

Last week we started looking at one of the battle grounds of our day. Is there really, truly, only one way? Are you condemned if you fail to enter by the narrow gate that leads to life? **Matthew 7:13** says “*Enter by the narrow gate; for wide is the gate and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and there are many who go in by it.*” The broad gate goes to destruction--An eternal, continuing punishment from God for rejecting Him. So yes, the Bible teaches clearly that there is only one way. Paul is here in 1 Timothy continuing to talk about this way. He tells Timothy to first of all, pray! Why? God hates sin! He has made a way to escape and commands men to repent, so pray for them. He then reminds Timothy of this one central fact, there is only one God...period. Then He continues to talk about the Mediator. There is only one way (**John 14:6**), one Mediator between God and man, the man Christ Jesus. Today we are going to look at why He is the One Mediator that is accepted by God and what that mean for us.

1 Ti 2:5-7 ⁵ For *there is* one God and one Mediator between God and men, *the* Man Christ Jesus, ⁶ who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time, ⁷ for which I was appointed a preacher and an apostle-- I am speaking the truth in Christ *and* not lying-- a teacher of the Gentiles in faith and truth.”

- Why one way, only one mediator?
 - Warning! It isn't wrong to ask question, but we must be careful of our attitude!
 - God has spoken and that is the end of the discussion.
 - Yet He has also given us many verses that add to this so that we can know more about it.
- God is a good God.
 - God's character – **James 1:17** “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and comes down from the Father of lights...” So His paths are good paths. We don't have to fear that He is tyrant...
 - **Romans 11:32-36** ³² For God has committed them all to disobedience, that He might have mercy on all. ³³ Oh, the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable *are* His judgments and His ways past finding out! ³⁴ For who has known the mind of the LORD? Or who has become His counselor? ³⁵ Or who has first given to Him And it shall be repaid to him? ³⁶ For of Him and through Him and to Him *are* all things, to whom *be* glory forever. Amen.”
 - So the first reason, He committed them to disobedience and judgment so that He might be able to have mercy on all. If He left it up to us, we would fail. We are weak. We love ourselves. So He left us as sinners so that it would be up to Him to save us. (The Good News)
 - **Romans 4:16** “Therefore *it is* of faith that *it might be* according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed, not only to those who are of the law, but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham, who is the father of us all.”
 - So the second reason, He made it of faith so that it could be according to grace, so that the promise might be sure to all the seed.
 - God can't fail. God will succeed. He can't lie. So it is sure because it is guaranteed by Him.
- So that is a brief account of why God did it. Paul here refers to the how. How is Christ the only mediator?
 - We looked at this last week a bit.
 - **Psalms 7:11-13** ¹¹ God *is* a just judge, And God *is* angry *with the wicked* every day. ¹² If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. ¹³ He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.”
 - **Deut. 32:35** “Vengeance is Mine, and recompense; Their foot shall slip in *due* time; For the day of their calamity *is* at hand, And the things to come hasten upon them.”
 - **Romans 3:23** “for all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God,”

- What will you look to pay for your sins?
 - False hopes: good person, righteousness of the saints, Mary, church goer, tithing, God healed me, He answered a prayer at one time, I loved my wife / husband / kids... I suffered enough... He loves me....
 - **1 Timothy 2:6** gives us the true reason why Jesus Christ is the one mediator.
 - **1 Timothy 2:6** “who gave Himself a ransom for all, to be testified in due time,”
 - Ransom – Sold into slavery for bad debt. We are guilty before God.
 - the price or payment made for our redemption, as when it is said that the Son of man "gave his life a ransom for many" ([Matthew 20:28](#) ; Compare [Acts 20:28](#) ; [Romans 3:23](#) [Romans 3:24](#) ; [1 Corinthians 6:19](#) [1 Corinthians 6:20](#) ; [Galatians 3:13](#) ; [Galatians 4:4](#) [Galatians 4:5](#) : [Ephesians 1:7](#) ; [Colossians 1:14](#) ; [1 Timothy 2:6](#) ; [Titus 2:14](#) ; [1 Peter 1:18](#) [1 Peter 1:19](#)) . In all these passages the same idea is expressed). This word is derived from the Fr. rancon; Lat. redemptio. The debt is represented not as cancelled but as fully paid. The slave or captive is not liberated by a mere gratuitous favor, but a ransom price has been paid, in consideration of which he is set free. The original owner receives back his alienated and lost possession because he has bought it back "with a price." This price or ransom (Gr. lutron) is always said to be Christ, his blood, his death. He secures our redemption by the payment of a ransom. <http://www.biblestudytools.com/dictionary/ransom/>
 - In Adam, we were God's. But when Adam and Eve fell into sin, they were placed under sin's dominion. They would now die and give birth to sinful descendants.
 - **Romans 6:20-23** ²⁰ For when you were slaves of sin, you were free in regard to righteousness. ²¹ What fruit did you have then in the things of which you are now ashamed? For the end of those things is death. ²² But now having been set free from sin, and having become slaves of God, you have your fruit to holiness, and the end, everlasting life. ²³ For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord.”
 - So Christ came to redeem us, to buy us back!
 - **1 John 2:2** “And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”
 - Propitiation – God-ward term. Meaning of payment. He was the payment to God for our sins.
 - This is not applied to everyone specifically or all would be saved. It is offered to all, sufficient for all, but only applied to those who come in repentance to Christ for forgiveness of their sins.
 - **Hebrews 9:12-15** ¹² Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption. ¹³ For if the blood of bulls and goats and the ashes of a heifer, sprinkling the unclean, sanctifies for the purifying of the flesh, ¹⁴ how much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without spot to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God? ¹⁵ And for this reason He is the Mediator of the 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.”
 - Picture of the old covenant. The shadow of the sacrifice. OT Once a year, by blood they could obtain mercy.
 - God met with them, with the law under Him, the just judge, and a blood sacrifice before Him (which was a shadow of Christ), sitting on the Mercy Seat.
 - Now the fullness is given. Mercy, eternal redemption, once and for all.

This is Paul's commission: To preach this gospel to the Gentiles. It was given Him by God, the good news of God was given to the Gentiles. The way is open. Won't you come today?

2Co 13:14 ¹⁴ The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit *be* with you all. Amen.