, and God-hating at his core. He does not fear God nor does he have any inclination, ability, or power to do anything pleasing to God in the slightest. Man is wholly depraved, radically corrupt, and he is utterly incapacitated by inability to worship God, bring himself to God, love God, worship God, or serve God in any way. Man finds himself in a helpless state. He must be saved but he can do nothing to achieve this for his own soul. He is helpless, lost, doomed and damned.

II. God's Righteous Judgment

As man has descended to the pit of rebellion because of his sinful nature, so God is elevated supremely in His righteousness, holiness, justice, sovereignty, and judgment. The one God that the Scriptures reveal is a faithful God—faithful to Himself and to His own character. God cannot look upon sin with favor. The Scripture repeatedly affirms that God is holy, holy, holy. Sin has no part with Him. Every sin offends the eternal God. Every sin is defiance against, rebellion to, revolting against, and transgression of the perfect Law that God has given. By his very nature man is engulfed in sin and stands wholly and eternally condemned before the justice of God. The righteous Judge of all the earth must do right. And those who have transgressed His Law will receive a just penalty. He must punish sin — violently, eternally, faithfully, fully, and supremely. The chasm separating sinful man and holy God could not be farther apart. Who could rescue wrath deserving sinners from the furious wrath of the eternal God?

III. Christ's Sufficient Atonement

Who could rescue wretched sinners from the perfect justice of God? There is one mediator. No man can intervene. No work could accomplish atonement. No merit or ceremony or religious rite could climb the ladder to God. One mediator has been given — Jesus Christ. Amazingly, what man was wholly unable to do for Himself, God graciously performed on his behalf. Out of His sheer good pleasure and infinite mercy, God sent His own Son to be the mediator on behalf of rebellious sinners. Jesus the mediator was God because He had to live a perfect life and only One is perfect, namely, God. Jesus the mediator had to be a real man so that He could live the life of a man, suffer the death of a man, and bear the penalty, punishment, and hell that sinful men deserve. Thus God solved the problem by sending the God-Man, Jesus Christ, to be the mediator to enter the divine courtroom as the furious Judge is justly, rightly, and hotly enflamed because His created creatures have revolted against Him in rebellion, transgression, sin, and iniquity. Jesus the mediator came to the judgment bar of the Father and stood in the stead of sinners and took their punishment in full, the judgment without restraint, the righteous fury of God without mercy. He was crushed by the fury of God and thus bore in Himself the infinite penalty that every sin deserves for all of His people who would come to believe upon Him. Jesus, then, is the one mediator between God and men. God has given one Mediator. Nothing can contribute with Christ's atoning work. The debt has been paid. The wrath has been placated. The judgment has been spilt. The fury has been subsided. Now God's children who have come to Him by faith in Jesus Christ and His substitutionary work can have full access to Him not only in this life but also in eternal glory since Jesus the mediator has paid it all.