

God the Son (part 3 of 4 on the 'Trinity.')

1 Timothy 2:5 (New American Standard Bible)

*For there is one God, **and one mediator also between God and mankind**, the man Christ Jesus,*

John 14:6 (New American Standard Bible)

*Jesus *said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; **no one comes to the Father except through Me.**"*

Introduction

This morning, we will continue our sermon series on the 'Trinity.' Last Sunday, I talked about God the Father, who alone is Sovereign, possesses immortality, and dwells in unapproachable light (1 Timothy 6:15-16).

Today we are going to think about 'God the Son.' He is known to us as Jesus Christ, or the Messiah. He also has many other titles such as the Redeemer, Lord, the Lamb of God, Author and Perfecter of our faith, Sanctifier, Intercessor, the Alpha and the Omega, to name a few. Once again, with one sermon, I cannot fully explain who the Son of God is, what He is like, and what He does; however, I am going to point out the three-fold identity of Son of God: **Mediator, Shepherd, and Author (Originator) of Faith, Life and Salvation.**

Content

He is One mediator between God and mankind (1 Timothy 2:5).

The meaning of mediator. Mediator was a legal term in the first century in Roman world, when Paul wrote his letters to Timothy. Mediator, as it sounds, goes between two parties to arbitrate and 'to remove a disagreement or reach a common goal' (*A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, p. 506). In our case, two parties are the holy God and the sinful man. Mediator is only needed when something went wrong between two parties (Galatians 3:19). In our case, God's law was broken by humanity. The Bible calls the violation of God's law *the violation of the covenant* (Hebrews 9:15, Galatians 3:19). The covenant is the agreement made between God and man. For instance, the 10 Commandments are called 'the Old Covenant.' Many a time that the Old Covenant was broken by man repeatedly. We needed a mediator who would speak on our behalf.

Christ is the Mediator of **the new and better covenant**. He negotiates peace between God and man in two steps. He first reconciles man to God and then establishes a

new covenant between God and man--both through His own blood. Let me elaborate it for you.

First, Christ, the Lamb of God redeems us through His own blood. To redeem means to pay the price on behalf of the guilty party who cannot pay for themselves. Christ gave His life as a ransom for many (Mark 10:45) and paid the wages of our sin on our behalf. He suffered for our sins, the sinless for the sinful, the righteous for the unrighteous to bring us to God (1 Peter 3:18). We have redemption through Christ's blood, and God's wrath on sinners is appeased. Peace between God and humanity is restored.

Next, Christ also establishes the new covenant, once again, through His own blood. FYI. In the Bible, whenever the covenant was made between God and man, it was always **established with blood**. For instance, the Ten Commandments / the Old Covenant between Jehovah God and the Israelites was established by the blood of the bulls. Exodus 24:6-8. ⁶ *Moses took half of the blood and put it in basins, and the other half of the blood he sprinkled on the altar.* ⁷ *Then he took the Book of the Covenant and read it as the people listened; and they said, "All that the Lord has spoken we will do, and we will be obedient!"* ⁸ *So Moses took the blood and sprinkled it on the people, and said, "Behold **the blood of the covenant**, which the Lord has made with you in accordance with all these words."*

On the night before Jesus was crucified, God inaugurated a new and better covenant with His people, this time, in Jesus' own blood. Luke 22:20. *And in the same way He took the cup after they had eaten, saying, "This cup, which is poured out for you, is **the new covenant in My blood**."* Please keep in mind that the 'new covenant' was established not by the animal's blood but by the precious blood of Jesus Christ. Now, that brings us to the second verse in today's text.

Jesus is the only way to the Father (John 14:6).

God's Word declares that **Christ alone is our salvation**. The key word is "Alone." One Savior. One way to the Father. Not two or three or many but one. Acts 4:12 says, *"There is **salvation in no one else**; for there is no other name under heaven that has been given among mankind by which we must be saved."* **One** God and **One** mediator between God and humanity (1 Timothy 2:5). That One mediator is Christ.

In college, I took a Comparative Religion course where I learned about different religions in the world such as Shintoism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism, Christianity, even Shamanism. I spent the entire semester studying the similarities and differences in their doctrines. I forgot most of them by now, but one thing I still remember is that there's a fundamental difference between Christianity and the rest of the religions. Many a religion promote morality; to be more specific, personal good deeds and merits to gain what individuals want. Furthermore, eternal life, heaven and salvation are totally up to you; how good or how bad you have been. You also earn salvation through your own righteousness. E.g., bow three thousand times for your prayers to be heard by Buddha. Actually, in true

Buddhism, you don't even need to worship Buddha. You yourself can become Buddha. Buddha never claimed himself a god or asked people to worship him as god.

Christianity is unique. Only through Christ, we get saved. Furthermore, salvation has nothing to do with our own merits but everything to do with Christ's. That's why the worst criminal in history still may have hope. That's why the greatest moral man may still miss the salvation. Only Christ's merits and your faith in Him matter in salvation. Not what you have done or who you are but what Christ has done and who He is (e.g., can you imagine being born into "Untouchable" caste in Hinduism? You're doomed.)

Without the shedding of blood, there is no forgiveness of sins (Hebrews 9:22). To forgive our sins, Jesus became a sacrifice and shed His own blood for us. Since He was the only one who did so, the Bible declares that He is the only way to God. Without Him, there's no forgiveness. Without Him, there's no salvation, and without Him, no one can come to the Father (John 14:6).

Many of us stumble over Christ's own statement that *There's no other way but Christ. He is the Only way to the Father.* That makes Christianity sound so exclusive and closed-minded in today's world that many a people shun Christianity.

How nice it would be to say that *whatever you believe, you will be in Heaven. Or, there's no hell, and only Heaven, so don't worry about it. Everyone will be in Heaven no matter what! Who would judge?* All these words sound wonderful and are well accepted in the world of relativism. Furthermore, in an effort to be open-minded to other religions, some Christians would agree that there are *more than one way to the Father*, or that *other religions also have salvation*. However, please consider other religions if they are really tolerant and open-minded with Christianity as they claim. In fact, you may be surprised to see how exclusive each religion is in terms of their beliefs. E.g., Islam, if you say to them to accept other religions as equally as theirs, you won't be welcome. Judaism is following no other gods but Jehovah God like we do. Buddhism looks very open-minded; however, did you know that eight hells wait for sinners (murderers, thieves, and what not)? One of them is exclusively reserved for those who reject their teaching (*The Oxford Book of Death*, p. 198).

Let me be clear. We Christians are not interested in being exclusive. We are called for peace. That doesn't mean that we have to cancel the Bible God's Word in order to be nice to each other nor stop telling the truth about Christ. If anyone tries to obtain salvation and eternal life through their own goodness, that's not Christianity. Christ is the only mediator between God and humanity in whom alone salvation is found. Take it or leave it.

He is the Great Shepherd (Hebrews 13:20). *Now may the God of peace, who brought up from the dead the great Shepherd of the sheep through the blood of the eternal covenant, that is, Jesus our Lord,*

He is the Good Shepherd (John 10:11-15). ¹¹“*I am the good shepherd; the good shepherd **lays down** His life for the sheep...*” ¹⁴*I am the good shepherd, and I know My own, and My own know Me,* ¹⁵*just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father; and **I lay down My life for the sheep.***

What makes our Lord Jesus the Great and Good Shepherd? Because He laid down His own life for us. He didn't have to do it. But He did so to please His Father, and to fulfill God's will for Him. *No one has taken it away from Me, but **I lay it down** on My own. I have authority to **lay it down**, and I have authority to take it back. This commandment I received from My Father.”* (John 10:18). The peace between God and humanity was restored through the mediator's sacrifice. The wages of our sins were paid by the Mediator, so we go pardoned. Christ laid down His own life for us. That's why He is the Good Shepherd. That's why we can count on Him and trust in Him. The Good Shepherd lays down His life for the sheep.

Finally, **He is the author of faith, life, and salvation** (Hebrews 12:2, Acts 3:15, Hebrews 2:10).

Hebrews 12:2 calls **Jesus, the originator and perfecter of the faith**. As the originator of our faith, Jesus gives us faith, supplies the impetus in our faith practice, and perfects our faith. **Lack of faith?** Ask Jesus the Author of faith to give you more.

He is also the **Prince of life** (Acts 3:15). Through Christ, every life form came into existence. We owe Him life. We are from Him, through Him and for Him. If you ever wondered about your life's origin, meaning and purpose, ask Jesus. He is the answer for your questions. You are from Him and for Him. You are in Him and are to live for Him. Hebrews 2:10. *For it was fitting for Him, **for whom are all things, and through whom are all things**, in bringing many sons to glory, to perfect **the originator of their salvation** through sufferings. **Need life?** A new life? Abundant life? Eternal life? Go to Jesus. Life dwells in Him. He will give life to you.*

Christ is **the Originator of our salvation**. He is our Savior (Acts 5:31). **Need salvation?** Go to Christ. He knows everything about salvation. He is willing to give it freely and abundantly. Bring your faith in Him. Through your repentance, you will receive forgiveness. Through your faith, you will receive salvation.

Conclusion

Folks, there you have it. Christ the Son of God is our Mediator, Good Shepherd, and the Originator of our faith, salvation, and life. He loves us, protects us, strengthens our faith and provides us with a new and abundant life in Him. Amen.