

2:5 One God and Mediator  
Series: 1 Timothy  
Reading **1 Timothy 2:1-5** July 9<sup>th</sup> 2017

Last week we looked at the heart of God. God hates sin. He doesn't want to see us enslaved to sin or to die in our sin. As we saw in Ezekiel 33:11 He calls on people to repent and to turn to Him. He told Ezekiel to “<sup>11</sup> Say to them: As I live, says the Lord GOD, I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from his way and live. Turn, turn from your evil ways! For why should you die, O house of Israel?” This was the first of two reasons why we should pray for all men. The second reason is about the way of salvation. As Matthew 7:14 says, the way is narrow and few there are who find it. We should be praying that God helps them to see, to understand and guides them to this way. We must also set ourselves to live and acknowledge this truth or we can't be a help to anyone in finding salvation. It is interesting to me to realize that this is perhaps the biggest hurdle we are facing in the world today. It was the very point of controversy that Bernie Sanders had with Mr. Russell Vought at his confirmation hearing. He refused to vote to confirm Mr. Vought because Mr. Vought had expressed his belief that “Muslims do not simply have a deficient theology. They do not know God because they have rejected Jesus Christ his Son, and they stand condemned.” So today, let's start to look at this verse and try to understand it in all its beauty.

- Background – This is the battle ground of our day!
  - Tolerance
    - Old definition – had patience **with People** that we had disagreements or conflicts with.
      - We could engage in debate with them, challenge them, seek for agreement and to persuade them
    - New Definition – We are to have patience **with ideas** that we have disagreements or conflicts with.
      - We are not to just endure them, but acknowledge that they have as much validity as our own.
      - This is based on the post-modern belief that we can't know truth. No one has complete truth.
        - Yet this statement that you can't know truth, proclaims that you can't know if this statement itself is true or not!
        - Yet there is not tolerance for Christianity. For Islam that kills infidels, yes, but for Christians who are commanded to love their neighbors and tell them the truth, no.
    - Christianity is diametrically opposed to this. We are going in the opposite direction. It is something that we can't compromise on and it is the battle ground of our day. We will be tested on this!
      - Christianity is based on the belief that God has spoken and given us truth. We can know it. That is where we start from in all of life and evangelism. What God has said, should end all our debates.
      - **Hebrews 11:6** “But without faith *it is impossible to please Him*, for he who comes to God must believe that He is, and *that He is a rewarder of those who diligently seek Him.*”
      - **John 17:14-17** “<sup>14</sup> I have given them Your word; and the world has hated them because they are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>15</sup> I do not pray that You should take them out of the world, but that You should keep them from the evil one. <sup>16</sup> They are not of the world, just as I am not of the world. <sup>17</sup> Sanctify them by Your truth. Your word is truth.”
        - This is why the world hates Christians and not Islam. We are not of this world and our life is either a savor of life unto life or death unto death.
          - **2 Co 2:16** “To the one *we are* the aroma of death *leading* to death, and to the other the aroma of life *leading* to life. And who *is* sufficient for these things?”
    - So Paul starts by restating the central doctrine that there is only one God, not open to speculation, not tolerant of other ideas. Other ideas damn men to an eternity in Hell. Other ideas rob God of His glory.
      - **1 Timothy 2:5** “For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the Man Christ Jesus,*”
      - **Exodus 20:2-3** “<sup>2</sup> *I am* the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of bondage. <sup>3</sup> You shall have no other gods before Me.”

- **Deut. 8:19** “Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish.”
- **Jeremiah 25:6** “Do not go after other gods to serve them and worship them, and do not provoke Me to anger with the works of your hands; and I will not harm you.”
- **Isaiah 43:10** “You are My witnesses, says the LORD, And My servant whom I have chosen, That you may know and believe Me, And understand that I am He. Before Me there was no God formed, Nor shall there be after Me.”
- **Isaiah 44:8** “Do not fear, nor be afraid; Have I not told you from that time, and declared it? You are My witnesses. Is there a God besides Me? Indeed there is no other Rock; I know not one.”
- **Isaiah 45:21** “Tell and bring forth your case; Yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient time? Who has told it from that time? Have not I, the LORD? And there is no other God besides Me, A just God and a Savior; There is none besides Me.”
- **Isaiah 46:9** “Remember the former things of old, For I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and there is none like Me,”
- This is also a central doctrine in the New Testament, as we would expect.
  - **John 17:3** “And this is eternal life, that they may know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom You have sent.”
  - **1 Co 8:4-6** “<sup>4</sup> Therefore concerning the eating of things offered to idols, we know that an idol *is* nothing in the world, and that there is no other God but one. <sup>5</sup> For even if there are so-called gods, whether in heaven or on earth (as there are many gods and many lords), <sup>6</sup> yet for us there is one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we for Him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things, and through whom we live.”
- Now He builds on that. **1 Timothy 2:5** “<sup>5</sup> For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus,”
  - What is a mediator?
    - Google defines it as: “a person who attempts to make people involved in a conflict come to an agreement; a go-between.” synonyms: arbitrator, arbiter, negotiator, conciliator, peacemaker...
    - This takes on new meaning when we realize that our conflict is with God and that He is the one coming after us, pursuing us.
      - **Nahum 1:1-6** “The burden against Nineveh. The book of the vision of Nahum the Elkoshite. God is jealous, and the LORD avenges; The LORD avenges and is furious. The LORD will take vengeance on His adversaries, And He reserves *wrath* for His enemies; <sup>3</sup> The LORD is slow to anger and great in power, And will not at all acquit *the wicked*. The LORD has His way In the whirlwind and in the storm, And the clouds *are* the dust of His feet. <sup>4</sup> He rebukes the sea and makes it dry, And dries up all the rivers. Bashan and Carmel wither, And the flower of Lebanon wilts. <sup>5</sup> The mountains quake before Him, The hills melt, And the earth heaves at His presence, Yes, the world and all who dwell in it. <sup>6</sup> Who can stand before His indignation? And who can endure the fierceness of His anger? His fury is poured out like fire, And the rocks are thrown down by Him.”
        - Not Israel. Not a nation that knew God. But they were still accountable to Him.
        - **Daniel 4:1-3** “<sup>1</sup> Nebuchadnezzar the king, To all peoples, nations, and languages that dwell in all the earth: Peace be multiplied to you. <sup>2</sup> I thought it good to declare the signs and wonders that the Most High God has worked for me. <sup>3</sup> How great *are* His signs, And how mighty His wonders! His kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, And His dominion is from generation to generation.”
        - **Daniel 4:34-37** “<sup>34</sup> And at the end of the time I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my understanding returned to me; and I blessed the Most High and praised and honored Him who lives forever: For His dominion is an everlasting dominion, And His kingdom is

from generation to generation.<sup>35</sup> All the inhabitants of the earth are reputed as nothing; He does according to His will in the army of heaven And among the inhabitants of the earth. No one can restrain His hand Or say to Him, What have You done?<sup>36</sup> At the same time my reason returned to me, and for the glory of my kingdom, my honor and splendor returned to me. My counselors and nobles resorted to me, I was restored to my kingdom, and excellent majesty was added to me.<sup>37</sup> Now I, Nebuchadnezzar, praise and extol and honor the King of heaven, all of whose works are truth, and His ways justice. And those who walk in pride He is able to put down.”

- **Romans 5:10** “For if when we were enemies we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.”
- **Romans 8:7-8** “<sup>7</sup> Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is not subject to the law of God, nor indeed can be. <sup>8</sup> So then, those who are in the flesh cannot please God.”
- We are in desperate need of a mediator.
  - He is a just judge. He rules and has the right to rule as He is the creator.
  - It matters not if you believe, agree, or disagree. You will stand in front of this judge. You will want a mediator, someone to resolve the conflict between you and the judge because the judge is getting the case together against you.
- So what mediator will you choose? After all, don’t you have a choice? You do, believe it or not.
  - Many will choose false religions from Judaism to Islam, Hinduism, Buddhism, Mormonism, or some other religion.
    - **Acts 4:10-12** “<sup>10</sup> let it be known to you all, and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified, whom God raised from the dead, by Him this man stands here before you whole. <sup>11</sup> This is the stone which was rejected by you builders, which has become the chief cornerstone. <sup>12</sup> Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.”
    - Old covenant theology, even though it came from the right God, wouldn’t save them.
  - Many will choose their works. I’m not that bad.
    - **Romans 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short...” (10)None righteous... (12) None who does good.
    - So knowing God’s judgment already... Do you really want to choose works? That would take 100% obedience to the commands of God in thought word and deed from birth to death!
  - Others will try to choose love...
    - God is love. He won’t punish people because He loves them.
    - God is also truth. He has told us in love what awaits and made a way to escape it. Ignoring what He has said will not be an acceptable defense.
  - Others will try to suppress the knowledge of God. We evolved. We don’t believe in myths...
    - **Romans 1:18-22** “<sup>18</sup> For the wrath of God is revealed from heaven against all ungodliness and unrighteousness of men, who suppress the truth in unrighteousness, <sup>19</sup> because what may be known of God is manifest in them, for God has shown it to them. <sup>20</sup> For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, <sup>21</sup> because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened. <sup>22</sup> Professing to be wise, they became fools,”

(2Co 13:14)<sup>14</sup> The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all. Amen.