

Christ Our Mediator

What does it mean Christ is our mediator? A mediator is one who mediates, brings two parties together in order to bring a settlement with the goal of resolving a dispute or to produce peace, or secure a covenant between them. Christ as Mediator reconciled man and God and is the only One who can mediate to bring about a relationship between God and man. *For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,* (1TI2:5)

Jesus was qualified to serve as the mediator between God and men because He shared characteristics of both God and men. In John 1:1, *"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God"* Jesus *"became flesh, and dwelt among us"*(JOH1:14) He took on *"the form of a bond-servant"* was *"made in the likeness of men"* was *"found in appearance as a man"*(PHI2:7) While on earth, Jesus said, *"I and the Father are one"*(JOH10:30) *For in Him dwells all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.*(COL2:9) verse indicating that Jesus was God in the flesh. A mediator is a go-between who can represent interests of both parties. As God, Christ brings divine justice/mercy to bear on our relationship to our Creator. As perfect man, Christ brings obedience we need to be reconciled to God.

Moses and Jesus served as mediators between man and God, Moses as the messenger in the Laws of the Old Testament, Jesus as the fulfilment of the law in the New Testament. Moses brought the Ten Commandments to the people of Israel at a time when their conduct warranted a need for the laws to be codified on tablets. Jesus who acts as a guarantee to secure were the terms of the new covenant. *"For this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, by means of death, for the redemption of the transgressions under the first covenant, that those who are called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance"*(HEB9:15) Hebrews chapter nine draws comparisons and contrasts between the Levitical ritual and the priestly work of Christ. The Levitical rituals of the old covenant were temporary. The priestly work of Christ was sufficient to remove sin permanently. Jesus Christ—offered a single sacrifice, once and for all, taken from His own perfect and sinless life. God's plan was always to provide a new covenant for His people. The purpose of sacrifice—represented by blood—to confirm a covenant with God.

Sin separates men from God. *But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.*(ISA59:2) Sin is described in the Bible as transgression of the law of God.(1JO3:4) and rebellion against God.(DEU9:7) God hates sin, and sin stands between all of us and Him. *"There is no one righteous, not even one"*(ROM3:10) All human beings are sinners by virtue of sin we have inherited from Adam, as well as the sin we commit on daily basis. The rightful punishment for sin is an eternity in hell.(ROM6:23)

Ever since the fall of humanity, sinners have been unable to approach God without going through a mediator. This is God's desire; He wants everyone to be saved and to come to Him. The meaning of mediation is covered up in the phrase "draw near to God through him" means to get close to God. But we cannot come to Creator God because the Creator knows his creatures, they are "naked" before him. All their thoughts and deeds are laid open and bare before his eyes. We as humans should be ashamed, terrified, to come before God on our own. Therefore, we need someone to intercede for us. Nothing we could do on our own would be sufficient to mediate between us and God. No amount of good works or law-keeping makes us righteous enough to stand before a Holy God.(ISA64:6;ROM3:20; GAL2:16) Without a mediator, we are destined to spend eternity in hell, ourselves salvation from our sin is impossible.

Who Can mediator for Us? Yet there is hope! Jesus represents those who have placed their trust in Him before God's throne of grace. He mediates for us, much as an attorney mediates for his people. Christ's work to secure salvation of the elect was completed on the cross, His care for His redeemed children will never be finished. His mediation is means of salvation. *He himself bore the sin of many and interceded for the transgressors.*(ISA53:12)

God's purpose in sending Jesus was for Him to serve as an intercessor: *"And He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor: therefore His arm brought salvation unto Him, and His righteousness, it sustained Him.*(ISA59:16) Jesus stands before God and between Him and sinful man, just as the Old Testament priests did. If when humble, despised, dying, dead, He had the power to accomplish so great a work as reconciling us to God. *"Who then will condemn us? No one—for Christ Jesus died for us and was raised to life for us, and he is sitting in the place of honour at God's right hand, pleading (intercession) for us.*(ROM8:34) *"Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them"*(HEB7:25) Jesus, lives forever with a priesthood guaranteed forever by God. How much more may we expect that He will be able to keep us now that He is a living, exalted, and triumphant Redeemer, raised to life and interceding on our behalf before the throne of grace in Heaven always. Christ can save us entirely and forever.

Jesus brought about peace between man and God through His death on the cross. In fulfilling role as the mediator, Jesus *"gave Himself as a ransom for all"*(1TI2:5-6) It was through Christ that the Father would *"reconcile all things to Himself, having made peace through the blood of His cross.*(COL1:20-22) The sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, in which He offered His body, shed His blood, made reconciliation between God and men. Jesus, covenant mediator removes enmity between God and men and restores us to fellowship with God. Let us believe in Christ's mediation and pray through Him alone. In this way, we come to the one true/living God and enjoy the forgiveness of our sins.

We have the hope of salvation because of Jesus' work as our mediator. He brought peace between man and God. He guaranteed the covenant with its better promises. Knowing this, we need to submit to the covenant so that we can take advantage of the promises. We can approach God in confidence when we go through Him to the Father.

As the work of a mediator involved two primary benefits for those who submit themselves to Lord's covenant. First, we have peace with God. in Christ "we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses"(EPH1:7) Our sin separates us from God, but the blood of Christ allows us to be reconciled to Him. Since we have peace with God, we also have access "to the throne of grace"(HEB4:16) and the hope of salvation.(1TI 2:4)

Second, we have a covenant that has been guaranteed. We know what to do to be right with God through gospel that has been revealed. "*For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'But the righteous man shall live by faith'*"(ROM1:17) It has been given "once for all time"(JUD3). therefore, we have "a hope both sure and steadfast and one which enters within the veil, where Jesus has entered as a forerunner for us"(HEB6:18-20). The new covenant with its "better promises"(HEB8:6) has been given. We can trust in God's promises. *And to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant, and to the blood of sprinkling that speaks better things than that of Abel.*(HEB12:24) Christ's blood was shed of His own will, and rescues mankind from penalty of their own sins. In the case of a will[or covenant], it is necessary to prove the death of the one who made it, because a covenant is valid only when men are dead,(HEB9:16-17)Jesus has now reconciled you in His fleshly body through death on cross.

After Jesus ascended to heaven and was seated at the right hand of God the Father as an Advocate to His people who can speak to God on our behalf.(ACT1:9;COL3:1) Jesus is interceding for us while Satan (whose name means "accuser") is accusing us, pointing out our sins and infirmities before God, just as he did with Job.(JOB1:6-12) But Jesus' work on the cross paid our sin debt in full; therefore, God always sees in His children the righteousness of Jesus. When Jesus died on the cross, His righteousness (perfect holiness) was imputed to us, while our sin was charged to Him at His death. "*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.*" That took our sinful state before God, so God can accept us blameless before Him.

Jesus is the Advocate for Christians, meaning He is our great Defender. Jesus continued His ministry of intercession after His death and resurrection when He returned to Heaven. He now serves as our intercessor in Heaven. "*My little children, And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*"(1JOH2:1-2) Jesus understands our weaknesses. Jesus is always pleading our case before the Father, like a defence lawyer on our behalf. Let us draw near with a sincere heart in full assurance of faith.(HEB10:22)We can draw near to God thru Him, because of Mediator that we are able to stand before God, we are clothed in His righteousness.(2CO 5:19-21) Jesus represents to us God's holiness to man. We are made right with God by placing our faith in Jesus Christ.

Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast to the faith we confess. Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.(HEB4:16) Jesus was able to become our ultimate example, He has experienced all of our temptations. Yet, He did so without succumbing to sin. We can trust in Him as our source of help and healing. Psalm 110:4, Jesus is the Messiah "a priest according to the order of Melchizedek"(HEB5:6) this priesthood is the "new order" of spiritual priests of whom the Lord Jesus is the High Priest. It is passed on to us thru His blood and our spiritual birth in Christ. Jesus' priesthood offers one sacrifice for all time and mediator lives to intercede for us.

It is on the basis of intimate relationship with Jesus that we can then stand "between" Him and others, serving as intercessor in their behalf as priestly ministry. We are a royal priesthood; we have direct access and fellowship with God like a priest but also called to expand the Kingdom of God and influence the world like a royal king.(1PE2:9) Holiness is required to stand before the Lord. We are able to do it on the basis of righteousness of Christ. At other times, intercession is made by the Holy Spirit. It may be with groanings resulting from a heavy spiritual burden. It may be in an unknown tongue, Holy Spirit speaks through you praying directly to God according to will of God.

No one in heaven can mediate on our behalf except Lord Jesus Christ. There is no scriptural basis to pray to anyone other than God alone. Only God can hear/answer our prayers. Bible nowhere encourages, nor Apostolic doctrine, that believers asking saints in heaven for their prayers. Asking other believers, servants of God (living on earth) to pray for us is definitely biblical.(2CO1:11) Why do petition the dead to request their prayers? Bible mentions praying to or speaking with the dead, is in the context of sorcery, witchcraft, divination—activities strongly condemn.(LEV20:27) This wicked preaching in the church is due to tradition of pride, blindness, bondage, deceit of Satan and become naked. No saint can take Jesus' place. Since, Jesus Himself as a true and faithful Mediator interceding for us, it is against God's law by adding Mary/saints/angels to intercede for us. Rom 8:26–27 says the Holy Spirit is interceding for us. God's Spirit with us, helps us even through our weakness. And by Spirit we call, 'Abba, Father. Bible tells us that true believers, have direct access to God, can approach the throne of grace with confidence. Make sure you are saved and become children of God (1JO5:1), who has access to God's throne of grace, in Jesus' name.

Finally, it is important to understand that Jesus is the only Advocate, Mediator and High Priest between men and God the Father. Jesus is our Comforter and Helper in heaven, pleading our case before God, making intercession for us as our Advocate. No one else—not previous saints, not angels—has the power to intercede for us before the throne of the Almighty God. Christ alone mediates and intercedes between God and man. By dying as the sinless sacrifice for all who put their faith in Him, Christ provides for forgiveness of sin, and promise of have eternal life. This mediatorial sacrifice is offered for all kinds of people. *Now may the God of peace who brought up our Lord Jesus from the dead, the great Shepherd of the sheep, through the blood of the everlasting covenant.*(HEB13:20)