

# ONE GOD AND ONE MEDIATOR

## 1 Timothy 2:5-7

“Years ago, there lived in Switzerland a great schoolmaster whose name was Pestalozzi. He was held in highest esteem and greatly loved, especially by the children who came under his character-molding influence.

“At his death, it was generally felt that a monument, commemorative of his life of selfless service, should be erected, though the schoolmaster had erected an enduring memorial in the hearts of others.

“The monument was erected. The day for its unveiling came. The sculptor had succeeded so well in reproducing the likeness of the schoolmaster that all looked upon the statue with hushed reverence and admiration. The teacher was shown looking down upon the kneeling form of a little child whose uplifted gaze focused upon the face of the teacher.

“Though the statue was a wonderful work of art, the schoolmaster’s most intimate friends felt that the sculptor had failed to represent the dominant desire of the pedagogue—not to have those he taught look with wonderment upon him, but upward to the challenging heights of goals as yet unattained, and to God.

“So a change was made. At the second unveiling all were pleased to see a kneeling child, looking, not at the face of the teacher, but to the beckoning beyond.”<sup>1</sup>

If Paul could have designed a statue of himself that would be displayed after his death, we think it would have been one that drew people not to focus on him but to look above and beyond him to the sun, moon, and stars that were evidence of the existence of the Master Creator. As we continue our study of 1 Timothy 2, we see that God had chosen just such a teacher to bring His truth to the Gentiles

### 1 Timothy 2:5-6 (NASB):

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<sup>1</sup> Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers*. Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979.

<sup>5</sup> *For there is one God, and one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,*  
<sup>6</sup> *who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at the proper time.*

The **Incarnation** (God taking on human form) was “*the testimony given in its proper time.*” It refers to the Christian doctrine that the pre-existent Son of God became man in Jesus.<sup>2</sup> God had carefully chosen the perfect time in history to send His Son. As always God’s timing is perfect.

The Greek language has two words for time. The Greek word that Paul used here, *kairos*, refers to the quality of time. God was not watching the calendar. He was waiting for just the right conditions to exist in the world before sending Jesus. Paul uses the same Greek word in Galatians 4:4 where he writes:<sup>3</sup>

Galatians 4:4 (NASB):

<sup>4</sup> *But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law.*

1 Timothy 2:7 (NASB):

<sup>7</sup> *For this I was appointed a preacher and an apostle (I am telling the truth, I am not lying) as a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.*

The God who acted at the right time also chose the right messenger. The call to ministry about which Paul rejoiced in 1 Timothy 1 was actually an appointment to be a preacher, an apostle, and a teacher of the true faith. As a preacher, Paul was specifically directed to proclaim the truth to the Gentiles (non-Jews) in sermon form. As an apostle, he was to authenticate the truth about Jesus and lay the foundation for the Church around the world. As a teacher, he was to instruct others in the truth about God’s work in the person of Jesus Christ.

“*I am telling the truth, I am not lying*” is similar to other statements Paul made in his writings. For example:

Romans 9:1 (NASB):

<sup>1</sup> *I am telling the truth in Christ, I am not lying, my conscience testifies with me in the Holy Spirit.*

It would not be necessary for Paul to make such a statement to Timothy, but if this letter were read to the whole church, Paul wanted them to know that he could be trusted.

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<sup>2</sup> Achtemeier, Paul J. ; Harper & Row, Publishers ; Society of Biblical Literature: *Harper's Bible Dictionary*. 1st ed. San Francisco : Harper & Row, 1985, S. 420.

<sup>3</sup> Robert Black and Ronald McClung, *Wesleyan Bible Commentary – 1 & 2 Timothy, Titus, Philemon*, (Indianapolis, IN: Wesleyan Publishing House, 2004), WORDsearch CROSS e-book, 50-56.

Paul made it clear in verse five that **there is one God and one God only**. Then in verse 6 he makes it clear that God desires everyone to be saved, which is confirmed by Ezekiel 33:11 NLT:

*<sup>11</sup> As surely as I live, says the Sovereign Lord, I take no pleasure in the death of wicked people. I only want them to turn from their wicked ways so they can live. Turn! Turn from your wickedness, O people of Israel! Why should you die?*

The only people who go to Hell will be those who go because of their own foolishness and refusal to recognize and trust the one and only God. That is exactly what Jesus told them in Matthew 23:37 NLT:

*<sup>37</sup> “O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the city that kills the prophets and stones God’s messengers! How often I have wanted to gather your children together as a hen protects her chicks beneath her wings, but you wouldn’t let me.”*

In order to be saved one has to accept the truth that God provides, and **that truth is Jesus Christ**. A statement like this usually motivates someone to jump up and say: “*Wait a minute, not everybody in the world can know the truth about Jesus. What about the natives in Africa who never even saw a white man?*” My answer to that is not to worry about the natives, God will deal as justly with them as He is dealing with you right now. He has provided you the opportunity to accept the truth. Now what are you going to do about it? If you refuse to accept that truth because you believe God is not being fair to people in the most remote areas of the world, you are being very, very foolish. We just learned that God wants everyone to be saved, did we not? Do you think then that He would leave anyone out? God has never and will never lie. In some way He will reveal the truth to everyone.

Verse five also tells us there is one Mediator, Jesus Christ, and that He willingly gave Himself as a ransom for all. Yes, He went to the cross and paid the asking price for the salvation of all mankind. He made it possible for mankind to be reconciled in relationship with God, so that they are not now required to obey all of the Law (Ten Commandments) all of the time, but rather see the Law as a guide as to how they should live their lives.

We were all on our way to Hell because of our sin nature, a nature that prevents any of us from keeping God’s Law (Commandments) all the time. Christ placed Himself in the position of **Mediator** between God and man. Before continuing let us look to Easton for a definition of the term “*mediator*” as it is used in the Scripture:

“One who intervenes between two persons who are at variance (separated for some reason),<sup>4</sup> with a view to reconcile (bring them back together) them. This word is used in the New

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<sup>4</sup> Parentheses added.

Testament to denote simply an ambassador, one who acts as a medium of communication between two contracting parties. Christ is the one and only mediator between God and man (1 Tim. 2:5).<sup>5</sup>

Hebrews 8:6 (NLT):

<sup>6</sup> *But now Jesus, our High Priest, has been given a ministry that is far superior to the old priesthood, for he is the one who mediates for us a far better covenant with God, based on better promises.*

Hebrews 9:15 (NLT):

<sup>15</sup> *That is why he is the one who mediates a new covenant between God and people, so that all who are called can receive the eternal inheritance God has promised them. For Christ died to set them free from the penalty of the sins they had committed under that first covenant.*

Hebrews 12:24 (NLT):

<sup>24</sup> *You have come to Jesus, the one who mediates the new covenant between God and people, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks of forgiveness instead of crying out for vengeance like the blood of Abel.*

“He makes reconciliation between God and man by his all-perfect atoning sacrifice. Such a mediator must be at once divine and human, divine, that he might possess infinite wisdom and knowledge and power to direct all things in the kingdom (Matt. 28:18; John 5:22, 25, 26, 27); and human, that in his work he might represent man, and be capable of rendering obedience to the law and satisfying the claims of justice“<sup>6</sup>

Hebrews 2:17 (NLT):

<sup>17</sup> *Therefore, it was necessary for him to be made in every respect like us, his brothers and sisters, so that he could be our merciful and faithful High Priest before God. Then he could offer a sacrifice that would take away the sins of the people.*

<sup>18</sup> *Since he himself has gone through suffering and testing, he is able to help us when we are being tested.*

Hebrews 4:15-16 (NLT):

<sup>15</sup> *This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses, for he faced all of the same testings we do, yet he did not sin.*

<sup>16</sup> *So let us come boldly to the throne of our gracious God. There we will receive his mercy, and we will find grace to help us when we need it most.*

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<sup>5</sup> Easton, M.G.: *Easton's Bible Dictionary*. Oak Harbor, WA : Logos Research Systems, Inc., 1996, c1897.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

“And that in his glorified humanity he might be the head of a glorified Church.”<sup>7</sup>

Romans 8:28-30 (NLT):

<sup>28</sup> *And we know that God causes everything to work together for the good of those who love God and are called according to his purpose for them.*

<sup>29</sup> *For God knew his people in advance, and he chose them to become like his Son, so that his Son would be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.*

<sup>30</sup> *And having chosen them, he called them to come to him. And having called them, he gave them right standing with himself. And having given them right standing, he gave them his glory.*

**Jesus Christ is a Mediator** who came to make peace, to bring God and man together. Paul was chosen to announce this good news to the Gentiles.

Mark 16:15 (NLT):

<sup>15</sup> *And then he told them, “Go into all the world and preach the Good News to everyone.*

Let us move on now to the last verses of 1 Timothy 2:

“Judge Beatrice Mullaney of Fall River, Mass., affirmed that women are almost entirely to blame for lowered moral standards in the United States. ‘Women are anxious to exercise freedoms and permissiveness promoted by the women’s movement, and the result is dissolution of marriages, homes, and families. In nearly two decades as a judge I’ve heard more than 10,000 divorce, separation, and custody cases. And I’ve seen moral decay, especially in family responsibilities, divorce, permissiveness, and shirking of duties. I blame women almost entirely for lowering the moral standards of this country.’”<sup>8</sup>

Well, I doubt that Judge Mullaney will ever be invited to speak before the National Organization of Women. Another story came out of Los Angeles (AP) a while back that was similar in nature:

“The United States is on the verge of a ‘crime wave like the world had never seen before,’ warns Los Angeles police chief Edward M. Davis. And he says the women’s liberation movement and politicians must share the blame.

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

<sup>8</sup> Tan, Paul Lee: *Encyclopedia of 7700 Illustrations : A Treasury of Illustrations, Anecdotes, Facts and Quotations for Pastors, Teachers and Christian Workers.* Garland TX : Bible Communications, 1996, c1979.

“In an address to the Los Angeles Breakfast Club, Davis said crime ‘is going to continue to go up, up, up,’ primarily because of ‘the new morality which condones lying, stealing and killing.’

“He said more mothers should stay home to instill old-fashioned values in their children.

“‘If you don’t have that culture in which to bring up that young human with love and discipline, he’s going to become some sort of savage if he wants to,’ Davis said.”<sup>9</sup>

Then there are those who have a little different perspective:

“A noted anthropologist thinks that men are inferior to women, and women lower themselves by demanding equality with men.

“ Ashley Montagu, speaking at Virginia Commonwealth University, said a woman who claims equality with a man ‘has taken a step down.

“ Montagu said that ‘only inferior people tell people they are superior, and this is what men have been doing.’

“ He said women discovered their superiority long ago and ‘have the good sense to be quiet about it.’

“He said women are more intellectual because of their everyday experiences, which differ from those of most men.

“He also said they are constitutionally superior because they bear and nurture children, and biologically superior because they have two X chromosome.”<sup>10</sup>

So we have here a sampling of three different opinions concerning women which demonstrate how much the world needs to study the Word of God. And Here is what God says:

1 Timothy 2:9-15 (NASB):

<sup>9</sup> *Likewise, I want women to adorn themselves with proper clothing, modestly and discreetly, not with braided hair and gold or pearls or costly garments,*

<sup>10</sup> *but rather by means of good works, as is proper for women making a claim to godliness.*

<sup>11</sup> *A woman must quietly receive instruction with entire submissiveness.*

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<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> *But I do not allow a woman to teach or exercise authority over a man, but to remain quiet.*

<sup>13</sup> *For it was Adam who was first created, and then Eve.*

<sup>14</sup> *And it was not Adam who was deceived, but the woman being deceived, fell into transgression.*

<sup>15</sup> *But women will be preserved through the bearing of children if they continue in faith and love and sanctity with self-restraint.*

We will get into more detail on this next week.