

Text: 1 Tim 2:5-6

Title: The Fundamental Truths that Drive Evangelistic Prayer

Truth: There is only one Mediator between God and Men—Jesus Christ.

Date/Location: December 11, 2022 at FBC

Introduction

Last Sunday Evening we gave our attention to the first four verses of this 1 Timothy 2. In those first four verses, we are given four important truths that are to drive us to the throne room of grace in intercession for the Lost. First, we pray in such a way because we are encouraged to do so (v.1-2a). Secondly, because when the Lost are saved it allows Christians to more freely live out their faith in God without resistance from authorities. Thirdly, we are taught that praying for the Lost is morally right (v.3). Fourthly, we see that the salvation of the Lost is the desire of God's heart (v.4).

How would you answer if someone asked you this question, "why do you want people to believe in your beliefs when there are there are other ways to God?" You may not hear the question asked in such a specific way, but undoubtedly you will be challenged with this line of thinking that there are many ways to heaven.

One simple way to answer this question, is to show them from Scripture that there is only one way to God (1 Tim 2:5); see Jn 14:6). Read this very text, which unequivocally states that **"there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus."**

I would like to unpack the significance of this statement as it relates to our evangelistic ministries and specially in this holiday season.

I. God is One

One of the most fundamental teachings of the Scripture is that there is one God (Deut. 4:35, 39; 6:4; Isa. 43:10; 44:6; 45:5–6, 21–22; 46:9; 1 Cor. 8:4, 6). **The fundamental truth that there is one God not only highlights the Tri-unity of the three persons of the Godhead but also God's eternal exclusivity.** "This truth runs counter to the pluralistic religiosity of our world, which rejects the concept of any exclusive religious truth. We are taught by the spirit of our age that the gods of the Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and Hindus are to be charitably considered equally

valid gods.”¹ However, if this were true, there would be many ways of salvation, and hence no need for us to pray in a specific manner for the salvation of the Lost.

Evangelistic prayer recognizes therefore that all must come to the one true God. This is accomplished by coming to a knowledge of the Jesus Christ, the God-Man.

II. The Mediator: The Man Jesus Christ

When you pray for the Lost, you are requesting that they trust in Christ as their Savior. We request in this way because of our understanding of this fundamental truth, Jesus Christ is the only way to God. You know this, and I know this, but this truth is lost to the world around us. The offense of the Gospel and the cross-work of Christ is this very fact, that the Bible teaches that there is only one Mediator between God and men.

The word *mediator* refers to someone who acts as the middleman between two parties in the most general sense. Mediators are used to bring about an agreement between two parties. The historical audience would be familiar with the idea of mediatorship from the OT Scriptures. Moses acted as a mediator between the people of Israel and God, specially at Mt. Sinai. Later on, once the Levitical priesthood was established, Aaron and the Levites acted as mediators between God and men. Not anyone could come before God, only the High Priest could enter the Holy of Holies to commune with God on the behalf of the people. However, even men like Moses were imperfect mediators because of their own moral imperfections.

And for thousands of years at the God-fearing Gentiles and Jews recognized the lack of a perfect Mediator (Job 9:33). And then, through a the most unimaginable way, a virgin gives birth to a son—truly a miraculous conception—who could fill that void of which Job lamented.

The significance of Jesus Christ as the Mediator between God and man is that he is the God-Man. He is both fully God—in every aspect of His essence—and He is fully Man—uniquely qualified to reconcile mankind with God. **As the God-Man, Christ is uniquely qualified to serve**

¹MacArthur, John F., Jr. *1 Timothy*. MacArthur New Testament Commentary. Chicago: Moody Press, 1995. Pg 71.

as a go-between who can bring about reconciliation between sinful people and Holy God.

III. The Ransom for All

How did Christ accomplish the possibility of reconciliation as the only true Mediator between God and men, through giving Himself as ransom for all.

Ransom is a significant theological term to describe Christ's substitutionary death on the cross for us. Think about this fact, **Christ did not merely pay a ransom to free us from our sin, He himself was the ransom** (Mk 10:45) to free you from your captivity to sin when you were still indulging in your fleshly passions. Christ died your death and He bore your sin. Christ voluntarily gave His life (Jn 10:17-18), not just something He possessed.

“Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, 6 who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, 7 but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men. 8 And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross.” (Phil 2:8-9)

The words “to be testified in due time” at the end of verse six probably refers to the proper timing of Christ's redemptive work according to God's divine will. In other words, God's chosen time to bring about his divine plan of salvation and demonstration of his mercy to all mankind has now come and it is testified through the death of Jesus Christ.

Conclusion

What is the significance of our prayers for the Lost? It reflects the fundamental truth that there is only one way of salvation. It points to the exclusivity of the only one true Living God. Our requests for people to believe in Jesus Christ reflect the fundamental truth that there is only one Mediator—someone to bring about reconciliation between God and man—Jesus Christ, a man Himself. Whether you thought about it or not when you are praying, these fundamental truths are what drives us to pray for the Lost and to expect that God will answer these prayers.