

ONE GOD ONE MEDIATOR

1 Timothy 2:5-6

Sunday August 15th 2010 Morning Service

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“For there is One God and One mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all-the testimony to be given in its proper time”.

In writing to Timothy, Paul is concerned that the apostolic teaching about Jesus should be guarded faithfully and handed on. Today, as in Paul’s time, false teachers oppose the Gospel, both within the church and without.

We now live in a world with the challenge of pluralism, which affirms the independent validity of every faith and ideology, even though they conflict. Key point is toleration of all other beliefs: any attempt to claim a unique faith and to convert others to it, is declared arrogant, divisive, unwelcome.

1. “FOR THERE IS ONE GOD”, LORD OF ALL

There are many religions claiming a multitude of gods. Ancient Egypt knew over 2000, Greek pantheon contained around 370, and popular Hinduism is said to have millions of deities!

By way of contrast Scripture declares: “Here O Israel, the Lord our God, the Lord is one” (Deuteronomy 6:4). The central confession of faith of God’s people of old, reminding them that they were to love, worship and obey the One Almighty and Sovereign Lord alone.

Because the Lord is the One, true God, He is jealous for His people’s exclusive love and devotion. In an age of toleration: the Lord is intolerant of other “gods” or any idol that threatens to take the glory and worship due to Him alone.

2. ONE MEDIATOR, SAVIOUR OF ALL

We have a dilemma. Sin has separated mankind from God. Sin has made a quarrel between us and God. Sin has left us guilty, lost and under a death sentence. We need a mediator to bring us to God.

In our pluralistic society suggestion has been made that mankind can be saved in and through different religions. But God’s Word declares Jesus the only Saviour. Salvation is by faith in Him alone.

Christianity is unique because Jesus is unique. He is uniquely qualified to act as mediator because Jesus is unique; in His person and in His work.

A Jesus a unique Person.

Jesus is unique because not only is He the man Christ Jesus, but also God!

1. The evidence of the Scriptures.
(Note factors showing the Bible is true and trustworthy: manuscript evidence, archaeology, fulfilled prophecy, survival under attack.)
2. The evidence of Jesus' own works.
3. The evidence of Jesus' own words.
4. The evidence of Jesus' own character.
5. The evidence of Jesus' resurrection.

The eternal Word became flesh, leaving behind the privileges and worship that were His by right and became "the man Christ Jesus". The Jesus of history, vouched for by pagan as well as Christian writers. The mystery of divine and human natures, united in the Person of Jesus Christ.

B The Cross of Christ, a unique work.

"He gave Himself as a ransom for all". Jesus is that Good Shepherd who laid down His life for His sheep (John 10:11). Jesus gave His life as a "ransom". The ransom price paid for our deliverance was not silver or gold, but the precious blood of Jesus, who died in our place.

But in what sense is Jesus a "ransom for all"?

Jesus is the Lamb of God taking away the sin of the world. Yet Jesus' teaching clearly states that many are on the broad road leading to destruction, while relatively few are on the narrow road leading to life. The cross is the place where the mediator Christ Jesus brings the Holy God and sinful mankind together, by making peace through His precious blood. Yet the cross is also the place that divides mankind.

The One mediator, Saviour of all, Jesus, gave Himself as a ransom for all, but we can only come to God through Him. Only the power of His cross can forgive sin; only the power of His blood can cleanse defiled consciences; only the power of His Spirit can change lives.

3. ONE GOSPEL, TESTIMONY OF ALL

Throughout history, testimony to the Gospel has been given by prophets, apostles, early Christian Fathers. Since then millions of Christians have given their living and dying witness to the Gospel at their proper time. How about us today?

It is not enough that the Son of God was born, died and rose again. It is not enough that He is the uniquely qualified God-man, ransom and mediator. The one Gospel of Jesus must be made known to all. In our witness we need to be focused not on numbers, but on individuals!

So now, as God's servants, we are called to give our witness in our time, that:

"There is One God and One mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all".