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I Timothy Sermon #10

I Timothy 2

I need you to do two things for me this week – pray and invite

Tonight I will begin a series entitled “Heaven or Hell—It’s Your Choice”

I Timothy 2

I have entitled today’s sermon “There Is One”

I Timothy 2:1

Let us stand for the reading of God’s Holy Word.

I Timothy 2:1-6

Let us pray.

You may be seated.

There Is One

Vs. 1-4

Vs. 5 – gives us two unique reasons to pray for the salvation of all men

The first unique fact is that there is one God – vs. 5

Most of us take that for granted.

There are millions who do not.

The Bible everywhere affirms that there is only one God – vs. 5

Regardless of what country you live in

Regardless of what ancestry you have

Regardless of tradition or religion

The Bible affirms that there is only one God.

This is one of the most fundamental teachings of Scripture.

Deuteronomy 4:35 – *“The Lord He is God; there is none else beside Him.”*

Deuteronomy 4:39 – *“The Lord He is God in Heaven above and upon the earth beneath. There is none else.”*

Isaiah 44:6 – *“I am the first and I am the last and beside Me, there is no God.”*

Isaiah 45:5-6 – *“I am the Lord and there is none else. There is no God beside Me; I am the Lord and there is none else.”*

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.”*

There is one God.

Exodus 20:2-3, *“I am the LORD thy God . . . Thou shalt have no other gods before Me.”*

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

I Corinthians 8:4, *“. . . and that there is none other God but one.”*

Ephesians 4:5-6, *“One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all . . .”*

There is only one God.

Now, interestingly, that one God is in three persons. He exists as three.

That is a hard thing to comprehend.

The Bible refers to the Father, to the Son, to the Holy Spirit – all as God.

That they are all equal as God.

For instance, Matthew 28:19-20 – *“baptizing them in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost”*

– into the (name) – singular

You say it's three names. Yes, but it is three persons under one name – God

In I Peter 1:2, *“. . . to the foreknowledge of God the Father, through sanctification of the Spirit, unto obedience and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ.”*

One verse gives us three persons – who are members of one Godhead

Now, there are distinctions in the Persons of the Godhead.

But no one of them is any more God than the other.

#1 – Which member of the Godhead was powerful enough to create?

Which one spoke into being everything we see?

Genesis – *God said, “Let there be” . . . “and there was”*

I Corinthians 8:6, *“But to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things . . .”*

Colossians 1:16 – *“For by Him – Jesus Christ and were all things created. All things were created by Him and for Him.”*

John 1:3, *“All things were made by Him; and without Him was not any thing made that was made.”*

Genesis 1:2b, *“And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters.”*

All three members equally involved in creation

#2 – Is there any member of the Godhead more holy than the other members?

What is the adjective we use with the Spirit of God? Holy Ghost

Did you remember in Luke 1:34-35, *“Then said Mary unto the angel, How shall this be, seeing I know not a man? And the angel answered and said unto her, The Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee: therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God.”*

Revelation 4 – the Great Throne room scene – rainbow round about – sea of glass, thunder and lightning

Four living creatures that cry, day and night, *“Holy, holy, holy, Lord God Almighty who was and is and is to come.”*

Do we realize the three Persons of the Godhead are equally omnipotent, omniscient, holy, love, . . . ?

All members are identical in essence – they are coequal, coeternal, coexistent

Now, the tragedy is there are some 11 major world religions – Christianity, Judaism, Bahaim, Jainism, Zorastrianism, Buddhism, Hinduism, Confucianism,

Shintoism, Seekism (India), Taoism (Chinese) – only three of these world religions are monotheistic.

What does that mean?

Belief – there is one God – only three are monotheistic – Judaism, Christianity, and Mohammadism – or what we know as “Islam”

Islam’s one god is not the God of this Bible – that’s a whole other sermon.

Isn’t it interesting that both Christianity and Islam go back through Judaism roots?

Christianity goes back to a Jew – Jesus

Islam goes back to a Jew – Abraham

And of all those other world religions there are millions of people that worship multiple deities.

There are over 4 million Shintoists – worship their ancestors, paper and stones, candles

Their homes have a little shrine to their local deities.

376 million Buddhists – worship rocks and pieces of wood

5 million Confucianists

900 million Hindus

1.3 billion Muslims

If there is one God, why have so many of those folks missed Him? Isn’t that unfair?

He is God to them.

That’s the point of I Timothy 2:5-6.

All men can be saved because there is one God.

The blame for all these people not knowing the true God does not lay at the feet of God.

The blame is at two sources.

At their feet

Because Acts 17:26-27, *“And hath made of one blood all nations of men for to dwell on all the face of the earth, and hath determined the times before appointed, and the bounds of their habitation; that they should seek the Lord, if haply they might feel after Him, and find Him, though He be not far from every one of us.”*

So that if a man misses God, the blame lies in man – read Romans 1 and 2
Instead of worshipping the Creator, they worship the creation.

Every man that worships a created thing degrades himself.
It is degrading to worship a wood pole, a rock, crucifix, animal, or a planet

Do you know who else the blame lies at the feet of?
Paul says to the Corinthians – I Corinthians 15:34
Some have not the knowledge of God; I speak this to your shame.

Folks, we have not reached the world for Jesus Christ.
We have been complacent and comfortable, rather than giving ourselves to the
Commission that the Lord Jesus gave at the end of every gospel and beginning
of Acts.

We have a command to go.
We are waiting for a call when we have a clear command!

The proper spirit is for us to witness, share our faith – to be unashamed of the Gospel
and to be bold in our presentation

There is one God – do you realize that?
Paul is saying that that is a reason that all men can be saved.

How is it a reason “that all men can be saved” that there is one God?

Let me show you

Look at Romans 3:20

There is no person who can be righteous with God by what we do in our flesh.

Vs. 21 – God has a plan

Vs. 22-23 – We use Romans 3:23 to say that all men are sinners
Paul uses to show us that all men can be saved.

Everybody can be saved because everybody is in the same “predicament” – “boat”

Everyone is a sinner.

Everyone is in poor condition.

Vs. 28-30 – do we realize what God is saying here?

Since there is only one God, He stands in the same relationship to all men as their
Creator

And all men have one relationship to that God that they have sinned against Him

Therefore, all men can receive freely the salvation that is offered.

Why? Because all men are in the same position and God has the same position toward
all men

God is the God of the Japanese, Chinese, African, Mexican – of all men

★ Since God is one, there is only one God that men are responsible to.

We are created by one God who has the same position toward all of us

And if you are here today and you have not put your trust in this one God, you can and
this one God will accept you, too, just like He did me and many others in this
church.

I Timothy 2:5

That is one of the unique reasons for our salvation

The second unique fact regarding our salvation

Secondly, there is one Mediator between God and men – vs. 5

What is a mediator?

You can think of a mediator as a bridge, as a go-between – between two parties who are alienated from one another or who cannot communicate with each other.

This passage makes several statements about the one Mediator.

In the first place, it identifies the Mediator – it says – He is Christ Jesus

The name Jesus according to Matthew 1:21 means Savior

Matthew 1:21, *“And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call His name JESUS: for He shall save His people from their sins.”*

Acts 4:12, *“Neither is there salvation in any other. For there is no other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.”*

That’s why I John 5:13, *“These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life . . . ”*

Are you believing on the name of the Son of God right now?

What are you trusting in right now?

I John 5:13

What was His name? Jesus

There is only one place you will find eternal life – it’s in Him.

This identifies Him. He is also identified as the Christ – vs. 5 – the promised Messiah of the Old Testament.

We read through those first five books of the Old Testament and it shows us the need for a perfect priest who can offer a once-for-all sacrifice, a perfect sacrifice

Not all the blood of bulls and goats on Jewish altars slain,
Could cleanse away the sinner's spots or cleanse the sinner's stain

Not all of them

And so the blood of countless bulls and goats was shed and shed and shed and shed
and ran like rivers.

There is a need for a perfect priest.

Those historical books of the Old Testament will show us a need for a perfect King – a
King who will never fail God's people—like David and Solomon did.

Those Old Testament prophets show us the need for a perfect prophet that can bring
God's people back to the standard and keep them there and that Old Testament
ends as a book of unexplained ceremonies, unfulfilled prophecies, unsatisfied
longings.

It's an unsatisfying covenant.

But the New Covenant opens up with these words, Matthew 1:1—The book of the
generations of Jesus Messiah.

And the whole New Covenant is about Him – Jesus Christ. That's His identity.

You will also notice that in I Timothy 2:5 that the Mediator is exclusive.

How many of them are there?

There is only one!

★There is no one who can bring us into the presence of God but Jesus Christ.

No angel can mediate for us with God – pray to angels

No saint can mediate for us with God – pray to saints

We cannot go to any human being down here.

It is not necessary to go through a priest or a pastor.

No mother of Jesus (great woman and blessed Mary) – she cannot mediate for us to
God.

There is only one—He is listed here – vs. 5
His name is Jesus Christ – He is the only go-between.

Some of us have been taught contrary to this.

We may have been taught that there are people who have special favor with Jesus or
God

And if we pray to them, they will gain us favor – Baloney!

Mary was a sinner just like we are and she rejoiced in God, her Savior – Luke 1:47

All men are sinners except one – that's why He can be the Mediator.

An exclusive Mediator

If you will notice the nature of this Mediator—

Look at what it says – vs. 5 – there is one Mediator between God and men and He is a
what? A man.

The point is, there is one Mediator between God and men and He is a man.

In order to be a go-between for two parties, one must be able to understand and
sympathize entirely with the interest of both parties.

In other words, one will be a partial mediator instead of an impartial mediator.

God in His holiness has to demand the death of the sinner.

Man needs deliverance – vs. 4 = saved – from this penalty of death.

So we have two parties that are alienated from one another.

There is no possibility of reconciliation.

What was needed was a person who can fully comprehend the interests of God and the
interests of man.

So the Lord Jesus Christ entered the womb of Mary

The second Person of the Godhead became flesh – fully God and fully man

And for 33 years, he lived among men
And He represented the interests of God
And the result is that He is qualified to represent God and us.

Now, what did He do as a Mediator? I Timothy 2:6
A ransom is a payment needed in order to redeem someone from slavery.

The picture of this is in Leviticus 25 – when your brother loses his land, you buy it back
for him

This is why Jesus is called the Redeemer. Why? Because we are sold under sin.
“The soul that sinneth, it shall die,” God says.
What can we offer to God when He demands our death? Hopeless!

So the Lord Jesus did this.
He gave Himself as the ransom price – payment.

I Peter 1:18-19, “. . . *not redeemed with . . . silver and gold, . . . but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot.*”

This describes Christ’s substitutionary death for us.
He died our death and bore our sin. He gave Himself – vs. 6

How were we redeemed? What was the ransom? The blood.
Christ paid the price for our redemption.
That’s the whole reason Jesus came.

“*By His own blood, He obtained eternal redemption for us.*” Hebrews 9:12

“*He is the Mediator of the new covenant and that by means of death.*” Hebrews 9:15

Mark 10:45, *“For even the Son of man came not to be ministered unto, but to minister, and to give his life a ransom for many.”*

Galatians 3:13, *“Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree.”*

Let me picture this for you.

Here are two parties

The interest of one is the penalty of death.

The interest of the other is the deliverance from that penalty.

★ Out of the Trinity stepped a member of the Godhead – became flesh and for 33 years lived a sinless life as a man.

Never once in spirit or thought or word or deed did He ever transgress the Law of God.

★ At the end of the 33 years, a man stepped out of humanity and He proposed to offer Himself as the ransom, the payment price to redeem mankind from their sins and when He did that, God’s wrath immediately objected.

“Wait – my wrath burns against the sinner; my wrath must be appeased.”

And the Lord Jesus said, “I will give myself a propitiation (a satisfaction) for wrath,” and Wrath sat down.

God’s infinity cried, “Wait—I am an infinite God and the sins of mankind have offended Me to infinity.”

And the Lord Jesus said, “I am God, too, and My sacrifice and My blood is an infinite sacrifice,” and Infinity sat down.

Justice cried, “Wait! No man can atone for the sins of others if he has sin that must be atoned for on his own hands.”

And the Lord Jesus said, "Find fault in Me." He was sinless, spotless, holy, harmless, and undefiled. And Justice sat down.

And so the Lord Jesus died on the Cross and shed His blood for the sins of men. And then He arose from the dead to show to mankind that there was utter deliverance from the penalty of sin. The price was paid.

The Lord Jesus was the perfect Mediator between God and men.

★As man, He satisfied God's demand for the death of the sinner. And because He was God, He paid an infinite price for the countless sins of countless men for all times.

And as God, He revealed to man the plan of God and salvation. No wonder the Bible says there is only one Mediator – He is the only one that could do that.

One other thing I want you to know about His mediation work is its efficacy.

Who was this for?

Vs. 6 – for all

See the word "ransom" – in the Greek, it has the anti (antea) in front of it and it means "instead of"

"For" means on behalf of

When the Lord Jesus did that – gave Himself, it was Him instead of us – on the behalf of all.

No man can say, "My sin is too great."

Would any dare say that his or her sin is greater than Christ's sacrifice?

Romans 5 says, Where sin abounds, grace super abounds – overflows

The debt is paid in full

★And when we come to God through Jesus Christ, we can come with full assurance –
eternal salvation

Because of the work of the one Mediator bridging me and the one God.

Today, I have full and free salvation.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so.

Vs. 63 – when the time came – God testified to men of His love for them by the ransom
payment of Jesus Christ.

“There Is One”

Let us stand for closing invitation.

Every eye closed, every head bowed.

Do you know the Lord Jesus as your Savior?

If the Lord Jesus came today, would you be able to face Him and say, "Lord, You are the only one I'm trusting."

If you couldn't do that, but you would like to receive Christ this morning, you can do that

One Mediator – He's paid the price

Would you do that right now? This moment, won't you receive Jesus Christ.

Christ is the only way and the tremendous thing is that He will bring you right through to God if you will turn to Him.

All people who come to the one and true God must come through Jesus Christ.

There are two reasons we can be saved:

There is one God and one Mediator.

You can cry out right now, "O God, I'm coming to you through Jesus Christ and I am a sinner.

Realize what Jesus had done for me

And I am trusting in Him, His blood – His payment for me."

The altar is open and come and kneel

Rear of Document

Wiersbe

Pages 27-28

Many believers do not realize that prayer is based on the work of Jesus Christ as Savior and Mediator.

Since there is only one God, there is need for only one Mediator; and that Mediator is Jesus Christ. *No other person can qualify.* . . . In His perfect life and substitutionary death, He met the just demands of God's holy law. He was the "ransom for all." The word "ransom" means "a price paid to free a slave." His death was "on behalf of all."

Christ died for "all men," and God is willing for "all men to be saved." . . . The same God who ordains the end (the salvation of the lost) also ordains *the means to the end*: prayer and preaching of the Word.

. . . the sacrificial work of Jesus Christ on the cross . . . To pray only for ourselves is to deny the worldwide outreach of the Cross. To ignore lost souls is to ignore the Cross. . . . We pray for "all" because Christ died for "all" and it is God's will that "all" be saved. We must give ourselves to God to be a part of His worldwide program to reach people before it is too late.

McGee

Pages 37-39

We are not to go to any human being down here; it is not necessary to go through a minister. There is a Mediator between God and man.

(Acts 4:12). Christ is the only way, but the tremendous thing is that He *will* bring you right through to God if you will turn to Him.

. . . there is one way to God.

Christ paid a price for our redemption. We needed to be redeemed—you and I were lost sinners, and He was the ransom.

MacArthur

Pages 71-73

One of the most fundamental teachings of Scripture is that **there is one God** (cf. Deut. 4:35, 39; 6:4; Isa. 43:10; 44:6; 45:5-6, 21-22; 46:9; I Cor. 8:4, 6). . . . since there is only one true God, then He is the One in whom all must believe to be saved. . . . (Acts 4:12).

Not only is there only one God, but **one mediator** . . . (**mediator**) refers to one who intervenes between two individuals to restore peace, or ratify a covenant. . . . Because Christ is the only mediator, all must come to God through Him . . . “Christ Jesus, Himself man.” As the perfect God man, he brings God and man together. Hebrews 8:6 . . . Hebrews 9:15 and 12:24 . . . All men who come to God must come through Him.

Our Lord freely **gave** His life when He died for our sins.

He voluntarily went to the cross and **gave** all of **Himself** . . .

Ransom is a rich theological term, describing Christ’s substitutionary death for us. . . . Christ did not merely pay a ransom to free us; He became the victim in our place. He died our death, and bore our sin. He **gave Himself**.

The phrase **gave Himself as a ransom for all** is a comment on the *sufficiency* of the atonement . . . sufficient for all . . . Christ’s atonement is therefore unlimited as to its sufficiency, but limited as to its application.

The gospel may be preached indiscriminately to all (Mark 16:15); the water of life and the offer of divine mercy are extended freely to all (Rev. 22:17); Christ is set forth as Savior for all to embrace (I Tim. 4:10; I John 4:14).

Therefore the call to “come” is universal.

That does not mean that all will be saved.

Therefore salvation can sincerely and legitimately be offered to all . . .

How graphically the atoning work of Christ reveals to us the heart of God for the salvation of sinners!

That is why Paul refers to the atonement as the **testimony borne** by Christ **at the proper time**. This thought precisely parallels Galatians 4:4-5, “But when the fullness of the time came, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the Law, in order that He might redeem those who were under the Law.” Christ **gave Himself as a ransom** at exactly **the proper time** in God’s redemptive plan. His redemptive work is the most eloquent **testimony** ever **borne** to God’s saving desire for all sinners. Evangelistic prayer for all men therefore reflects the heart of God, and honors Christ’s work on the cross.