

# GRACE GAZETTE

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*Wherefore lift up the hands which hang down, and the feeble knees. And make straight paths for your feet, lest that which is lame be turned out of the way; but let it rather be healed.*

*Hebrews 12:12-13*

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## OUR MEDIATOR

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

Paul describes the natural religious bent of men which coincides with their total rebellion against the True and Living GOD when he wrote these words to the Romans, *“That which may be known of God is manifest in them; for God hath shewed it unto them. For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead; so that they are without excuse: Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imaginations, and their foolish heart was darkened. --- And changed the glory of the uncorruptible God into an image made like to corruptible man, and to birds, and fourfooted beasts, and creeping things. Wherefore God also gave them up to uncleanness through the lusts of their own hearts, to dishonour their own bodies between themselves: Who changed the truth of God into a lie, and worshipped and served the creature more than the Creator, who is blessed for ever. (Rom 1:19-25)*

Most religiously oriented men will to some extent confess that they believe GOD created the world and all that is in it. It is a truth which actually cannot be denied, even though the *“fool hath said in his heart, there is no god.”* (Ps. 14:1) The wonders of “creation” are plainly displayed and it is the realm of complete foolishness to entertain the notion that the complexities and order of “the creation” are simply the result of random occurrences and arbitrary evolutionary processes without any design.

While on the one hand most confess their belief in DIVINE creation, their natural love of themselves, has moved them to exalt their supposed free-will as they *“glorified HIM not as GOD”*. While they do not wish to deny that there is a “god”, they entertain the notion that HIS power is somewhat limited and that HE is in great measure subservient to men, since it is quite common for them to declare that GOD must wait upon men to act in order for HIM to act. This is a damnable “juxtaposition” which puts the cart ahead of the horse. GOD does not wait upon men to act but rather is the FIRST CAUSE of all actions. Men can do nothing without HIM who does all things according to the good pleasure of HIS will. (see Isa.45:5-9; 46:9,10; Eph.1:5,9; Phil.2:13)

In their haste to have an “acceptable” god who does not “violate” their sacred “free will”, they go about to design one which suits their needs and acts according to their natural understanding of what an “acceptable god” should be. Thus, Paul says that they *“worshipped and served the creature more than the CREATOR.”* So, we see a multitude of these “designer gods” on display in the many varied religions around the world, all having one thing in common, which is that they have great control over whether or not “god” will do certain things. I am reminded of David’s declaration, *“But our God is in the heavens: he hath done whatsoever he hath pleased. Their idols are silver and gold, the work of men’s hands. They have mouths, but they speak not: eyes have they, but they see not: They have ears, but they hear not: noses have they, but they smell not: They have hands, but they handle not: feet have they, but they walk not: neither speak they through their throat. They that make them are like unto them; so is every one that trusteth in them.”* (Psa 115:3-8)

The necessity of a MEDIATOR between GOD and men is not necessary when men have a nice little “god” who is much like their faithful hound, at their beck and call and awaiting their decisions and activities, bound by their will and not his own. Yet when it is revealed unto a man that he is a guilty sinner who must stand in judgement before a HOLY and SOVEREIGN GOD who *“will not at all acquit*

*the wicked” (Nahum 1:3) and “will by no means clear the guilty” (Ex.34:7); then trembling takes the place of “knowledge” and fear replaces “confidence”. “Who shall not fear thee, O Lord, and glorify thy name? for thou only art holy: for all nations shall come and worship before thee; for thy judgments are made manifest.” (Rev 15:4)*

In such an hour as this even the most “religious” of men will put their hand upon their mouth and recognize that they have no means in themselves of even approaching GOD, (“*Who only hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.*” (1Tim 6:16)); let alone have any interaction with HIM. This is the place where Job was brought at the end of his trying ordeal. “*I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee. Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.*” (Job 42:5-6) The same as Daniel when he was given a vision of the LORD whose face was “*as the appearance of lightning, and his eyes as lamps of fire*” (Dan.10:6). “*I was left alone, and saw this great vision, and there remained no strength in me: for my comeliness was turned in me into corruption, and I retained no strength. Yet heard I the voice of his words: and when I heard the voice of his words, then was I in a deep sleep on my face, and my face toward the ground.*” (Dan 10:8-9)

When we are given eyes to behold, even a glimpse, of HIS glory as that one whom the writer of Hebrews describes as “*a CONSUMING FIRE*” (Heb.12:29), we are struck with awe and recognize that we cannot meet HIM face to face in our natural state. Nor do we have any grounds (in ourselves) upon which to stand before HIM in the day of judgement. “*It is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment.*” (Heb 9:27) Thus, can be seen the absolute necessity of a “MEDIATOR” between GOD and man, lest all men should be forever cast out from HIS presence into outer darkness, torment, and destruction, which all richly deserve, due to their innate rebellion against HIM.

A MEDIATOR is one who is a “reconciler, or a worthy representative”. HE is one who has the ability to speak for an offender before the OFFENDED. HE is an OFFICER of the court who has the power and ability to plead the case of those who have despised the court and disrespected the JUDGE.

JESUS CHRIST is that ONE MEDIATOR between GOD and man. There is no other. Even as HE told HIS disciples not many days before HIS death. “*I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me.*” (John 14:6) “*Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved.*” (Acts 4:12) The folly of many is in thinking that they have the “ability” to reason with GOD, as if they are speaking to ONE who has regard unto their accomplishments, faith, or partial obedience to HIS commands. Yet HE sees their “*righteousnesses*” as “*filthy rags*”, so upon what basis could they make their plea, even if they could enter HIS court. “*And if the righteous scarcely (i.e.; hardly, without basis) be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?*” (1Pet 4:18)

JESUS CHRIST is the MEDIATOR between GOD and man. The LORD has ever loved HIS people which were chosen in CHRIST from before the foundation of the world. (see Eph.1:3-6) HE has made them acceptable in JESUS CHRIST before they were ever born upon the Earth. Thus, the necessity of them having a MEDIATOR is not based upon some cosmic force that demands HE be angry with them for breaking HIS law. Rather, HE would magnify HIS grace in manifesting the demands of HIS justice to be satisfied. GOD is bound by nothing but HIS own purpose and will. HE may show mercy, but HE shall be JUST, and HE demanded the satisfaction of HIS own justice, that HE might magnify the glory of HIS grace in sending HIS only begotten SON to be an offering for the sins of those HE loved. “*Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus.*” (Rom 3:25-26)

JESUS CHRIST is both GOD and MAN. Thus, HE is able and suited to be the ONE MEDIATOR. HE has satisfied the demands of HIS own law as HE took on flesh and blood, paying sin’s price in HIS body on the tree and swallowing death by HIS resurrection. All of those who are “*in HIM*” through the FAITH that is in CHRIST shall inherit HIS Kingdom. Being GOD, HE has the power to bring about their salvation. Being MAN HE could bear their sin as HIS own and make HIS righteousness to be theirs. “*Therefore will I divide him a portion with the great, and he shall divide the spoil with the strong; because he hath poured out his soul unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors.*” (Isa 53:12) mam