

# Bryan Station Baptist Church

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## THE MEDIATION OF CHRIST



**"For there is one God, and one mediator  
between God and men, the man Christ Jesus"  
(I Tim. 2:5).**

*As the Father hath loved me  
so have I loved you: continue  
ye in my love. — John 15:9*

Jesus Christ is set forth in the scriptures under many titles and in many offices. Whatever may be the human need, Christ is equal to that need. If man is viewed as being under the curse of God's law, Christ is represented as the Redeemer from that curse. If the sinner is regarded as in danger of eternal punishment, Christ is the Deliverer. If the sinner be regarded as being sick unto death, Christ is the great physician and His blood is the specific. If the sinner is looked upon as perishing from hunger and thirst, Christ is the bread and water of life. If the sinner is viewed as a rebel against God's government, Christ is set forth as the Mediator. If we think of the sinner as being unrighteous and condemned, then Christ is his righteousness and the source of his justification.

### War Between God and Man

Our text suggests war—war between God and man.

1. War of rebellion. There are different kinds of war. A war of aggression is where a strong country takes advantage of its weaker neighbor and makes war on it to get more territory—to extend its boundaries. A war of defense is where a nation goes to war only to defend itself. A war of rebellion is where a group of subjects of a government creates a rival government and seeks to overthrow the established

government as the Revolutionary and Civil Wars. This war between God and men is a war of rebellion—men declared their independence of God and set up a rival government. Sin is man doing as he pleases rather than as God commands.

2. This war is dangerous to men. In most wars both sides lose heavily and victory for the winner comes at a terrible cost in lives and money. But here only men are in danger. In this war, there is no hope for the rebel. He is as helpless before God as an ant is before an elephant. Man seems to have superior numbers, but Daniel 4:35 tells us that all the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing.

The 2nd Psalm gives us a picture of kings and rulers (human governments) in rebellion against God. "Let us break their bands asunder, and cast away their cords from us." And it tells us that God laughs at His enemies. This shows how secure God feels in the face of His foes.

3. This war is foolish on the part of man. Can poor, frail, puny, man hope to be victorious in his contest with omnipotence? Can the creature dethrone the Creator? Can the rebels take the reins of government out of the hands of God? To continue this war with God means the defeat of every rebel. It is said that the frown of Queen Elizabeth killed Sir Christopher Hatton, the Lord Chancellor of England. If the frown of a woman could do that, what will the frown of an angry and omnipotent God mean to sinners?

## The Only Hope For Man Is A Mediator

In this war between God and men, the only hope for men is in a Mediator, and such a Mediator that can secure terms of peace that will avert the ruin of the sinner.

A mediator is a go-between; a middle-man; one who comes in between to warring parties and makes a peace that is in the interest of both.

Mediation is a difficult work, whether between men as individuals or between nations. Too often the peace-maker is turned upon by both parties. Some terrible tragedies have resulted in the effort of outsiders to mediate between husbands and wives.

### Why A Mediator Is Necessary

1. If the war goes on, the sinner will be ruined. If he surrenders, he will have to render satisfaction to his offended Majesty and this will mean ruin also. When rebels surrender they are usually punished for their rebellion. Many an outlaw or desperado dies with his boots on because he feels that to surrender would mean death at the hands of the law. If there is no mediator between God and men, the sinner might as well fight it out with God and go to hell with his boots on.

### Christ As Mediator

Now let us look at Christ as Mediator.

1. He satisfies both God and man. He brings an honorable peace to God and hope to the sinner. He rendered satisfaction to the law of God, and then gave the benefits of that satisfaction to the sinner. He made satisfaction by giving His life. He gave Himself a ransom for sinners. He died that they might live.

God showed that He was satisfied with what Christ had done when He raised Him from the dead; and we show that we are satisfied when we look to Him and trust Him as Saviour. "Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ" (Rom. 5:1).

2. Christ's mediation makes it safe for the sinner to surrender, yea, the only safe thing he can do. When the sinner surrenders and lays down his arms of rebellion against God and looks to Christ as peace-maker, he is not punished—he is saved. The two sides of salvation are repentance towards God and faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ. In repentance the sinner hates his sins, confesses his sins, lays down his arms of rebellion, and in his heart runs up the white flag; and in faith he looks to Christ to take care of the results of his sins.

3. Christ makes it safe for the sinner to repent by giving His life a ransom price for the sinner. He came not to be ministered unto but

to minister and give His life a ransom for many. Repentance and remission of sins are to be preached in His name. If He had not satisfied the law by paying our sin debt, there would be no safety in repentance.

It used to be a custom among the Romans when they besieged a town or fortress to put a white flag at the gate of the city, and if the garrison surrendered while the white flag was up, the lives of the people were spared. If the ultimatum was turned down, then a black flag went up and when the city fell, the people were slaughtered. God's white flag is still up! Dear Reader, won't you trust the mediation work of Christ before it is eternally too late?

By the late C. D. Cole



## SOWING THE SEED

"And he said, So is the kingdom of God, as if a man should cast seed into the ground.

And should sleep, and rise night and day, and seed should spring and grow up, he knoweth not how.

For the earth bringeth forth fruit of herself; first the blade, then the ear; after that, the full corn in the ear.

But when the fruit is brought forth, immediately he putteth in the sickle, because the harvest is come" (Mark 4:26-29).

The commission to the church Jesus built is a mission of sowing the seed or preaching the gospel to every creature and teaching them all things that Jesus commanded. This parable tells us a great truth about sowing the seed. "The seed should spring up, he knoweth not how" is a verse Baptist need to ponder. The seed sown is the Word of God. The Word of God like any other seed is dependent upon God to give it life. A farmer puts a grain of corn in the ground and depends upon God to give it life. I think Baptist need to learn this simple lesson. Jesus said in John 6:63 that "It is the spirit that quickeneth: the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life."

I have heard people say that you must win people to yourself in order that you might win them to the Lord. I believe if we will sow the seed in the manner God tells us in Psalms 126:6, God will take care of the giving of life to the hearts in which the seed falls. "He that goeth forth and weepeth bearing precious seed, shall

doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him."

### THE SEED

Mark 4:26 - Cast seed in the ground.

In Mark 4:16, the Word of God is declared to be the seed. As we have already said in John 6:63, the seed is life. In Hebrews 4:12, the Word of God is said to be quick or living. The Word of God is living. It is like Jesus Christ who lives, who is raised from the grave. Anytime you proclaim the Word of God you are sowing good seed which is capable of giving life to the hardest heart. Every Word of God is pure and living.

### IS POWERFUL

Hebrews 4:12 says the Word of God is powerful. It was by the Word of God that God spoke this world into existence. Psalms 33:6 says, "By the word of the Lord were the heavens made; and all the host of them by the breath of his mouth." There is no energy crisis when we preach the Word of God. Paul says in Romans 1:16 that the gospel is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth. God used the Word to cause a person to be born again. "Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever" (I Peter 1:23). The Word of God liveth. The Word of God must be preached before any man can be born again. It pleased God by the foolishness of preaching to save them that believe. (I Cor. 1:21).

### WORD IS INCORRUPTIBLE

Some feel that when the Word does not bring forth immediate results, the sower has failed. But remember that the Word of God is living. Also, that it is incorruptible and that it abideth forever. If the Word of God does not give life to the hearer, it will one day face that same man in the day of judgment. "He that rejecteth me and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him: the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48). So it is the responsibility of the sower to sow the seed. God will either give life to the hearer or if a man rejects the Word, he must give an account to God. Man is responsible to hear the Word of God. We are responsible to preach the gospel to every creature. Men are responsible to hear. And above all that, God is taking out a people for Himself according to the good pleasure of His own will.

### WORD IS EFFECTUAL

When we preach the Word, it will always be effectual. Baptist need to ponder Isaiah 55:11 carefully. God's Word .... "shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it." It will not return unto Him void.

### LIFE A MYSTERY

Just as life from any seed is a mystery, even so the new birth is a mystery. The only answer to both is God. God gives it life. God is sovereign and gives life to those that are His sheep. We must sow the seed. We lie down and sleep, but the Word of God is working in the hearts of the hearers, convicting them. Many times we witness to a person and we rest in peace, but the hearer cannot sleep as God does His work by the living Word. When God begins a good work with the Word, He will finish it. (Phil. 1:6).

### CONCLUSION

Our responsibility is to sow the seed. God will use it either to the saving of souls or the judgment of the lost. Either way, we have assumed our responsibility and the blood of men is off of our hands.

May God help pastors to encourage all of our church members to sow the seed. Not just from the pulpit but from every child of God. The reason for the energy shortage in Baptist churches is that many wells of living waters (every child of God is a well of living water) have been capped and churches are using only the pulpit. Go into all the world and preach the gospel.

By: Al Gormley



"OUR GOSPEL" meant but one thing to Paul, the setting forth of Jesus Christ in the midst of the people, and we have found the secret of evangelical power. Ought it not therefore to be the supreme question with the preacher, what themes can assuredly command the witness of the Holy Spirit, rather than what topics will enlist the attention of the people?" ("The Ministry of the Spirit.")



"They that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles." (Isa. 1:31).

The eagle that soars in the upper air does not worry itself as to how it is to cross rivers. Selected