

Subject: *One Gospel for All People*

Scripture: *1 Timothy 2:1-7*

Our text comes in a passage that deals with praying for the lost. In this message we will look at verses 4-7, which focus on the fundamental truths of the Gospel and the Christian faith:

- The truth that God desires for all people to be saved.
- The truth that all people must come to the knowledge of salvation truth.
- The truth that there is only one true God.
- The truth that Jesus Christ is the one and only mediator between God and man.
- The truth that Jesus died as a ransom for all men.
- The truth that gospel truth must be proclaimed to all people.

Many of these truths are absolutely hated by many people in the world. Some of these truths are not even appreciated or tolerated in the church. Many people think we need to be broad-minded and inclusive or tolerant of all religious beliefs and they think it is a sin to be narrow-minded or intolerant of all religious teachings. The world doesn't care if we have biblical doctrine, just as long as we keep it to ourselves. But that's where the problem comes...God has given us the gospel and we must proclaim it because that is the only message that leads to Christ and He is the only Savior.

Paul begins this chapter writing about the importance of prayer in verses 1-3, and then he writes about salvation in verses 4-7. Paul says that God will have all men to be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth. This does not teach universal salvation. Although God desires that all men should be saved, yet not all will be saved. The Bible teaches God's will of desire and His will of decree. God will of desire is what may happen or not happen. God's will of decree is what will happen. God does not want people to sin. He hates sin and the consequences of sin. He desires that people do not sin, but He allowed sin to enter this world and He allows sin now. His will of decree is to save His people from their sins and He will accomplish that.

1. There is only one God for all

This is the basic truth of the Bible and the foundation for salvation. We must know who God is, why we need salvation, and who saves us from our sins. This is basic truth we all need.

Deuteronomy 4:35 Unto thee it was showed, that thou mightest know that the LORD he is God; there is none else beside him.

Deuteronomy 6:4 Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God is one LORD.

Isaiah 45:22 Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: for I am God, and there is none else.

John 17:3 And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent.

2. There is only one mediator for all—Jesus Christ

The word “mediator” (*mesites*) is someone who goes between two parties to settle a dispute or acts as a middle man. A biblical example of someone who is a mediator is the high priest.

- A. A mediator is needed – The relationship between God and man is broken by sin.

We are all familiar with conflict in the world between nations, conflict in the workplace between management and labor, conflict in government between Republicans and Democrats, and conflict in the family between husbands and wives, parents and children. Conflict often requires an arbitrator, ambassador, negotiator, attorney, or counselor who will step in, bring the parties together, and resolve the dispute. More important than any conflict on a human level is the conflict between holy God and sinful man. For a time Adam and Eve enjoyed unbroken fellowship with their Creator. But sin separated them from God, and sin separates us from God too.

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear. Jesus is the only mediator who can resolve the conflict and restore the fellowship broken by sin.

B. A mediator must be qualified to represent both parties

Job 9:32-33 For he is not a man, as I am, that I should answer him, and we should come together in judgment. Neither is there any daysman betwixt us, that might lay his hand upon us both. The word “daysman” means “an umpire or judge” or someone who brings two parties together to settle a dispute. Christ is the perfect mediator because He is fully God and fully man. This is what the Christmas song refers to: “Hark, the herald angels sing, glory to the newborn king, peace on earth and mercy mild, God and sinners reconciled.”

C. A mediator works out a settlement between parties

In the Bible this settlement is called a covenant. A covenant is God’s way of restoring and keeping a special love relationship with His people. Christ is the one and only mediator between the holy God and sinful men. He is the only way to God. He is the only one to make us right with God and acceptable to God. He is the advocate who intercedes for us at the Father’s right hand.

3. There is only one sacrifice for all--Christ’s death on the cross

Christ sealed (confirmed) the covenant between God and sinners by giving His life on the cross as a sacrifice. In the Old Testament God confirmed or ratified the covenant between Him and the people with the shed blood of animal sacrifices, but all of those sacrifices in the Old Covenant pointed to the perfect sacrifice of Christ and the New Covenant. The word “mediator” is found three times in the book of Hebrews where God reminds us that Christ has confirmed a new covenant with us through His own blood.

Hebrews 8:6 But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Hebrews 9:15 And for this cause he is the mediator of the new testament, that by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions that were under the first testament, they which are called might receive the promise of eternal inheritance.

Hebrews 12:24 And to Jesus the mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling, that speaketh better things than that of Abel.

Jesus is the mediator of the new covenant. As our mediator Christ laid down His life on the cross. To resolve conflict on a purely human level a mediator or negotiator often makes a deal by means of a compromise involving give and take. He sits down with representatives of both parties and “cuts a deal.” But that’s not the way it works with God. He doesn’t cut any

deals. He cannot and will not compromise. Jesus paid the penalty for our sins, offering Himself as a ransom, and thereby satisfying God's justice and offering man a full reconciliation.

Matthew 20:28 *Even as the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.*

The word "ransom" is a word found only here in the Bible (Greek, *antilutron*). It is a compound word with the preposition, *anti*, meaning instead of or in the place of, and *lutron*, which is a price for release. Jesus paid the price in our place and He released us from the debt of sin we could not pay. He paid the ransom price in full.

4. There is only one message for all—the Gospel of Christ

This is the truth that to be testified in due time, and now is the time. The Bible is clear...there is only one God, one mediator, one sacrifice, one way to God.

John 10:9 *I am the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture.*

John 14:6 *Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*

Some people resent that there is only way to God, when they should be grateful that He gave us one way. This is the question you must answer: is Christ your mediator? He will be your mediator only if you are in a covenant with Him. That means He will save you if you repent of your sins and commit your life to Him.

Hebrews 13:20-21 *Now the God of peace, that brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, that great shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant, make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is well-pleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory forever and ever. Amen.*

Christ took on our human nature and a human body, He died as a sacrifice for our sins, and He intercedes for us at the Father's right hand. What more could He have done for us? Do you have a heart of gratitude and praise for Christ as your mediator? Do you have a concern for people who don't have Christ as their mediator? Are you doing what you can to share the gospel of Christ with those who need Him, but don't have Him?