

THE MEDIATOR

TEXT: (I Timothy 2:1-6, NIV)

¹ I urge, then, first of all, that petitions, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for all people—² for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. ³ This is good, and pleases God our Savior, ⁴ who wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth. ⁵ For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave himself as a ransom for all people.

INTRODUCTION

A. The Theme of This Chapter

1. "God our Saviour...wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth" (I Timothy 2:3, NIV).
2. "I went down to the potter's house, and I saw him working at the wheel. But the pot he was shaping from the clay was marred in his hands; so the potter formed it into another pot, shaping it as seemed best to him" (Jeremiah 18:3-4, NIV).
3. "You see, at just the right time, when we were still powerless, Christ died for the ungodly" (Romans 5:6, NIV).

I. ONE GOD

A. The Grand Theme of the Nation of Israel

1. "Hear, O Israel: The LORD your God, the LORD is one" (Deuteronomy 6:4, NIV).
2. "I am the LORD: that is my name: and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images" (Isaiah 42:8, KJV).
3. "'The most important one,' answered Jesus, 'is this: "Hear, O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one"' (Mark 12:29, NIV).
4. "Thou Believest that there is one God; thou doest well: the devils also believe, and tremble" (James 2:19, KJV).

B. No Other Gods

- 1 "You were shown these things so that you might know that the LORD is God; besides him there is no other" (Deuteronomy 4:35, NIV).
2. "I, even I, am the LORD, and apart from me there is no savior. I have revealed and saved and proclaimed—I, and not some foreign god among you. You are my witnesses, declares the LORD, 'that I am God. Yes and from the ancient days I am he. No one can deliver out of my hand. When I act, who can reverse it?'" (Isaiah 43:11-13, NIV).
3. "'This is what the LORD says—Israel's King and Redeemer, the LORD Almighty: I am the first and I am the last; apart from me there is no God...You are my witnesses. Is there any God besides me? No, there is no other Rock; I know not one'" (Isaiah 44:6, 8, NIV).
4. "Declare what is to be, present it—let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other" (Isaiah 45:21-22, NIV).
5. "The LORD will be king over the whole earth. On that day there will be one LORD, and his name the only name" (Zechariah 14:9, NIV).

C. God Is Not a Person

1. "God is not a man" (Numbers 23:19, NIV).
2. "God is spirit" (John 4:24, NIV).
3. "The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of his being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After he had provided purification for sins, he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven" (Hebrews 1:3, NIV).
4. "Who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of his power, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high" (Hebrews 1:3, KJV).
5. "The Son radiates God's own glory and expresses the very character of God" (Hebrews 1:3, NLT).
6. "The Son reflects the glory of God and shows exactly what God is like" (Hebrews 1:3, NCV).
7. "God's Son shines out with God's glory, and all that God's Son is and does marks him as God" (Heb 1:3, TLB).
8. "Though he was God, he did not think of equality with God as something to cling to. Instead, he gave up his divine privileges; he took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When he appeared in human form, he humbled himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross" (Philippians 2:6-8, NLT).

II. RECONCILIATION THROUGH MEDIATION

1. "God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men's sins against them" (II Corinthians 5:19, NIV).
2. "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus" (I Timothy 2:5, NIV).
3. "He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world" (I John 2:2, NIV).

A. Enemies of God

1. "For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to him through the death of his Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through his life!" (Romans 5:10, NIV).
2. "Once you were alienated from God and were enemies in your minds because of your evil behavior" (Colossians 1:21, NIV).

B. Reconciliation Is a Work of God

1. "For God was pleased to have all his fullness dwell in him, and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether things on earth or things in heaven, by making peace through his blood, shed on the cross" (Colossians 1:19-20, NIV).
2. "For what the law was powerless to do in that it was weakened by the sinful nature, God did by sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful man to be a sin offering. And so he condemned sin in sinful man" (Romans 8:3, NIV).

III. HE GAVE HIS LIFE A RANSOM

A. God, Rich in Mercy and Love, Gave Us Life

1. "But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive" (Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV).

B. God Has Made Us alive

1. "God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions" (Ephesians 2:4-5, NIV).
2. "Or don't you know that all of us who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death" (Romans 6:3, NIV)?
3. "And if the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead is living in you, he who raised Christ from the dead will also give life to your mortal bodies through his Spirit, who lives in you" (Romans 8:11, NIV).

C. God Raised Us Up Together

1. "And God raised us up with Christ and seated us with him in the heavenly realms in Christ Jesus, in order that in the coming ages he might show the incomparable riches of his grace, expressed in his kindness to us in Christ Jesus" (Ephesians 2:6-7, NIV).

CONCLUSION

1. "For we are God's workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do" (Ephesians 2:9-10, NIV).