

**TITLE: Christ Our Mediator**

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**Book 20**

# CHRIST OUR MEDIATOR

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## Preface

### Dominican Republic

My trip to the Dominican Republic was supposed to be a time for me to teach, but it turned out that God wanted to teach me. At the time, I was reading several books; one of them was by Dietrich Bonhoeffer and called “The Cost of Discipleship”. I read it many years ago, but it seemed that the Lord was prompting to throw it in my suitcase. It was at the beginning of my time in the Dominican that things began to change. I was to teach at first through the week, then I was to do a Friday night and all day Saturday training. But it ended up that I would be preaching in various communities throughout the ten days that I would be there.

The school in the Dominican Republic had been started by Dr. Chuck Nichols and Rev Ben Funk. The following year there would be a graduation service where over 80 students would receive their diploma, which meant they had completed the 12 courses of Project LAMBS International.

Because of the above events, the door opened where I could sit by the seashore and pray, read and reflect on what God was saying to me. As I thought and pondered, the word “Mediator” came up over and over again. So, I began to write. Out of that came this book, titled “Christ our Mediator”.

We pray that through these words you will begin to see Jesus Christ in a new way. And because of our new understanding, we will become bolder in sharing the Gospel of peace with others.

Rev. Dr. James Paul Humphries

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## Introduction

The title, “Jesus Christ Our Mediator” needs to be explained because each word is a title or name of who God is. This title is the foundation and footing to this whole booklet.

“The Christ”, is the Greek name for the Hebrew word, “Messiah”. In the Old Testament, the Jewish people were looking for a day when the Messiah would come to deliver His people. He would be the “anointed one,” the King of kings.

“The Jesus”, is the Greek name, for the Hebrew name Joshua. The name Jesus or Joshua means Saviour. Jesus would be the Saviour who would come to be a deliverer for the people of the world. Through His shed blood, he would set people free from bondage and sin.

“The Mediator”, is a name that describes to the lost world what the ministry of Jesus Christ would be to us. Some synonyms of this word could be advocate, go-between, diplomat, moderator, umpire, one who meets halfway, arbitrator, or bargain on behalf of another.

Christ, through His death and resurrection, became the advocate or peacemaker that is a link or connection between God and man. Because of man’s fallen sin nature, we needed a Mediator to stand in the gap for us.

Jesus Christ the Mediator is the bridge that spans over the gap or the gulf that has kept man and God apart from each other. Sin has separated us from God, but Christ made a way of escape. Christ was sent into the world by the Father to be that “mediator bridge” on our behalf. Bonhoeffer states, “Since the whole world was created through Him and unto Him (John 1:3; I Cor 8:6; Heb 1:2), He is the soul Mediator in the world”. (*Dietrich Bonhoeffer p.106, The Cost of Discipleship.*)

Our hope in writing this booklet is to see another side of the ministry that Christ has come and given to the people of this world. The key idea to the title of “Mediator,” is that Christ is a cover -

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like an umbrella – that protects us from the rain or hot sun. He is interceding for us on our behalf. As we pray we make Christ the focus and He then implements and sends forth His Spirit to do the work of God in our midst. Christ is our Mediator and all things must go through Him and line up to His will for our lives. We are to be obedient as disciples to His calling and direction for our lives.

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## Chapter One

### The Mediator as God

Paul teaches Timothy concerning this all-important truth of Christ Jesus being our “Chief and only Mediator”.

*“For there is one God, and one **Mediator** also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave Himself as a ransom for all, the testimony given at a proper time”.*

1 Timothy 2:5-6

Throughout the New Testament we are taught that Christ Jesus is God. We serve One God who functions or is representing to us as a Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Paul wants Timothy to know the oneness, unity and harmony of God. Christ’s function is to mediate from us to God and from God back to us.

Scripture points out this truth of oneness between Christ and the Father,

*“I and my Father are **one**”* John 10:30

*“... Holy Father, keep through Your name those whom you have given Me, that they may be **one** as We are.”* John 17:12

*“that they all may be **one**, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be **one** in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be **one** just as We are **one**: I in them and You and Me: that they may be made perfect in **one**, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.”* John 17:21-23

God desires relationship and as man and woman become one through marriage, we also through a personal relationship can become one with Christ Jesus. The Godhead is one within each other and we can through faith in Christ as our Mediator become one with God our Creator.

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Jesus is our “go between” and the way this position came about was by His willingness to give His life as a ransom, the Scripture says for all. The idea of ransom means, one who first of all gives, something given in response to a demand for the return of a captured person; payment for the release of someone; the act of freeing from captivity and or punishment. Some synonyms would be price, cost, to rescue, to save, to redeem, one who comes to the rescue, and to restore.

Scripture states it this way,

*“For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life a **ransom** for many.”* Mark 10:45

*“who gave Himself as a **ransom** for all, to be testified in due time,”* 1 Timothy 2:6

Jesus gave Himself as a ransom for us and the result of His willingness to lay down His life on the cross resulted in Christ becoming our Mediator. His life became a testimony of who the triune God is. We learn from the testimony of Christ which is given to us in the gospels. Here Christ is painted for us as a picture of one who is our Mediator. The Gospel bears this truth out. He is one with the Father, sent by the Father to redeem us from sin and bondage. When we come to Christ in payer from our heart, He then speaks to the Father in heaven on our behalf. As we ask, seek and knock, He opens ways for our needs and desires to be fulfilled. (Matthew 7:7)

The key is to have our spiritual eyes opened by God so that we may see clearly that Christ is the only One Mediator that is God. He stands up for us and Has paid the price for us. He is there to be our way to an eternal life that is both in Him and with Him in heaven.

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## Chapter Two

### One and Only Mediator

John chapter 1, verses 3-6 states, *“All things came into being through Him, and apart from Him nothing came into being that has come into being. In Him we have life, and life was the Light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not comprehend it”*.

For one to be a Mediator in our lives it requires that one puts their full trust in that person, to guide us and to do and know what is best for us. This Scripture actually defines these principles for us. That “through him” we are to put our faith and trust in, that all things come “through him” and not through anyone else. When we make Jesus Lord of our lives we then become the channel or vessel that He flows through to touch the world with.

Next we see the word “from”. Apart “from” Him there is no hope. Everything that we are and will be as a disciple of Christ comes “from” Jesus Christ. Everything we face comes through the will of the Father in heaven (Matt 6:10). We are told that from Him we live and move (Acts 17:28). Everything is somehow connected to Christ because He was there at the beginning when all things were created. By knowing this, we must give our lives totally to Him because He is the author and finisher of all things (Heb 12:2). We need to enter into a place of surrender and submit to His will for our lives.

As disciples, we are not to be people looking from the outside in. Through Christ’s shed blood, we are now in the very Holy of Holies, looking out to the world through the eyes of Christ. We are now in Christ (Eph 1:2). We are surrounded by His love and grace. We are covered by His righteousness which in turns allows us to stand before Him as a priest of our God. Paul teaches the Ephesians church, that in Him we have redemption through His blood (Ephesians 1:7). Paul goes on to state in chapter one that all things are **IN CHRIST** only;



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*to the saints who are ... faithful **in Christ** v2; who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places **in Christ** v3; He chose us **in Him** v4; He purposed **in Him** v9; **in him** also we have obtained an inheritance v11; you were sealed **in him** with the holy spirit of promise v13.*

There is so much more that could be said from this passage of Scripture, but the key is to see that we are **in Him** and that everything must flow out from that personal relationship that we have **in Him** as our Mediator. The change comes when we surrender our will to Him and become one with Him and live our life in and through Him. He is our counsellor, director and teacher, a light that guides us moment by moment - if we are willing to surrender to Him and become a child of God (Rom 8:12-17).

Jesus' purpose for coming to earth was to give to those that believe the gift of life. Only through Him can we have eternal life. Jesus stated to the disciples in John 14: 6 that He was the only way, truth and life. In fact, He states it very boldly, by using the Old Testament name for God by saying "I am" the way, truth and life. Or to put another way he is saying, I am the only way, I am the only truth and I am the only life that one should live. Everything for life here on earth must come through Christ and when we see this truth, then we will be able to see that all things are possible through Christ Jesus (Matthew 19:26). We just have to trust and obey as the hymnists said, "for there is no other way to be happy in Jesus". Our Mediators purpose is to give us life and give it more abundantly to all those who would receive Him (John 10:10).

Light has a revealing affect to it; it helps us to see what is ahead of us. Light destroys all darkness but it must first be allowed to shine forth. When light is shining upon a hill it can be seen for miles. Our Mediator Jesus Christ comes to be a light that will expose our weakness and struggles, but He also comes to fill us with light so that we can shine the truth of His gospel to a dark world.

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Paul states in 1 Corinthians 8:6, “*Yet for us there is but one God, the Father, from whom are all things and we exist for Him; one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things, and we exist through Him*”. The idea of oneness or togetherness is to give us a picture of unity and wholeness. When we invite Christ into our hearts He becomes one with us. Again, it is like a marriage where the two become married and in God’s eyes they become one with each other. Christ is the head of the church; He is the Lord of the body which we as disciples become part of. As our Mediator, He also becomes Lord over everything that affects our daily lives. We are in a lordship relationship with Him. He is our head and we become part of His body. He guides and teaches us and we commit to serving Him.

Hebrews 1:2 proclaims, “*In these last days He has spoken to us in His Son, who He appointed heir of all things, through whom also He made the Worlds.*” Because He mediates for us and joins us together with, Him we become joint heirs with the Son Jesus Christ. Paul tells us that we have been appointed or called to be spokespersons for Him. He Mediates on our behalf and we come under His leadership. We move from living our will to fulfilling His will here on earth.

He has given Himself to be the “go between one”, the one that stands between man and God, He is our negotiator who acts as a link between parties, intercessor; one who stands firm and speaks out on our behalf; the one who has given His life and paid the price of death so that He can bestow on us eternal life to all those who will believe and obey Him. He stands as our shield and strong tower between God our Creator and the destructor of our soul, Satan.

Bonhoeffer goes on to state, “Between father and son, husband and wife, the individual and the nation, stands Christ the Mediator . . . . We cannot establish direct contact outside ourselves except through His Word, and through our following of Him” (p. 108). Bonhoeffer continues: “Christ stands between us, and we can only get into touch with our neighbours through Him. That is

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why intercession is the most promising way to reach our neighbours, and corporate prayer, offered in the name of Christ, the purist form of fellowship” (p.110).

The Scripture states, “*Now a **Mediator** is not for one party only; whereas God is only one*” Gal 3:20. The Mediator is there to speak on behalf of both parties. To negotiate on behalf of both, so that the conflict which exists can be resolved, both parties can enter a place of peace. He is working with the lost world to bring them to a knowledge of Christ so that they can be reconciled to the Father in Heaven. For the disciple, He mediates also between us and the Father, but also through His Spirit He works with us to become ambassadors of Him on earth (2 Cor 5:20). We are to represent Him to a lost world.

In Galatians 3:19-29, Paul is trying to teach the church the importance of Christ being our Mediator. These Scriptures define to us what Christ the Mediator does for the disciple and for His church. It teaches that Christ as our Mediator does a number of specific things. As our Mediator, the promise of God comes through to us. God knew we needed someone to mediate on our behalf. Christ was and is the Mediator between the Old Testament law and the grace righteousness of the New Testament. He, as Mediator, showed how the law was not in opposition to the believers in Christ, but was the tutor (Gal 3:24) or schoolmaster that would show us a need for a Mediator, a Messiah that would lead us out of the bondage of sin.

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## Chapter Three

### **The Mediator as our Intercessor and Advocate**

Prayer is the line that joins us to Christ. Prayers simply means to commune or to communicate with another. As we enter into a personal relationship with Christ, we come where we can walk out each day moment by moment with and through Christ Jesus. He is our friend and as a friend we share our heart with Him and Him with us.

Christ through the Holy Spirit intercedes on our behalf before the Father (Rom 8:34). He takes up our cause before the Father. Because of His righteousness and shed blood, He speaks on behalf of us, but we must realize that He also speaks to us on behalf of the Father. Christ is our intercessor and this is why we must be in constant communication with Him, but we also need to listen carefully to what He has to say to us.

The Bible teaches a lot concerning prayer and these verses are key to understanding what it is to have Christ as our personal Mediator. The following are a few verses. They teach us what the purpose of prayer is. We should pray clothed in God's righteousness for He will hear us: Pro 15:29; It teaches us that we are to "pray and ask believing," Mark 11:23; we are to use the Lord's prayer as a template on how and what we should praying about, Luke 11:1; we are exhorted to be praying in the spirit, this is making the two become one with God, Jude 1:20; we also must devote ourselves together with others in prayer, Acts 1:4; finally in all that we do should be seasoned with prayer, Phil 4:6.

Bonhoeffer's book, titled "The High Cost of Discipleship" states this concerning prayer:

"The disciples are permitted to pray because Jesus tells them they may – and he knows the Father. He promises that God will hear them. That is to say, the disciples pray only because they are followers of Christ and have fellowship with him. Only those

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who, like them, adhere to Jesus have access to the Father through him. All Christian prayer is directed to God through a Mediator, and not even prayer affords direct access to the Father. Only through Jesus Christ can we find the Father in prayer. Christian prayer presupposes faith, that is, adherence to Christ. He is the one and only Mediator of our prayers” (p.180-182).

Jesus as our Mediator is One who speaks on our behalf before the Father, but as He speaks He then becomes our advocate. The word advocate means, a person who publicly supports or commends a particular cause or policy; a person who pleads a case on someone else’s behalf. It is a title that can be given in a court of law for a barrister.

The Scriptures point how Christ as our advocate speaks and ministers on our behalf before the Father and before others that we come into contact with each day. Job states, “Even now, behold, my witness is in heaven, and my advocate is on high” (Job 16:19 NASB). John states, “*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous; and He Himself is the propitiation (atoning sacrifice, added) for our sins; and not for ours only, but also for those of the whole world.*” (1 John 2:1-2 NASB)

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## Chapter Four

### The Mediator's New Covenant

The truth of the New Testament could be summed up in these few verses for the disciple of Christ. *“But you have come to Mount Zion and to the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem, and to the myriads of angels, the general assembly and church of the firstborn who are enrolled in heaven, and to God, the judge of all, and to the spirit of the righteous made perfect, And to Jesus the **Mediator** of a new covenant, and to the sprinkled blood, which speaks better than the blood of Able”* Heb 12:22-24.

The New Testament or New Covenant: how this is made possible?

First, it is because Christ has become the first born among many. He was sent by the Father to make a way for this lost world to come back into a personal fellowship with God. At the moment of His death and resurrection came a way for eternal life. Christ as our Mediator opened the door to the Father, once again through His shed blood. Through His actions we become children of God and joint heirs with Jesus (Romans 8:17). He was the first, but many others through faith would enter into eternal life through Him. Jesus told Nicodemus that one must be born again. We are not just to be born of the flesh, but we must be born again of the Spirit of God (John 3:1-17).

Christ did not come to destroy the Old Covenant but to fulfill it, to make a better and new covenant.

*“But now He has obtained a more excellent ministry, inasmuch as He is also **Mediator** of a better covenant, which was established on better promises”.* (Heb 8:6)

He came to make the old clear and to fulfill all its requirements. His purpose was also to show that the Scripture, both the Old and New Covenant, could be boiled down into two key things; that man was to love God with all his body, soul and spirit and to love his neighbour as himself (Mark 12:29-33).

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Christ as our Mediator became the bridge between the Old and New Testament. He came in the fullness of time to bring the way of redemption for all those who were lost.

What follows are some things He has done and is still going to do in the future.

## **Old Creation to a New Creation:**

The triune God created the earth in six days. It was unique and special in all ways but it was not long before the man and woman were disobedient and were put out of the Garden of Eden. Sin and corruption has come into all mankind and has continued to destroy both mankind and the earth ever since. The sinfulness of man birthed forth a world of death and destruction. For thousands of years the world has been decaying back to death, but Christ came at the perfect time to bring hope and life back to mankind. There was a need for one who was sinless to become a sacrifice to atone for the ways of the world.

## **Old Passover and New Passover:**

In the Old Testament, God prepared the people through Moses that there was a day coming that all first born children would die in Egypt. Pharaoh had spoken forth to Moses out of his own lips what would be the 10<sup>th</sup> plague that would come upon the land. But this would not be any ordinary type of plague because this is where God would institute amongst His people the Passover (Ex 12:1-28). God was very clear on His instruction to Moses. One, there would be the shedding of a pure lamb's blood that would be painted on to the door post. Secondly, they were to rid their house of all leaven and the bread they would be made was to be flat. At the meal pieces would be broken off and eaten. This supper would become a memorial so that people would remember what God had done for them.

Now, Jesus on the night of the Passover celebrated this service with His disciples, but gave this meal a much deeper meaning. He took the bread, broke it and told the disciples that this would

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represent His broken body. Then He took the cup and said this cup of wine would represent His shed blood that would be for the forgiveness of sins. Today we know it as the communion service. Christ has become our Passover Lamb and this is how he is able to mediate to God on our behalf.

The bread and the cup would be the foundation stones to a new covenant that Jesus was now giving to His disciples. Luke states, *“Likewise He also took the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which is shed for you”* (Luke 22:20). By the actions of Christ, a new covenant was being laid out before all people and those who personally committed to be followers of Christ would come under its covering.

## **Law - righteousness to Grace - Righteousness:**

Christ our Mediator is the Righteous One who is the perfect Law to Grace. Under the Old Testament, God gave to Moses a law and these laws were summed up into a list in what is known as the 10 commandments. But we are told by Paul that the law was not given to be our righteousness, but to be our school master pointing us to see that without the shedding of blood there would be no hope.

**Moses** (Deut 1:5) **Joshua** and the **Prophets** tell the people, *“it shall be as a sign to you on your hand and as a memorial between your eyes, that the LORD’S law may be in your mouth; with a strong hand the LORD has brought you out of Egypt”* (Ex 13:9). *“Cursed is the one who does not confirm all the words of this law by observing them. And all the people shall say, Amen* (Deut 27:26). *“Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.”* (Jos 1:7-8). *“Bind up the testimony, seal the*



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*law among my disciples” (Isa 8:16). “My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; because you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.”*  
Hos 4:6

**Jesus** tells the people in Matthew, *“Do not think that I came to destroy the Law or the Prophets. I did not come to destroy but to fulfil. For assuredly, I say to you, till heaven and earth pass away, one jot or one tittle will by no means pass from the law to all is fulfilled. Whoever therefore breaks one of the least of these commandments, and teaches men so, shall be called last in the kingdom of heaven; but whoever does and teaches them, he shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven. For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and the Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. (Matt 5:17-20 NKJB)*

**Paul** tells the Galatian church concerning the law, *“For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse; for it is written, cursed is everyone who does not continue in all things which are written in the book of the Law, to do them. But that no one is justified by the law in the sight of God is evident, for the just shall live by faith. ... Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree). ... Now a Mediator does not mediate for one only, but God is one. Is the law then against the promises of God? Certainly not! For if there had been a law given which could have given life, truly righteousness would have been by the law. But the Scriptures have confined all under sin, that the promises by faith in Jesus Christ might be given to those who believe. But before faith came, we kept under guard by the law, for the faith which would afterwards be revealed. Therefore, the law was our tutor to bring us to Christ, that we might be justified by faith. But after faith has come, we are no longer under a tutor.”* (Gal 3:10-11, 13, 20-25 NKJB). *“But when the fullness of time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, to redeem those who were under the law, that we might*

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receive the adoption as sons. And because you are sons, God has sent forth the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying out, *Abba Father!*” (Gal 4:4-5NKJB). **Paul** tells the Roman church, “*now we know that whatever the law says, it says to those who are under the law, that every mouth may be stopped, and all the world may become guilty before God. Therefore, by the deeds of the law no flesh will be justified in his sight, for by the law is the knowledge of sin. ... Therefore, we conclude that a man is justified by faith apart of the law. ... Do we then make void the law through faith? Certainly not! On the contrary, we established the law*” (Rom 3:19-20, 28, 31). “*Therefore, as through one man’s offense judgment came to all men, resulting in condemnation, even so through one man’s righteous act the free gift came to all men, resulting in justification of life. For as by one man’s disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one man’s obedience many will be made righteous. Moreover, the law entered that the offense might abound. But whereas sin abounds, grace abounds much more, so that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through righteousness to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord* (Rom 5:18-21). “*For sin shall not have dominion over you, for you are not under law but under grace*” (Rom 6:14). “*For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. For they are being ignorant of God’s righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes*” (Rom 10:4).

**James** tells the churches, “*but he who looks into the perfect law of liberty and continues in it, and is not a forgetful hearer but a doer of the work, this one will be blessed in what he does*” (James 1:25). “*For whoever shall keep the whole law, and yet stumble in one point, he is guilty of all. For he who said, did not commit adultery, also said, do not murder. Now if you do not commit adultery, but you do murder, you have become a transgressor of the law. So speak and so do as those who will be judged by the law of liberty*” (Jam 2:10-12).

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We can see that Christ is our Mediator because of His shed blood and that through faith we can stand before the Father clothed in Christ's righteousness. It is not because of what we have done or completed some type of religious work or by keeping the whole law, but because of the grace, mercy and righteousness of Christ Jesus. He stands before the Father on our behalf being our Mediator making it possible that we can be liberated from the curse of the law and set free in the grace and righteousness of Jesus Christ.

## **Old Temple to a New Temple**

When people began to worship God they often built an altar where they could offer up a blood sacrifice. It was not till the time of Moses that God instructed the people to build a tabernacle where once a year a high priest could enter carrying blood that would be sprinkled over the mercy seat in the holy of holies. The people of Israel knew that the Glory and presence of God was in the tabernacle. (Ex 6:10; 24:16; 40:34)

Up into the later years, during the time of King David, the tabernacle was often moved from place to place. But it wasn't until David's son Solomon became king that God gave the plans to Solomon to build a magnificent temple (1 Kin chapter 5 & 6). Again, only once a year could the high priest bring an offering on behalf of the people into the holy of holies.

By the time that Jesus came to this earth, where he was born as the son of man, we find that his parents take him to the temple in Jerusalem to be dedicated as was the custom and law of the Jewish people. This temple was the third one that had been built and in 70 A.D. this temple was destroyed and none other has been built since.

There is one important truth that needs to be spoken of at this point. Not only did Christ come to shed his blood so that we may have forgiveness of sin, but he also is our high Priest who would mediate on behalf of the people. The change that took place at his death was very special because we are told that the curtain of

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the temple was rent from the top to the bottom (Matt 27:51), making it possible for anyone to enter the Holy of Holies through the blood of Christ and offer themselves as a living sacrifice to Jesus Christ, who is our Mediator before our heavenly Father.

There is another unique thing that took place at Christ's death. His disciples who had given their lives in faith to Christ Jesus would now become temple of Christ (1 Cor 6:19), where the Spirit of God would come and dwell personally in us (Ep 2:21-22). Not only would Christ become our Mediator, but He would place within us a part of Himself by grafting us into Him as a vine, (John 15:1-11) so that the power of the Holy Spirit would make it possible for us to become more like Him and to be His ambassadors here on earth (2 Cor 5:20).

## **Lamb Servant to Lamb King:**

If we would take time to research the story of our Mediator Jesus Christ, we would soon learn that His first coming to earth was to be as a servant, to humble Himself, to be persecuted and to be put to death as a servant sinner. Many do not recognize that this servant was also going to be our Mediator or to put it in the Jewish terms, our Messiah. Isaiah tells us a little bit more concerning this coming servant, *"He was oppressed and He was afflicted, yet He opened not His mouth; He was led as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before it shearer is silent, so He opened not His mouth ... Yet it pleased the LORD to bruise Him; He has put Him to grief. When You make His soul an offering for sin, He shall see His seed, He shall prolong His days, and the pleasure of the LORD shall prosper in His hand. He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. But his knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities"* (Isa 53:7 & 11 NKJB).

Since the death of Christ on the cross, the world has continued for many thousands of years to what it has become this present day. Many feel we are in the last days and that soon Jesus Christ will return both for his church and to set up his Kingdom. But the thing that we must see above everything else is that Jesus

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is now coming back not only as our Mediator who stands before the Father on our behalf, but now who comes back to the earth as King of Kings and Lord of Lords. The book of Revelation gives us some verses that state this fact. The Scriptures tells us, *“These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is Lord of lords and King of kings: and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful”* (Rev 17:14). *“And he has on his rule and on his thigh a name written: KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS* (Rev 19:16).

We need to realize that there is a day coming where our Mediator will stand before all mankind as King over all things both in the heavens and on the earth, and that every knee will bow and ever person will confess that He is King (Isa 45:22-23; Phil 2:10-11).

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## Chapter Five

### The Mediator's Gospel Story

Jesus is the Gospel which means “Good News”. He is the Mediator and only author of the Good News. There has been non-other before or non-other since. He is the only true Gospel and that truth makes Him the only Mediator that is able to stand up and intercede on our behalf.

The life of Jesus Christ has been recorded for us in the Gospels of the Bible. Matthew, Mark, Luke and John give testimony to this unique gift that was sent. These four books of the New Testament (known as the “Good News”) paints a unique picture of who Jesus Christ is, His nature and the purpose of His life.

Amazing grace is extended as God desires to take away the reliance on self-righteousness and put into man's heart God's righteousness. To give us a way, truth and life that is full and unique, with purpose and value.

The Gospel of Christ tells of ten events that would change the direction of all mankind showing to us that He has truly lived here on earth to become our one and only Mediator.

#### ***1. The Mediator's Prophetic Announcement***

The Good News begins in the Old Testament with God, who gave to Israel and to the world a prophetic Word, concerning the coming of a Messiah, meaning an “Anointed One”. (Isa 40:8-11). One who would give His life as a ransom for others (Isa 35:10; Mark 10:45). The apostle of John tells us that Jesus would not only come, but would be the Living Word and Light for all who would call upon His name. (John 1:1-3, 14; 3:16).

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## 2. *The Mediator's Birth*

The Good News begins with God sending His Son to be conceived by a virgin woman through the Holy Spirit. He was born in Bethlehem and was heralded to the shepherds through a host of angels. Later, wise men came and presented Him gifts. As this was happening, the enemy was seeking to destroy Him.

## 3. *The Mediator's Life*

For the first thirty years of His life, Jesus lived as a carpenter's son in Galilee. Once the fullness of time was reached, He left home and was baptized by John the Baptist. This began His earthly ministry of proclaiming the Kingdom of God and illustrating how we as a sinful people could come into a personal relationship with God. He challenged the religious ways of His day and proclaimed that He was the light of the world. He told how the Father had a plan of redemption and grace, pouring out His life as a drink offering.

The people desired to make Him a king because of all the miracles He performed. Christ did not allow this to happen. His life modelled one of a servant. Our lives need to be one of service and commitment to Him as Lord and Saviour.

## 4. *The Mediator's Physical Death*

The enemy constantly sought to destroy Christ. It seemed that he won when Jesus was beaten and hung on a cruel cross, like a criminal. Jesus shed His blood and gave His last breath into the hands of the Father in heaven. For three days He remained in the depths of the earth where the key of life and death (removed in the Garden of Eden) was taken back from Satan.

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## 5. *The Mediator's Resurrection*

If Christ remained in the grave he would have been no different than any other man. On the third day, death could not hold Him and God's resurrection power filled His body and He rose from death, victorious of its hold. Jesus broke the chains of sin and death once and for all and the bridge was restored between God and mankind.

Relationship was no longer external but became internal. After His resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and many others to bear testimony of the things that had changed.

## 6. *The Mediator's Ascension*

Not only was Christ resurrected, He ascended to prepare a place for us and intercede to the Father on our behalf in heaven. Relationship was being restored on all levels by Christ Jesus.

## 7. *The Mediator's Promise*

Next came the fulfillment of a promise that Christ made to the disciples on the day of Pentecost – sending the Holy Spirit. God's very presence was now coming into the heart of every believer. The power that God granted to overcome the grip and strongholds of this sinful world would now be in man's heart. The Holy Spirit would become our teacher and comforter, never leaving or forsaking us. We could have life abundantly because of His presence in our lives.

## 8. *The Mediator's Body the Church*

On the Day of Pentecost, Christ sent forth the power of the Holy Spirit and at that moment the church was birthed. Christ not only wanted us to have a personal relationship with Him but also desired for us to build relationships with other believers. The church was to be His body, the organism that He would be head of



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and flow through as a witness to a lost world. It would be a light to all who would desire to give their lives to Christ; a place of refuge and safety for the pilgrim that was travelling through.

Jesus would empower His body in unity and harmony, equipping them for various types of ministries and service. The life blood of the body would be the Holy Spirit, evidenced by the fruit of the Spirit displayed through the church as a body and people as individuals.

The church was to be a place of rest and peace, a place to be restored, built up, trained and equipped for service. We do not have to feel alone or abandoned, as we are now part of a worldwide family. We have been adopted into the family of God, having brothers and sisters who can help and care for us as we walk with Christ.

## **9.     *The Mediator's Second Coming***

Jesus told the disciples on the day of His ascension that just as they saw Him go, He would come back again to personally receive His own. We were now His children and joint heirs with Him. He is our King and we are His ambassadors proclaiming the grace, love and mercy of our God to all who would receive it.

## **10.    *The Mediator's Kingdom***

Jesus tells the disciples in John chapter 14 not to worry because He was now going to prepare a place for us (John14:1-3). What a beautiful day it will be, when we enter the gates into heaven, streets paved with gold and everywhere one looks, mansion prepared for our arrival. We will also for the first time meet Jesus face to face who will then welcome us personally into His Eternal Kingdom.

What Christ did for us was truly “Good News” for all mankind. It displayed a heart relationship of love and grace to all

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who would receive it as a gift (no strings attached). Out of the Gospels came two doors for us to journey through – One of restoration and the other of fellowship. The Good News is that we have an eternal Mediator whose name is Jesus Christ.

Woven throughout this gospel story is the purpose of Jesus coming here to earth. The gospel is a testimony and the teaching of the truth of reconciliation and to make through faith His ambassadors. Paul tells this truth to the Corinthian church; *“Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and have given us the ministry of reconciliation, that is, that God was in Christ Jesus reconciling the world to Himself, not imputing their trespasses to them, and has committed to us the word of reconciliation. Now then, we are ambassadors for Christ, as though God were pleading through us: we implore you on Christ’s behalf, be reconciled to God. For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become righteousness of God in Him”* (2 Corinthians 5:18-21).

Christ has become our **Mediator** so that we could become His ambassadors of reconciliation. We are filled with the Holy Spirit and powered so that we could represent His Kingdom here on earth. We become ministers of reconciliation being a Mediator for Christ - a vessel of God’s hope, peace and love to others.

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## Chapter Six

### The Mediators Cross and Ministry

The cross was the dividing line between the old and new ways of living as a follower of Jesus Christ. The cross became the crossroad of change and relationship for mankind. Christ's death on the cross opened the door where Christ became our Mediator. Even the thieves on the cross had a choice to make. One thief that asked for forgiveness was told by Christ that today you will be with me in paradise (Luke 23:32-43). The Mediator was going to make a way where He would become a bridge for all those that would choose so they could cross over into eternal life.

Our Mediator tells us that he has made us alive in Him. Paul states this truth to the Colossian church, *“In Him you were also circumcised with the circumcision made without hands, by putting off the body of the sins of the flesh, by the circumcision of Christ, buried with Him in baptism, in which you also were raised with Him through faith in the working of God, who raised Him from the dead. And you, being dead in your trespasses and the uncircumcised and of your flesh, He has made alive together with Him, having forgiven you all trespasses, having wiped out the handwriting of requirements that was against us, which was contrary to us. And He has taken it out of the way, having nailed it to the cross”* (Col 2:11-14).

We are also encouraged or exhorted to pick up the cross and carry it for Christ. Jesus states, *“then Jesus said to His disciples, if anyone desires to come after Me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow Me”* (Matt 16:24; Mark 8:34; Luke 9:23). And He was saying to them all, how one must deny themselves. To put it another way, they must die to their will and live for Christ by taking up their cross and be willing to follow Him wherever he leads us (Mark 10:21).

Paul tells the Corinthian church the importance of what the cross of Christ means. He states, *“For Christ did not send me to baptize, but to preach the gospel, not with wisdom of words, lest*

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*the Cross of Christ should be made of no effect. For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God” (1 Cor 1:17-18 NJJB).*

For the Word of the Cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God (1 Cor 1:18). The whole idea of one having to die on the cross may seem strange to many people. But this had to be done to fulfill Scriptures, that a perfect Lamb would have to shed his blood for all mankind. For by one man we were brought into a life of sin and death but it was going to be by one man giving His life (Rom 6:18) for all that would make it possible for anyone who would believe to have eternal life with Christ Jesus in heaven.

The cross has become the symbol that draws all who are willing come to Christ our Mediator. The Cross is the banner or flag for many to look to reminding us that He is our King and Lord, but too other it represented foolishness and death (1Cor 1:17-18).

Our Mediator helps us to lay our sin and pain at the foot of the cross. He has made a way for us. The cross became the door to the Holy of Holies. The veil was rent into two so that we could come into the presence of God Almighty Himself (Matt 27:51). We could now become a priest ourselves (1 Pet 2:9) because of the work that Christ did on the cross. We are not to remain struck down, but He would be the one who would lift us up because of the covering of Christ’s blood. We have died to self and now live only for Christ Jesus.

If there’s anything today that man and woman seems to seek more than anything else, it is to have peace within their heart. So often we are trying to find peace through materialism but real peace can only come through our Mediator Jesus Christ. Paul tells the Colossian church, *“and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross” (Col 1:20).*

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## Chapter Seven

### The Mediator as the “I am”

One of the titles that God and Jesus use to describe their relationship to man is the name I am. Because Christ is our Mediator and the go between ourselves and God it becomes important for the disciple of Christ to see how he fulfils this relationship in our lives. God as I am was always mediating on behalf of his people. When Moses was called by God to go back into the land, God spoke through Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh about letting the people go. But because of the hardness of Pharaoh’s heart it took nine plagues to bring him to see the true and living God of Israel.

Moses was the ambassador and Mediator for God’s people. Moses become an example of how God would send His Son as the great “I am” to Mediate on our behalf. There are two verses that show how God relates to Moses as the great “I AM”. *“Then Moses said to God, indeed, when I come to the children of Israel and say to them, the God of your fathers have sent me to you, and they say to me, what is His name? What shall I say to them? And God said to Moses, **“I AM WHO I AM”**. And He said, thus you shall say to the children of Israel, **I AM** has sent me to you”* (Ex 3:13-14).

Then later when Moses had journeyed back to Egypt and had faced the people, he told them that he had been challenged by the Lord God Almighty. He told them what God has said and this was the name He told him to tell them. God was about to bring deliverance to His people and to set them free from the bondages of Egypt. *“Then the Lord said to Moses, now you shall see what I will do to Pharaoh. For with a strong hand he will let them go, and with a strong hand he will deliver them out of his land. And God spoke to Moses and said to him, **I am** the Lord. ... Therefore, say to the children of Israel: **I am** the LORD; I will bring you out from under the burden of the Egyptians, I will rescue you from their bondage, I will redeem you with an outstretched arm and with great judgments. I will take you as my people, and I will be your*

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*God. Then you shall know that **I am** the Lord your God who brings you out from under the burden of the Egyptians. And I will bring you into the land which I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and I will give it to you as a heritage: **I am the LORD**” (Ex 6:1-2, 6).*

Later in time God prophesied through Isaiah to the people. *“Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel, and his Redeemer, the LORD of host: **I am** the First and **I am** the Last; besides Me there is no God” (Isa 44:6).* God is making a bold statement to all those who would hear that he was the only one, the true Creator of everything both in the past and in the future which is to come.

Christ as Mediator was sent by the Father to deliver the people who were in bondage and being held by another kingdom. From the time of Jacob to the time where Moses marched out the people towards the Promised Land was over 400 years. The people had suffered greatly and were enslaved to a Pharaoh who knew nothing about the history of Joseph.

Now when Jesus began His earthly ministry because He was God, He also used the name “I am”. This caused much friction between Himself and the religious rulers of His time, because it meant that He was making Himself equal with God. These religious leaders knew from history that only God himself could use the name I am but now they were being faced by a man who claimed to be born of a virgin, who stated that he was the son of God, the great I am. The Gospels proclaimed Jesus as the I am in that he had come to this earth to redeem the lost. Here are just a few verses that Jesus spoke concerning who He is. *“He trusted in God; let Him deliver Him now if He will have Him; for He is said, **I am** the son of God” (Matt 27:43).* Mark states, *“Jesus said, **I am**. And you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of the Power, and coming with the clouds of heaven”*

John tells us another statement that Jesus proclaimed about Himself. *“Jesus said to them, most assuredly, I say to you, before Abraham was, **I am**” (John 8:58).* Jesus was there before the

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creation of the world, he was there before Abraham, Isaac Jacob, and Moses. These patriarchs knew in their hearts that there was only one God who has no beginning and no end.

The Gospel of John has recorded these I am statements or names. When Jesus used these titles concerning Himself, it infuriated the Pharisees and the Sadducees because they knew from the book of Exodus that this “I am” title was the name of their one and only God, Jehovah. By making these declarations He was truly stating to the whole world that He was the one and only God and that there was none other but Him.

## **I am the Bread of Life:**

*Jesus said to them, “I am the **bread** of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst”. ... “I am the bread of life”. John 6:35 & 48*

The word bread means

**bread:** a food made of flour or meal from grain with added liquid, shortening and a leavening agent. *Synonyms:* loaf, biscuit, cake, roll, bun.

There are two basic staples that one needs to survive physically on earth. One is water and the other is bread. Jesus wanted the disciples to see that He came to a lost world as bread for all mankind, and that we need to see Him and understand Him as the true “bread of life”.

Man has always known from day one the importance of having daily bread. Without it life cannot be sustained. But the Scripture adds another dimension to the importance of bread. We see it used by God to feed His people. Each day except for the Sabbath, God rained down manna from heaven while the Israelites were in the wilderness. Then when the tabernacle was built, they had the “table of showbread”, and in later years the bread became part of sacred worship in the temple. As we move into the New

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Testament, Christ also taught about bread to the disciples when it came to their prayer life. He taught them to say, “give us this day our daily bread”. Jesus was also the one that took the picture of bread and elevated it into a spiritual realm. Each day mankind also needs to have spiritual bread if he hopes to survive spiritually. After Jesus performed the miracle of feeding the five thousand, the next day He taught the disciples the importance of not looking to Him only for physical bread but also for spiritual bread, which is of greater importance for life. He clearly stated that He was the “bread of heaven”. The religious leaders got very angry when Jesus declared; “I am the Bread of Life”.

Finally, at the end of His earthly ministry, in the upper room, Jesus spoke to the twelve of how His life was now going to be broken for them. He was now going to be the showbread. The bread that the Father in heaven sent was going to be physically broken for them. This would be the ultimate price of love that He could give to them, and because of this one act they could have eternal life. He also commanded them to continue on with this fellowship time of communion until He returned for them. He is to be our spiritual bread and sustain us in our everyday walk and life.

Our physical body requires bread and we often desire it with great joy and pleasure. But one needs to see that God the Father has also created within us a spiritual hunger, that can only be met by Christ. He has come as the bread of life from heaven for our spiritual need. Just as if we do not eat regularly we will die, the same is true with our spiritual man. We must partake of the bread of heaven daily if we hope to have the strength to overcome the things of this world. We need to receive this wonderful bread from heaven but we also must give it out to others. People are hungry and thirsty worldwide, and this need requires us to do something about it through the strength and power of Christ.



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## I am the Light of the World:

... I am the **Light** of the world; he who follows me will not walk in the darkness, but will have the **Light** of life. John 8:12

... I am the **Light** of the world John 9:5

The word **Light** means: something that makes vision possible; a heavenly body; candle; electric lamp. *Synonyms:* brightness, shining, gleam, brilliance, radiance, enlightenment, understanding, comprehension, insight, awareness, knowledge.

Jesus came to a dark world to shed light so that we could see the way clearly for our lives. Jesus is the light that reveals all things for us. As He proclaimed, He truly is the Light of the world.

Just as the people of Israel needed to be guided by God both day and night through the wilderness, we also need to be guided through this dark world. The more corrupt the world becomes, the harder it is to see the truth. God is light and He is there to shine a clear pathway for us. But time seems to darken our eyesight and scales begin to cover over our eyes so we can only see things dimly as in a poorly lit room.

We are called to reflect the light of Christ to a lost world. When Christ comes into our hearts He does not want us to keep this light for ourselves or to hide it under a bushel basket, but He wants us to climb up to the top of the mountain so that all may see. Our little light can make a great difference if we will just let it shine forth for Christ.

Darkness cannot dispel darkness but light can repel any darkness. Darkness can produce fear and anxiety whereas light can produce faith and freedom. We need light so we can see what is in front of us so that we will not stumble. Light is life: light causes growth and nurtures the seed and the plant so that it will in season produce fruit.

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A lighthouse is very important to sea travelers and their ships. The same is true when it comes to our journey through life. We need people who will shine for Christ so that we can see and find our way through this world. We are also warned there is a day coming to the earth when it will fall into a time of great spiritual darkness.

I need to evaluate how I look at and see things. Are my eyes seeing things through a veil of darkness or am I looking at things through the eyes of Christ? We need to walk in the Light so we do not stumble. Christ's light gives us boldness to stand strong as a testimony of who Christ is. We must be a reflection of Christ so that others can also be drawn to Christ.

## **I am the Gate:**

*So Jesus said to them, "Truly, truly, I say to you, I am the **door** of the sheep."* John 10:7

*"I am the **door**; if anyone enters through Me, he will be saved, and will go in and out and find pasture."* John 10:9

There are two words we should define. The first is, **gate**: opening for passage in an enclosed wall, fence or barrier; a means of entrance. *Synonyms*: barrier, doorway, entrance, exit, opening, portal, entryway. The second is the word **door**: a moveable piece of firm material; means of access. *Synonyms*: entrance, exit, opening portal, entry.

We are confronted by all kinds of gates and doors each day. Doors can keep things out of sight and they can keep people or things from entering in. Christ wanted to picture for the people of His time, and also for us today, that He was the only door into the kingdom of heaven.

To be able to go almost anywhere you must pass through various types of doors. Doors protect and keep us warm, but doors

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also hinder us and keep us in or out. People are always trying to break in through other ways like thieves and robbers.

Jesus talked about doorways that were broad and led to destruction and doorways that were narrow that led to life and freedom. He pictured Himself as the door to the sheepfold. Jesus is the shepherd for the sheep and the door to the sheepfold will keep the enemies out. The doorway was also a place of inspection and healing, a place where the sheep would personally come into contact with the shepherd each day. And after all the sheep were in and cared for, the shepherd would lay across the doorway as the door. The door was to keep the sheep from wandering and to protect them from the wild animals.

Again Jesus was taking an earthly picture and giving it a heavenly meaning. In heaven there is only one door to get in and that is through Christ Jesus. Heaven is not a place you can sneak into. Jesus is the doorway that leads to eternal life. Jesus proclaimed to all the religious leaders that, "I am the door". There is no other way.

We also are like a door. We have the ability to be open or closed. We can either be a blockage and hindrance to people or a place of safety and refuge. Christ set us an example and He is still calling us to let Him come into every area of our lives. Do not close out the work of the Holy Spirit but open all doors so as to be cleaned and healed and delivered.

## **I am the Good Shepherd:**

*I am the good **shepherd**; the good **shepherd** lays down His life for the sheep.* John 10:11

*I am the good **shepherd**, and I know My own and My own know Me.* John 10:14

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The word **shepherd** means: a man employed in leading, feeding and guarding sheep; one charged with the religious care and guidance of others. *Synonyms*: herdsman, herder, sheepman.

The Bible teaches us from cover to cover how God is a shepherd to His sheep. In the Old Testament He was the shepherd to the Israelites but, in the fullness of time He came to earth to be a real flesh and blood shepherd to whoever would call upon His name. The triune God was now showing us His true nature. The job of the shepherd was the least of all jobs. It mostly fell on the youngest of the family, like David, for example. It paid little but carried great responsibilities. It was important to protect oneself and the sheep from all kinds of challenges and enemies. Jesus spoke of Himself as the Shepherd of our lives.

The role of a shepherd is not an easy life. It seems sheep are the most vulnerable and helpless animals of all. They are skittish and fearful. They need a lot of attention. The Scriptures tell us that the people of the world are like sheep without a shepherd, wandering aimlessly and open to all kinds challenges. We are in need of a true shepherd.

There is a relationship that grows between the shepherd and the sheep. He gets to know them and they begin to know his voice. He calls them by name and most often they come. A true shepherd is willing to lay down his life for the sheep. We are warned that there are other kinds of shepherds, called hirelings, who work just for money, and when trouble arises they are nowhere to be found. The true shepherd cares for the sheep in every detail. He watches over them, anoints them with oil, makes sure that they have proper food and water, keeps away the enemies and provides shelter for them to sleep. When one is missing he knows of it and goes out to look for that lost one because he has great love and concern for them.

The shepherd had three tools for his trade. The rod was like a club that was used to protect the sheep, and the staff was used to

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guide and rescue the sheep. He also had a sling for fighting enemies of the sheep, but it could also be used to help herd and move the sheep.

The shepherd would lead the sheep, going before them. He would choose the ground where they would graze and get the place ready where they would sleep at night. Jesus, as our shepherd, came to give us life and to protect us from our enemies. Jesus freely laid down His life for us as sheep. We are worth the cost.

Some of us are called to be under-shepherds as leaders whether it is just in our own family or somewhere bigger like a small house group, but we all have a responsibility to help the sheep that are around us. We need to be hearing their voices and cries so that we can help where needed. We should lead in such a way that others can follow. Paul told the church, “follow me as I follow Christ.” As disciples we all need to come to the place of being willing to lay down our lives for others.

## **I am the Resurrection and the Life:**

*“... I am the **resurrection** and the **life**; he who believes in Me will **live** even if he dies, and everyone who **lives** and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe this?”* John 11:25-26

There are three words we need to define. First, **resurrect**: raise from the dead, restore to life, breathe new life into. *Synonyms*: revive, restore, regenerate, revitalize, stimulate, re-establish. Second is, **life**: the course of an existence; a period from birth to death. *Synonyms*: existence, being, living, creation, energy, spirit, fire, destiny, providence. Third is, **death**: the act of dying; termination of life; extinction. *Synonyms*: demise, end, passing, loss of life, eternal rest, destruction.

Christ wanted to show to all mankind that death and life are in the hands of God. Jesus is the Lord of all life and He has the resurrection power to overcome the sting of death. Even we who

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have eternal life do experience death, but only physical death. Christ desires to give us eternal life.

The disciples needed to understand that life and death were in the hands of Jesus Christ. This lesson was taught to them from the life and death of Lazarus. It seems that at each step Jesus made concerning Lazarus, the disciples challenged His actions. What Jesus was trying to do was to get the disciples to truly understand and believe in who He was and is.

Mary and Martha also responded to Jesus in two different ways. One ran out to see Him and the other stayed home. Eventually they both confessed their faith in Him. They believed that He could heal. Even the religious people there felt the same way. But Jesus stretched their faith more by showing them that He had the power over life and death.

The time came to remove the stone that was holding Lazarus in the tomb. After the stone was rolled away, Jesus called Lazarus out, and as he struggled to come out because he was bound in grave clothes, He commanded the disciples to go over and loosen him from them.

This would also prepare the disciples for what was going to happen to Christ in the future with His own death. He was going to show them His power once and for all as he proclaimed, "I am the resurrection and the Life". Christ Himself resurrected from death. Even though man crucified and killed His body, He was able to arise again because of the power of God that filled His life.

The reason that this teaching is so important to disciples is because it has to do with our understanding of life and death from the perspective of God. Eventually we will all die physically, but what happens to our spiritual man will be determined by our actions here on earth. There is a real heaven and hell that are places of final, eternal destination. We must begin to experience the resurrection power and eternal life right now, here on earth.

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## I am the Way, Truth and the Life.

*Jesus said, "I am the way, the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me". John 14:6*

There are three key words that need to be defined. The first is **way**: a thoroughfare used or designed for traveling, of going from place to place; a method of attaining or accomplishing something. *Synonyms*: method, process, procedure, technique, system, plan, strategy, means, approach, habit, custom, conduct, behavior, style, character. The second is the word **truth**: the quality or state of being faithful; the real state of affairs; conformity or agreement with fact or reality. *Synonyms*: sincerity, honesty, accuracy, correctness, validity, authenticity, fact, principle. The third word is, **life**: the course of an existence; a period from birth to death. *Synonyms*: existence, being, living, energy.

People are always looking for direction and this was no different when it came to the disciples of Christ. They wanted to know clearly which way they were going. What truth should they believe in? Where was life for them going to end? These questions are no different today, and then, as now, Jesus provides our way, our truth to live by, and gives us the life eternal.

Jesus wanted to teach the disciples that He was the only way to the Father. He is the foundation stone and Rock of all knowledge and truth about God. He is the road map that leads us to the right way, He is the truth that we can trust and He is the only one that offers us eternal life if we will just believe in Him. The key is that we must commit our ways and lives totally over to His Lordship.

Mankind is searching for all kinds of truth and for ways to have a happy life. We want to be free from the bondages of this world, but often we are looking in all the wrong places. Earth's answers cannot produce spiritual freedom and life. There is nothing we can do of ourselves to personally attain them. But

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Christ has come to set things straight. Eternal life was not going to be by our works but it would be because of His work on the cross, which would open the door for us to enter into a new way of living.

The Bible is our road map and direction for life. It is our roots and heritage. Jesus is the truth, the lifeblood for living. He is the source of all strength and power. He is the head that gives direction and life to the church. Jesus also sends the Holy Spirit to give us life, to teach us Divine truth and to walk with us as we travel along the way.

The way will not be easy and it will be costly and full of all kinds of challenges, but He will walk with us. He is the God of grace which He is willing to pour out on us if we will just receive. His desire is to give us life more abundantly, to set us free from the captivity of this world.

Each day is a new opportunity for you to travel through. It is a gift from God for you. You will have to decide which way you will go. Then as you start out you will be bombarded by all kinds of voices claiming that they are speaking the truth. You can stake your life on Jesus as the real truth about God and as the only real way to God – our life in all fullness.

## **I am the True Vine:**

*“I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.”* John 15:1

*“Abide in Me and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me. **I am the vine**, you are the branches; he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit, for apart from Me you can do nothing.”* John 15:4 & 5

There are six words that we need to define. First, **true**: steady, firm, dependable in allegiance or devotion to a loved one, friend or



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leader, group or cause; in accordance with fact or reality. *Synonyms:* correct, accurate, verifiable, faithful, literal, proper, legitimate, authorized, heartfelt, devoted, steadfast, reliable, dependable. Secondly, ***vine:*** grape, any climbing or trailing woody-stemmed plant, sometimes bearing fruit, as coiled about a support. Thirdly, ***sap:*** fluid that carries nourishment; active strength of the body. *Synonyms:* life blood, life source, vigor, vitality. Fourthly, ***grafting:*** to insert a shoot from one plant into another so that they join and grow together, the point of union. *Synonyms:* implanting, splicing, affixing, inserting, joining. Fifthly, ***abide:*** bear, endure, dwell, remain, last. *Synonyms:* to remain constant, continuous, durable enduring, eternal, everlasting, fast, firm, permanent, persistent, steadfast, surviving, unending. Finally, ***relationship:*** a connection by way of relation; a state of affairs existing between those having relations or dealings. *Synonyms:* connection, link, correlation, bond, kinship.

We are called to live a moment-by-moment lifestyle that will model and reflect Jesus Christ to a lost world. The only way that this is possible is for us to be grafted into the true vine of Christ. We must have a personal relationship with Christ our Creator. We need to become one with Him and His body the church.

The picture of Christ as the true vine was given out of His desire to have a personal relationship with His disciples. This relationship is to bring man together with the vinedresser who is the Father, with Christ who is the Vine, and with the Holy Spirit who is the life source flowing through us all. Without being part of Christ we cannot produce anything.

Abiding as a branch is critical to a fruitful journey here on earth. We are taken out from our old way of life and are grafted into the side of Christ to become a new creation in Him. The branches will need to be pruned once in a while to keep fruit coming out, but when a branch does not produce it is then removed and burned. Fruit is what comes out of a living and active branch.

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We also are given historical roots because when we become part of Christ's vine we also become part of His heritage taking us back to the root of Jesse. I am no longer just an individual but I am now part of a unique people called out for service by Christ. I have become joint heirs with Christ. What makes everything work is a heart of love. We are to abide in Christ's love which allows us to be overcomers in this world because nothing can stand up to or stop the love Christ.

This grafting-in also makes us part of a family; we are joined together with many other branches into what we know best as the church. Together we begin to mature and grow, to work in harmony and unity with other disciples of Christ. We have all been by love grafted into Christ.

Finally, if we keep this relationship flourishing, we can ask anything of the Father and it will be done for us. This happens because we are in relationship with Christ. We will also have the mind of Christ. The goal of our walk with Christ is that we can glorify the Father.

Personal relationship with Christ is what brings love, grace and peace to the disciple's heart. It all starts by being grafted into the True Vine. More than just being part of a vine, we also produce fruit that will bring glory to God. We are to produce fruit that will last. We must be known by our fruit. This is what makes a true disciple. We need to ask ourselves each day what we are producing for Christ because of our abiding relationship with Him.

Then we come to the book of Revelation which is known as the last book of the Bible and here again the apostle John, through vision states a powerful truth concerning Jesus Christ. *"I am the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, says the Lord, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty"* (Rev 1:8). Then again John tells us, *"And when I saw Him, I fell at His feet as dead. But He laid His right hand on me, saying to me, do not be afraid; I am the First and the Last. I am He who lives and was*

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*dead, and behold, I am alive forever more. Amen. And I have the keys of Hades and of death” (Rev 1:17-18).*

As you can see, this “I am” name surfaces time after time throughout the Bible. It is important for us to see that the great I am of the Bible who has no beginning nor end is the One who stands before the Father as our Mediator speaking on behalf of us concerning our struggles and needs. One needs to see that whatever our need may be here on earth, Jesus is the great I am who can mediate on our behalf no matter what we find ourselves struggling with and facing in our lives.

The question could be asked, is Christ truly our Mediator and is He the great I am of our lives, the One who is the beginning and the end of everything? Do we understand that Christ is mediating always for us before the Father? Do we see he truly functions as a door, as light, as bread, as the resurrection, as the way truth and life? If so, then as His disciples we need to remember that we can call upon Him as our Mediator to be all these descriptive things for us before the Father and as the great I am here on earth.

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## Chapter Eight

### The Mediator is Head of the Church

The Scriptures give us a picture of a body that would represent Christ church here on earth. Christ Mediates as the head of the church, His bride. Christ is a go-between or bridge between the church and the heavenly Father. He is the head and we are the body, coming together to make up a complete body unique and functional. This body is to be full of love and grace, which He gives forth as an example to a lost world. Because Christ is our head and Mediator, He speaks on our behalf to the heavenly Father. As Mediator, He also knows the will of the Father so that as head of the body, He can give direction to the overall body itself. This is made possible because of what He did on the cross for us at Calvary. Peter writes this, *“who Himself bore our sins in His body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness - by whose stripes you were healed. For you were like sheep going astray, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.”* (1 Pet 2:24-25)

One of the most important truths that we as disciples need to understand is that the church is made up of two parts. Christ is the head and we are the body, but because it is two parts, He becomes our Mediator on behalf of the church and on behalf of us individually to our heavenly Father. Now let us first look at the Scriptures, that will provide more insight on how Christ is the only head of His universal church.

The apostle Paul speaks of this to the Corinthian, Ephesian and Colossian churches. These churches needed to understand that they were part of a bigger body and that they should be working in ministry under the headship of Jesus Christ who Mediated on their behalf.

To the Corinthians Paul says, *“but I want you to know that the head of every man is Christ, the head of woman is man, and the head of Christ is God.”* (1 Cor 11:3) Often this Scripture is taken to mean all kinds of things and a variety of teaching has come forth

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from this one verse, but what needs to be focused on is how leadership works within the local church. Paul is stating that over man Christ is to be the head and then over every woman, man was to give leadership to, not that he was so much superior but because he was to be under the direct headship of Christ. Paul also wanted them to see that not only man was to be under Christ and the woman under the direction of man, but that Christ Himself was under the headship of God. The picture that we need to see here is how divine leadership works. Christ is under the headship of God the Father, as disciples we are under they headship of Christ who mediates on our behalf before the Father. But this leadership continues to show us that a woman should come under the headship of the man and we know the children should come under the headship of the parents. We know that in the body all people are equal, but just like in any organization there are lines of authority and people are put into various positions as head over others, so that the body itself, or the business or the company may bear fruit and produce some type of profit.

To the Ephesian church Paul said, *“And He put all things under His feet, and gave Him to be head over all things to the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills all in all.”* (EPH 1:22-23) Later, Paul said, *“but, speaking the truth in love, that you may grow up in all things into Him who is the head – Christ - from whom the whole body, joined and knitted together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body that edifying of itself in love.”* (Eph 4:14-16) One more time Paul tells the church, *“for the husband is the head of the wife, as also Christ is the head of the church; and He is the Saviour of the body. Therefore, just as a church is subject to Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands, love your wives, just as Christ also loved the church and gave Himself for her, that He might sanctify and cleanse her with the washing of the water by the word, that He might present her to himself a glorious church, not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing, but that she should be holy and without blemish. So husbands ought to love their own*

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*wives as their own bodies; he who loves his wife loves himself. For no one ever hated his own flesh, but nourishes and cherishes it, just as the Lord does the church. We are members of his body, of his flesh and of his bones. ... This is a great mystery, but I speak concerning Christ and the church.” (Eph 5:23-27, 32)*

Before we get a big head thinking we have the right to rule over our wives, this is not what Scripture says. What Paul is trying to teach men is that God will give us a unique position of leadership with our wives, but it is based on the foundation, based on our willingness to give up our life and to die for her. We need to see that the teaching here is not directly just talking about men and women relationships, or leadership principles alone, it’s trying to teach us about our relationship that we have to the body, the church whose head is Jesus Christ. He gave of Himself and died for us on the cross so that He could be our Mediator, our spokesperson on behalf of us, but we still have to choose whether we will submit to Him and die to ourselves and live according to His will.

Again, to the Colossian church Paul states, *“For by Him all things were created that are in heaven and that are on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or dominions or principalities or powers. All things were created through Him and for Him. And He is before all things, and in Him all things consist. And He is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the firstborn from the dead, that in all things He may have the pre-eminence.” (Col 1:16-18 NKJB)* Even though we see Jesus pictured for us as the Son of the heavenly Father, we can see how He is part and has been part of the triune God, before all creation and before the church was ever established. He is the head and Mediator over all things both in the heavens and on the earth.

Paul wanted to make sure that the church understood that Christ is the head of all churches and that all power and strength, knowledge and wisdom concerning all things must come through Him, because He mediates on behalf of us as a people, speaking both to the Father and speaking to us as individual disciples. Each

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day our goal should be, to look to Him as our Head and Mediator who will guide and direct us as we endeavor to live our lives for Him here on earth. Remember, Paul is speaking these truths to the various individual churches, so that they may understand how authority works and how they are connected together under the headship of Jesus Christ who is our Divine Mediator.

Now that we see that Christ is the pre-eminence of everything both in heaven and earth and over the church which He birthed forth, we need to take some time to look at how Scripture teaches us concerning the purpose and actions that the church is to carry out while representing Jesus Christ here on earth.

Again we have a variety of Scriptures that give us pieces of the bigger picture concerning the body of Christ. Paul tells the Roman and the Corinthian church, that they are to present their bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to our Lord Jesus Christ. *“I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.”* (Rom 12:1) Paul is begging the church to understand that they receive this gift of eternal life, not because of what they have done, but because of the grace and mercies of God. Paul is begging the church to present their bodies as a living sacrifice which is part of how God calls us to His service. It is a free choice that we can choose to do or not to do.

Again Paul writes, *“do you not know that your bodies are members of Christ? So I then take the members of Christ and make them members of a harlot? Certainly not!”* ... *“But he who is joined to the Lord is one spirit with him.”* ... *“Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you whom you have from God, and you are not? For you were bought at a price; therefore, glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.”* (1 Cor 6:15, 17, 19-20) Through faith in Christ we become members of Christ’s body, but this Scripture goes even deeper than this, because we are joining ourselves together with Him as one, and one Spirit. We need to see and understand that we

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are also a temple for the Holy Spirit to dwell in and that we as a temple have been bought with a great price and because of that we are challenged to glorify God both in our body and spirit. We need to see that all things that Christ has done and continues to do is there for a purpose and that He has a goal, and that goal is to redeem us from sin and eternal destruction and to make us one with Him by the shedding of His blood on the cross. This action is what made Him our Mediator, who stands before the Father on our behalf, interceding for us concerning our needs.

Again, Paul tells the Corinthian church concerning our membership in Christ body, *“And if one member suffers, all the members suffer with it; or if one member is honoured, all the members rejoice with it. Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”* (1 Cor 12:26-27) This verse is found in the section where Paul teaches on gifts of the Spirit and on the “Gifts of Leadership” that the Spirit gives to the local church which is His body. Christ mediates out to us certain gifts and abilities so that as an “under Mediator” we can minister both to the church that we are part of and to take those gifts which are seasoned with the fruit of the Spirit to a lost world. But the key is to remember that we are still part of one body, this is what Paul was trying to teach the Ephesian church, *“there is one body and one Spirit, just as you are called in one hope of your calling;”* (Eph 4:4). Just like there is unity and harmony in the Godhead, our Mediator desires that we too have unity and harmony, realizing that we are to be working together as one. Having in front of us a Divine purpose and goal that God desires to empower us and fill us, to the place that we may be able to complete His task and will for our lives here on earth.

Another important thought is that even though we may be individuals we are part of a community, using our gifts and talents for the betterment of the whole group. Paul tells the Roman Church, *“for as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ and individually members one of another. ... Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.”* (Rom



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12:4-5, 27) We are unique in who we are in Christ Jesus. We as individuals are uniquely different, but these unique differences are what makes the body of Christ so strong. We may have different outward features and have different talents, but as we become one in Christ, He then takes and weaves all these differences into a tapestry that brings honour and glory to His name.

By having Christ as our Mediator and having been grafted into His vine, becoming part of His body, there are some other special and unique things that take place as we become joined with Him. The first is that we can come before the Father and ask Him to fill us daily with His Spirit (Eph 5:18). Secondly He pours into our heart and our lives the fruit of the Spirit, which then begins changing us from the inside out. Touching our hearts, realigning our thinking and turning our actions into steps of service and commitment. (Gal 5:22) Thirdly, we see Christ mediating out to us different gifts. Gifts that He gave us so that we may be effective in His body the church. He gives us a variety of gifts that He knows we will need to be able to fulfill His will here on earth (1 Cor 12 &14). Paul tells the Roman Church what our attitude should be concerning the gifts that Christ mediated out to us, *“for as we have many members in one body, but all members do not have the same function, so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and individually members of one another. Having then gifts differing according to the grace that is given to us, let us use them.”* (Rom 12:4-6a)

What we need to see is how Jesus mediates as our head, throughout His church and into our lives. Yes, we do have a personal relationship with Him as our Mediator through faith, but we also need to remind ourselves daily that we are connected to other disciples around us each day. His church is not a building, but as a group of people in various areas who are interconnected through our Mediator Jesus Christ. He knows each one of our hearts, He has gifted us and empowered us for service for Him and one to another. A body that does not work together will be handicapped and will not be able to function as a soldier of Jesus Christ. We are Christ’s vessels and are called upon to be a temple

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of His Spirit here on earth to walk both as a disciple of Christ and as part of a body where He as our Mediator is the head.

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## Chapter Nine

### The Mediator as Peacemaker

The rules of the Mediator is to try to bring peace between two or more peoples, groups or nation. Because of our modern technology we can find out about problems that are going on between peoples not only in our own cities but in our country and other countries around the world. It seems like in the last days it is very difficult to find countries that are not going through some type of affliction or trouble. It seems that in their last days there truly are many wars and rumours of wars taking place around the world.

It's interesting to know that what people are fighting for in general is to have peace in their lives. In Canada, we are known as peacemakers. We go out and put ourselves as an Army between two conflicting groups with the hope that over time they will be able to negotiate some type of peace between themselves. The reason why there is such a need for a Mediator is because often people are selfish and only want what they desire and do not seem to be concerned about collateral damage or what it does to the innocent.

Our world is at war not only in the physical realm but in the spiritual realm. The ruler of this world is trying to destroy and conquer the Creator of the universe. Because the sin nature of mankind causes us to be selfish, that selfishness is what builds a wall between people groups. We see throughout the history of the Old Testament all around the land of Israel were countries fighting both within themselves and with each other. This is why today that not only do we need a physical Mediator to bring peace to this world but we also need a spiritual Mediator who can negotiate and bring about peace within the spirit realm.

If one was to read the Scriptures, they would quickly discern that Satan's purpose is to overthrow the kingdom of heaven. In the book of Revelation, it tells us that in the last days he is going to attempt to bring peace to the world and that for 3 ½

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years it may seem that he almost accomplishes it. But it is during this time where he secretly sets up the building blocks to become what is called the Antichrist or the beast. This Antichrist or beast will go to war and try to destroy the people of Israel.

Christ came to this earth over 2000 years ago to offer Himself as a sacrifice. He then became and still is the Mediator for all those who would believe. His goal was to bring peace to one's heart, and to show that He cares for this world. There was not only a physical battle where people tried to put Him to death, but also many spiritual battles where the religious rulers of that day opposed Him and tried to kill Him spiritually. It is no different today. The attacks on the Church of Jesus Christ and the disciples of Christ are happening like never before. Christians are being martyred all around the world by the thousands not because of anything they have done but just because of who they identify themselves with.

Isaiah an Old Testament prophet, prophesied that one day one would come who would be known as the Prince of peace. He states, *“for unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given; and the government will be upon His shoulders. And His name will be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of His government and peace there will be no end, upon the throne of David and over His kingdom, to order it and establish it with judgment and justice for that time forward, even for ever.”* (Isa 9:6-7) These are just some of the names that our mighty God will be called, but in many ways one name stands above all other names, He will be known as the Prince of Peace. (Isa 9:6) He brings with Him something that no one else has never been able to do and that is to bring the gift of peace to a world that is decaying and being destroyed from within.

God the Father sent His only Son to bring us peace, but it was going to come at a great cost to the Father because it meant that there would be a time where the Father would have to turn His back towards His Son and let Him experience all the pain and agony of this sinful world. It came to the place that the created

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would put to death the Creator. But it is because of what Christ did on the cross that Paul tells the Roman Churches' that we were able to enter into a new relationship with God our Creator. Paul states, *"Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand and rejoice in the hope of the glory of God."* (Rom 5:1-2)

Again because of what Jesus did on the cross of Calvary we can now have access that only the Father could give, that by faith we could experience peace. Paul tells us again that in Christ Jesus is our peace. *"For He himself is our **peace**, who has made both one, and has broken down the middle wall of separation, having abolished in His flesh the entity, that is, the law of the commandments contained in ordinances, so as to create in Himself one new man from the two, thus making **peace**, and that He might reconcile them both to God in one body through the cross, thereby putting to death the enmity. And He came and preached **peace** to you who were afar off and to those who were near. For through Him we both have access by one Spirit to the Father."* (Eph 2:14-18) Because of sin there has always been a dividing wall between mankind and God, but there was another dividing wall that has been there for thousands of years which was a division between the Jews and the Gentiles. Only through Christ Jesus can these walls be destroyed. The enemy always wants to bring division and death, to bring everyone into some type of bondage, but Christ has come to set the captive free.

Now because of what we have received from Christ, we now, as His disciples, can begin to go forth and proclaim the gospel of peace to all nations. We become His ambassadors representing His kingdom and going everywhere we can to tell others about the gospel of peace that they too can have through Jesus Christ.

Even through one of the pieces of the armour of God there is peace. It tells us, *"and having shod your feet with the*

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*preparation of the gospel of peace.*” (Eph 6:15) The disciple needs to note who he is in Christ, who he represents to the people of this world. We are commanded by the great commission to go out into this world. We know that it is going to be a battleground and this is why we need to put on the full armour of God but the goal is that wherever we may go, wherever the soles of our feet touch, we may bring to that place the gospel of peace.

When we go out as disciples and bring the gospel of peace to some it sets them free. To others it becomes a stumbling block. To others after they can not understand how His truth and the life would surpass all understanding. Philippians 4:7 says, *“and the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.”* Christ is the true foundation of peace; it can come no other way but only through Christ. People have tried through drugs, materialism, sexuality and various other kinds of religion hoping that they may find peace for their soul. The problem is that they will not open up their heart to Jesus Christ. They need to let Him pour into their lives and show them that He is the only one that can give real peace.

The true reason why Jesus was able to bring peace to mankind was because of his willingness to become a Lamb that would be sacrificed. Through the shedding of His blood, the remission of sins would be paid. The Scriptures tells us that we need to believe in our hearts and confess with our mouths the Lord Jesus Christ. And as we do that that, peace can come through the blood of Christ and will be ours for all eternity. Paul tells the Colossian church, *“For it pleased the father that in him all the fullness should dwell, and by him to reconcile all things to himself, by him, whether things on earth or things in heaven, having made peace through the blood of his cross.”* (Col 1:19-20)

We must ask ourselves what is it that we are trying to do to get this kind of peace in our own lives. We must ask, are we willing to die to ourselves and give our lives to Jesus Christ? Are we willing to trust and believe? And if we trust and believe, will

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we allow His peace that we been seeking throughout so much of our lives to flood our hearts and bring a new calmness and awareness of His love and grace? (John 3:16)

Finally, like Paul exhorting the Colossian church, I encourage you with this verse: “*And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to which also you were called in one body; and be thankful.*” (Col 3:15) Remember Christ is our true Mediator of peace here on earth.

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## Chapter Ten

### **The Mediator as our Wise Builder.**

Jesus our Mediator is a lot like a contractor/ architect. He sees the bigger picture. He has the blue prints for the house and knows all those who need to be called to build this structure. Each member has a specific task to complete and when the fullness of time comes, it is a home that is ready for full occupancy.

Christ is our builder and He mediates like a contractor on our behalf so that the will of the Father will be made perfect in our homes. The Scripture tells us that we are Christ's temple or building (1 Cor 3:16). He is using people, things and events that will mould us into His image. We are told in Genesis that we were created in the image God (Gen 1:26), but sin tarnished and corrupted that image and now Christ has come as our Mediator to restore us back to being a pure child of God, created and made in His image.

Jesus challenged his listeners to be a wise builder and not a foolish builder. We are given a free choice and it is up to us who we will be. The wise builder prepares a good foundation. He takes time to hear and do what is right and to do what is acceptable to our Lord. He practices what is right and true. He puts the construction project into the hands of the Mediator / contractor for help and direction and as we surrender our life into the hands of Christ we then become a new creation.

Matthew tells of a parable that Christ spoke to His listeners. *“Therefore who hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who builds his house on the rock: and the rains descended, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall for it was founded on the rock. But everyone who hears these sayings of Mine, and does not do them will be like a foolish man who builds his house on the sand: and the rains descended, the floods came, the winds blew and beat on the house; and it fell and great was its fall. (Matt 7:24-27)*



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Christ is our master builder. He came into this world to show us how things should be built and done, His life is an example to us. Christ wants to build our lives into a temple that will house the presence of His Holy Spirit and empower us for service here on earth, but the key is that we must build upon the Rock of Christ.

He also warns in this parable that there are foolish builders out there who do not heed teaching or follow the examples and testimonies of the Word of God. We might call them false prophets or antichrist, wolves in sheep's clothing. We are told that these builders are ones who build their houses upon the sand and do not realize that when the winds and waves come, these foolish builders will lose everything.

Our Mediator also described Himself as our potter and He takes that which is just clay and molds us into His image. He moistens, works the clay to remove the impurities so that after it has been fired we can be an acceptable vessel for His glory. All things take time to build into perfection.

God told Ananias to go get Saul. Luke writes, *“the Lord said to him, go, for he is a chosen vessel of mine to bear my name before the Gentiles, kings, and the children of Israel. For I will show him how many things he must suffer for my namesake.”* (Acts 9:15-16) We are not promised that as our Mediator begins to make us into a new vessel for His service that it will be easy. We are told that Paul would become an ambassador to the Gentiles, two Kings and even to the children of Israel, but that these opportunities would come with a price, there would be times of suffering and sorrow. Even Saul's name was going to undergo change for he would become known as Paul, who had been taught by great teachers and learned from the best. He was given the name Paul, which meant in Hebrew, “little one”. It is important to see from Paul's testimony that even though life was difficult, God used him powerfully as a man. He was given a mission by God, not only to plant churches, but through the power of the Holy Spirit give to us

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Scripture's that are as living today as they were the day they were written.

Paul tells the Corinthian church what the disciples of the church may face and what he himself had personally gone through, but he wanted to exhort and remind them that they have “the Christ of heaven” mediating on behalf of them. The Scripture states, *“but we have this treasure in earthen vessels, that the excellence of the power may be of God and not of us. We are hard-pressed on every side, yet not crushed; we are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not forsaken; struck down, but not destroyed - always carrying about in the body the dying of the Lord Jesus, that the life of Jesus also may manifested in our body.”* (2 Cor 4:7-10) We need to remember that as a vessel of Christ's, He has placed within us a special treasure, God Himself is in our bodies and if we will allow Him to mediate and empower, we can be over comers to all that the world may try to destroy us with. We not only carry within us the death of our Lord Jesus Christ, but we also have within us the manifestation of His life. We are vessels that can be full of the living water, vessels that can be offered to the Lord as a drink offering. Vessels that can bring the living waters to others.

Our Mediator is also a refiner of silver and gold. Listen to what the prophet Malachi says: *“... For He is like a refiner's fire and like a launderers' soap. He will set as a refiner and purifier of silver; He will purify the sons of Levi, and purge them as gold and silver, that they may offer to the Lord and offering in righteousness.”* (Mal 3:2-3) This is an amazing picture that we get from our Lord, on how He will refine us and purify us like the sons of Levi who were priests at the Temple. He is doing this work in our lives so that we can become an offering unto the Lord and for the Lord, concerning righteousness.

The goal of Christ our Mediator is to build us into something amazing so that when people look at us they will see only the work of the Creator, Jesus Christ.

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One final thought, in Luke, Jesus ask the question, “*but why do you call me Lord, Lord, and do not do the things which I say?*” (Luke 6:46) Talk is cheap and our lives need action that bears fruit that shows we truly are disciples of Christ Jesus. Then Jesus goes on and gives to us the parable of the wise builder (Luke 6:47-49). It would show them and give to them; one, to decide who they were like, and secondly, it would bring them to a place of deciding who they were going to follow in their lives. If we want Christ to be our Mediator, then we must let Him build our lives as He sees fit as Lord of all things. He is fashioning in our hearts and through our lives what needs to take place so that we as disciples may follow Him wherever He leads us.

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## Chapter Eleven

### **The Mediator of Justice, Righteousness, Salvation and Truth**

The reason why Jesus Christ can be our Mediator of Justice and of righteousness clothed in the truth of the living Word is because of what He did. He walked a pathway here on earth that would fulfil all the law. He is the only just one who through the shedding of his blood has and will continue to be the Just One.

Because of what He has done on the cross, we then too can be made righteous before Him. He calls us to put on the breastplate of righteousness for we truly are involved in spiritual warfare. We are able to stand not because of our righteousness but because of His righteousness. We are able to enter the holy of holies through the veil that He rent in two and come to the mercy seat of God because of His shed and because of His righteousness.

Jesus stated to the people in John 14:6, that he was the only way, truth and life and that no man can come in to the Father but through him. Jesus is the door but He is also the bridge that we may crossover if we are willing to die to ourselves and live for Him because of being our Lord and Saviour.

Christ mediates on our behalf through His righteousness and truth and this is why we are all able to stand before Him on the Day of judgment when He opens the book concerning our life. While we lived here on earth He mediated beyond our behalf and shows forth His justice, but when times are finished here on earth, we will stand before Him as our Judge.

When we look at this idea of Christ as our Mediator, we need to see the bigger picture. As he mediates on our behalf before the Father, there are a variety of things that take place. What follows are just some of the things that He does on our behalf as a Mediator. The word Mediator is not used in the Scriptures below

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but we need to realize that some of the synonyms and ministry of what He does for us, is being done because He is our Mediator.

## **Christ mediates: mercy, grace and justice.**

There are many scriptures both from the Old Testament and New Testament that speak to us and exhort us that as we trust in God through faith, that is when we begin to experience the fullness of his mercy and grace. But it is also a time to see that our Mediator is a just God and will show his justice to all mankind. So what follows are just a few scriptures concerning these three words.

**Mercy:** *“for His **mercy** endures forever”* 2 Chr 7:6, *“surely goodness and **mercy** shall follow me all the days of my life; and I will dwell in the house of the Lord forever.”* Ps 23:6, *“He has shown you, old man, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justly, to love **mercy**, and to walk humbly in your God?”* Mic 6:8, *“But when the kindness and the love of God our Saviour toward man appeared, not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His **mercy** He saved us, to the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit whom He poured out on us abundantly through Jesus Christ our Saviour, that having been justified by His grace we should become heirs according to the whole of eternal life.”* Tit 3:4-5, and *“but you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, his own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of him who called you out of darkness into his marvellous light; who once were not a people but are now the people of God, who had not obtained **mercy** but now have obtained **mercy**.”* 1 Pet 2:9-10

**Grace:** *“The Lord is **merciful** and **gracious**, slow to anger, and abounding in **mercy**.”* Ps 103:8, *“And of his fullness we have all received, and **grace** for **grace**. For the law was given through Moses, but **grace** and truth came through Jesus Christ.”* John 1:17, *“But we believe that through the **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ we*

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*shall be saved in the same manner as they” Acts 15:11, “being justified freely by His **grace** through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.” Rom 3:24 and “That in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His **grace** in His Kingdom kindness towards us in Christ Jesus. For by **grace** you have been saved through faith, and not of yourselves; it is the gift of God.” Eph 2:7-8*

**Justice:** *The way of the **just** is righteousness; O Most Upright, you weigh the path of the **just**” Isa 26:7, “tell and bring forth your case; yes, let them take counsel together. Who has declared this from ancient times? 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 Saviour; there is none besides Me.” Isa 45:21, “I can of Myself do nothing. As I hear, I **judge**; and My **judgment** is **righteous**, because I do not seek My own will but the will of the Father who sent Me.” John 5:30, “that having been **justified** by His **grace** we should become heirs according to the hope of eternal life.” Tit 3:7*

## **Christ mediates righteousness.**

If we were to study the Old Testament in conjunction with the New Testament, we would soon find that our righteousness is as filthy rags, and that there is no way that we are able through our own ability to become righteous before God. This is one of the main reasons that God the Father sent his Son to die on the cross for us so that through his righteousness, our sin and guilt could be washed away and that we could be made clean before Him which would then allow us to stand before the Father. This makes it possible for us to stand against our enemies here on earth not in our strength or ability but in the strength and ability of Jesus Christ. Again, these are just some Scriptures that show to us the righteousness of God and how it is mediated out from Him to us.

*“If there is a dispute between men, and they come to the court, that the judges may judge them, and they justify the*

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*righteous and condemn the wicked.*” Deut 25:1, “*for the LORD, for He is coming, for He is coming to judge the earth. He shall judge the world with **righteousness**, and the people with **truth**.*” Ps 96:13, “*He who follows **righteousness** and **mercy** finds life, **righteousness**, and honour.*” Prov 21:21, “*For the moth will eat them up the garment, and the worm will eat them like wool; but My **righteousness** will be forever, and My **salvation** from generation to generation.*” Isa 51:8, “*He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My **righteous Servant** shall **justify** many, for He shall bear their iniquities.*” 53:11, “*Behold, a king will reign in **righteousness**, and princes will rule with **justice**.*” Isa 32:1, “*Behold, the days are coming, says the LORD, that I will raise to David a Branch of **righteousness**; a King shall reign and prosper, and execute judgment and **righteousness** in the earth. In His day Judah will be saved, and Israel will dwell safely; and this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**.*” Jer 23:5-6, “*And when He comes, He will convict the world of sin, and of **righteousness**, and of judgment: of sin, because they do not believe in Me; of **righteousness**, because I got go to My Father and you see me no more;*” John 16:8, “*So that as sin reigned in death, even so grace might reign through **righteousness** to eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.*” Rom 5:21, “*For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the **righteousness** of God in him.*” 2 Cor 5:21, “*Stand therefore, having girded your waist with truth, having put on the breastplate of **righteousness**,*” Eph 6:14 and “*And be found in Him, not having my own **righteousness**, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the **righteousness** which is from God by faith; that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to his death,*” Phil 3:9-10.

## **Christ mediates Salvation.**

Because of the unique work that Christ did on the cross for us He is able to mediate on our behalf and give us the gift of salvation. Salvation is what makes it possible to have eternal life

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but we need to remember that it is a gift that was mediated out on our behalf by Jesus Christ. We know that this was done because of God's love for us here on earth (John 3:16). And every moment of every day it is offered to all as a free gift, but it's something we must give our life and will to. Again the few Scriptures below shows us how Jesus mediated out this gift of salvation to all who would receive it.

*“Restore to me the joy of your **salvation**, and uphold me by your generous spirit.” Ps 51:12, “He only is my rock and my **salvation**; He is my defence; I shall not be moved. In God is my **salvation** and my glory; the rock of my strength, and my refuge, is in God.” Ps 62:6-7, “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to **salvation** for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek.” Rom 1:16, “And take the helmet of **salvation**, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God;” Eph 6:17 and, “for God did not appoint us to wrath, but to obtain **salvation** through our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that whether we wake or sleep, we shall live together with Him.” 1 Thes 5:9-10.*

## **Christ mediates truth.**

Another key truth is that all truth in heaven and on earth can be found in Jesus Christ. And when we lack wisdom we can ask of Him and He will give us the truth that we need liberally. Today in our world it is hard to discern what real truth is. The King James Bible uses the words “truly truly”, I say unto you, which was to point out that this was “true truth”, we could trust; it was firm and would not let us down. Jesus speaks nothing but the truth and we must have the faith to trust Him that what He is speaking to us both through His word and in the spirit is trustworthy. Jesus is mediating the truth of God, between God and mankind and we should never be fearful of God's truth and when He speaks it we need to have the faith to walk it out in our lives. Again here are just a few Scriptures that give us a broader picture concerning the truth of God.



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*“Lead me in Your **truth** and teach me, for You are the God of my **salvation**; on You I wait all the day.” Ps 25:5, “For the word of the LORD is right, and all His work is done in **truth**.” Ps 33:4, “Teach me Your way, all LORD; I will walk in Your **truth**; unite my heart to fear your name.” Ps 86:11, “God is Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship Him in spirit and **truth**.” John 4:24, “... If you abide in My word, you are My disciples indeed. And you shall know the **truth**, and the **truth** shall make you free.” John 8:31-32, “However, when He, the Spirit of **truth**, has come, He will judge you into all **truth**; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come.” John 16:13, “if indeed you have heard Him and have been taught by Him, as the **truth** is in Jesus:” Eph 4:21 and, “My little children, let us not love in word or in tongue, but in deed and in **truth**.” 1 John 3:18*

We can see from the Word of God the kind of ministry that Jesus does on our behalf as a Mediator. He is trustworthy and reliable and knows exactly what we need and what will cause us to become more mature in Christ Jesus. There is a point in all mediation where we have to let go, have faith and trust what our Mediator is speaking to us: He is able to fulfil and see accomplishment in our lives.

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## Chapter Twelve

### The Mediator's as Servant / King

Christ is not just any old Mediator, but He mediates from strength and power, for He is the King of kings and the Lord of lords of all creation. When He stands with His sceptre in His hand, He stands with ultimate power; no one is above Him, He is the final judge, there is no place for an appeal. The Bible tell us that every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess that He is Lord. (Phil 2:11)

Many people around the world do not understand this concept of one being a servant and a king. It can be a very foreign concept in people minds. We do have some examples like Queen Elizabeth where she is a servant to the people, but she also is a known ruler over the people. She has been invested with all authority by the people to rule the country.

### Servanthood:

Jesus often explained to the people of His time that He came as a servant to the people (Matt 20:28). To fulfill the law and in the end after meeting all the conditions of the words of the Old Testament, He then established a new covenant. The first time He came was to be a servant and example to the people, but the second time He will return as King of kings of all heavens and earth.

Jesus came as a suffering servant to be a Mediator and ambassador between God and man and between the Old and New covenants. Isaiah gives us some insight on how this Messiah would come as a servant to the people.

*“Behold! My Servant whom I’m uphold, My Elect One in whom My soul delights! I have put My Spirit upon Him; He will bring forth justice to the Gentiles.”* (Isa 42:1)

*“He shall see the labour of His soul, and be satisfied. By His knowledge My righteous Servant shall justify many, for He shall bear their iniquities.”* (Isa 53:11)

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We can see that our Mediator's role was to help and establish justice between God and man. God appointed Him to have the power and authority to bring justice to the Gentiles. Isaiah pointed out that this Servant would bring justice to many because He would bear our iniquities. We know later our Mediator would carry these to the cross and die on behalf of many. (Isa 53:5-6: Tit 2:14)

*“Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who stood before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the Branch.” Zech 3:8*

Zechariah prophesied that God was about to bring forth His servant who would be a Branch. He would be the beginning of many to come, others would come after who would be grafted into Him so that they too could bear much fruit as His disciples (John 15:1-11). He came to serve and would offer to many the opportunity to serve God and others as He has. He set for us an example of how to be a servant. Jesus states in His own words, *“And whoever desires to be first among you, let him be your slave - just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* Matt 20:27-28. A Mediator is one who comes and serves others and negotiates on the behalf of the different parties.

## **Kingship:**

The second major truth that we need to understand is that Jesus is coming back a second time to set up His kingdom as King of kings. The religious often challenge Jesus to demonstrate this truth before them. They would say if You truly are king, then just tell us and bring Your army right now and set up Your Kingdom. Even the soldiers made a crown of thorns and but a purple robe and bowed down before Him and mocked Him (Matt 27:27-31). They mocked Him on the cross and said that if He really was king to come down from the cross. (Matt 27:40) Even King Herod made a

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sign stating, “*This is Jesus the King of the Jews*”, and nailed it above His head on the cross (Matt 27:37).

The Psalmist gives us some more prophetic words concerning this coming King. “*The LORD is King forever and ever; the nations have perished out of His land.*” (Ps 10:16) “*Lift up your heads, O you gates! And be lifted up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD strong and mighty, the LORD mighty in battle. Lift up your heads, O you gates! Lift up, you everlasting doors! And the King of glory shall come in. Who is this King of glory? The LORD of hosts, He is the King of glory.*” (Ps 24:7-10) “*For God is the King of all the earth; sing praises with understanding.*” (Ps 47:7)

Malakai also speaks, “*But cursed be the deceiver who has in his flock a male, and takes a vow, but sacrifices to the LORD what is blemished - for I am a great King, says the LORD of hosts, and My name is to be feared among the nations.*” (Mal 1:14)

But then we move into the New Testament and Paul speaks these prophetic words to Timothy about Jesus Christ, “*Now to the King eternal, immortal, invisible, to God who alone is wise, be honour and glory forever and ever. Amen. ... That you keep this commandment without spot, blameless unto our Lord Jesus Christ’s appearing, which He will manifest in His own time, He who is the blessed and only Potentate \*, the King of kings and Lord of lords, who alone has immortality, dwelling in unapproachable light, whom no man has seen or can see, to whom be honour and everlasting power. Amen.*” (1 Tim 1:17 & 6:14-16)

\*A ruler, one in authority. Jesus is the highest ruler of all.

Finally, we are told by John in the book of Revelation, “*These will make war with the Lamb, and the Lamb will overcome them, for He is the Lord of lords and the King of kings; and those who are with Him are called, chosen, and faithful.*” Rev 17:14  
There is a great war coming where the King of glory will come

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again to set up His Eternal King and where all people will be judged by Him. (Rom 14:10; 1 Cor 5:10; Heb 6:2; 1 Pet 4:5, 17; Jude 1:15)

We are called to be servants / ministers of the New covenant. Paul exhorts the Corinthian church, *“Such confidence we have through Christ towards God that that we are adequate in ourselves to consider anything is coming from ourselves, but our adequacy is from God, who also made us adequate as servants / ministers of the new covenant, not of the letter but of the Spirit; for the letter kills but the Spirit gives life.”* (2 Cor 3:4-6 NASB) It is not because of our ability but it is because of His ability to make it possible for us to serve as His ambassador / Mediator.

Paul tells Timothy, *“In pointing out these things to the brethren and, you will be a good servant of Christ Jesus, constantly nourished on the words of the faith and of the sound doctrine which you have been following”* (1 Tim 4:6 NASB) Remember these words are for us also today. We need to be nourished by God through faith and remain steadfast on the sound doctrines of the Bible.

It is interesting to note that the same Greek word is used and can be translated either as servant or minister. To put this another way is that we are called to be servants who are ministering on behalf of our Lord Jesus Christ. What we need to see and understand is that as followers and disciples of Christ, we to need serve and minister just like Christ. We are able to through the power of the Holy Spirit to mediate on behalf of others as Christ’s representative.

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## Conclusion

The key to being a true disciple comes down to our attitude and focus, between our will and Christ's will, a life filled with the world and its possessions or a life filled with the Spirit of Christ. The bridge of Christ lies before us each day. It also comes to where we need to make a decision between law righteousness or grace righteousness.

Again, it is really important that we reflect back on what Paul was really wanting to make clear to the Galatian church that we have a Mediator representing us each day. Paul states, "*What purpose then does the law serve? It was added because of the transgressions, till the Seed should come to whom the promise was made; and it was appointed through angels by the hand of the Mediator. Now a Mediator does not mediate for one only, for God is one.*" (Gal 3:19-20)

There again are some important truths that need to point out about these two verses. One, is that the law was given as we are told as a tutor to help show man his inability to become righteous by himself. Second, the law would show a way that at the appropriate time Jesus would come as that promised seed that would come forth out of the root of Jesse. He would sprout forth at the appointed time and become the Mediator for all people. Thirdly, that in the Mediator always mediates for more than one person, there is usually two or more that need something deliberated, but Paul reminds us that the Godhead is not made up of three but of one true God that part of this Godhead is the aspect of the Mediator, who is our true and living God.

Remember with Christ we are under a new covenant which gives us direct access into the holy of holies where by the blood of Christ we are able to stand not because of our righteousness but because of His righteousness. We become part of the family of God and become known as children of God; we are joint heirs with Him and because of our faith, and the confessing of our sins to

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Jesus Christ we have now and forever more eternal life with our Mediator and King.

## **Prayer of Commitment and Thanksgiving**

Dear Lord Jesus,

I want to thank You personally for coming into my life and for making me who I am. I thank You for Your love and grace that You show to us each day. But now I want to thank You for opening my eyes and heart to see and know that each day You are mediating on behalf of me before the Father. Lord I do not feel worthy that I can come into Your throne room knowing that You are there speaking on my behalf, interceding with me, teaching me and empowering me through the Holy Spirit, so that I may be an ambassador of Your kingdom here on earth. I want to thank You also that as Your ambassador You have called us to mediate on behalf of You and Your kingdom. I pray that You would give me much wisdom and discernment so that as I go forth with the Gospel of peace I will have the needed understanding on how to minister and serve those people You put around me each day. I thank You that I can be a disciple and follower of You Jesus in that through the light of Your Word I will be able to see Your will for my life here on earth.

Your servant,

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## Appendix

### 1. List of Scripture that contain the word Mediator

#### Mediator:

Gal 3:19

Gal 3:20

Gal 3:20

1 Tim 2:5

Heb 8:6

Heb 9:15

Heb 12:24



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## **Project L.A.M.B.S. International**

Making disciples is the call and mandate of our Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus urged the disciples to follow Him. He laid down before us the teaching and the walk that we need to follow with Jesus as our supreme example. It is imperative for every believer and the church to know that disciples are not born but they are made. For the church to be strong in the last days, we must be about the business of equipping the saints (disciples) for the work of service.

Dr. James Humphries has been ministering for over 40 years, and has experience in a variety of ministries including church planting, children's ministry, street ministry, youth ministry, camp ministry, pastoral work and directing and teaching in schools all over the world. In addition, he has taken part in traveling and ministering in the USA, Mexico, Ukraine, Myanmar, Israel, Jamaica, Japan, Thailand and across most of Canada. He completed his B.R.E. and his M.A. from Briercrest, and his Doctorate of Ministry from Providence Theological Seminary in the spring of 1999.

In January 1996, Dr. James Humphries resigned as pastor of a local church with a vision to reach further abroad with the Word of God and to use it to train labourers for Christ (Matthew 9:36-38). He shared this with Dr. David Smith and Dr. Chuck Nichols of Providence Theological Seminary and they greatly encouraged Dr. James Humphries and his wife Irene to develop what God was laying on their hearts.

In March 1997, they traveled to Jamaica where they met several pastors who were very concerned about the need for

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training and disciplining their young people as leaders in their churches. Dr. James Humphries and Irene did not know this would be the starting point to an international ministry of discipleship training around the world known as Project L.A.M.B.S. International.

To date, Project L.A.M.B.S. has ministered in Canada, Myanmar, Ukraine, Africa, Jamaica, Mexico, Israel, Thailand, Japan, Dominican Republic, Naga Land and China. We offer over 30 different courses. Our graduates number over 1000, and are serving worldwide. Out of this group of graduates, we have equipped and trained directors, teachers and pastors who in turn are carrying out II Timothy 2:1-2 to an even larger group of people.

In 2002 it was discovered that Irene had cancer again. God gave Irene another three years and because of that she was still able to travel and teach in many different countries. Shortly after what was to be her last trip, Irene was hospitalized in February, 2005. A few weeks later she went home to be with her Lord and Saviour on March 9.

My second wife Hkaw Win was raised and trained mostly in the land of Myanmar. She has earned B.th, University Degree and a master of Divinity Degree in Myanmar. In April 2007 she finished a second Master's Degree at Providence Theological Seminary in Christian Education. After July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2007 she headed back to Myanmar to head up the Christian Education Department for the Myitkyina Kachin Baptist Association and oversaw various ministries to 62 churches. After her four-year term was completed, she has been traveling and working as an interpreter and doing

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translations concerning various kinds of discipleship books and materials.

Over the last ten years we have lived in the countries of Myanmar and Thailand preparing a variety of resources in the Burmese (Myanmar) and Kachin Languages. To date we have published over 20 different kinds of books. Our goal is to equip and establish people as Disciples of Christ. Please pray for God's leading and wisdom. Our walk with Christ has taken us down many challenging pathways but we have seen the faithfulness of our Lord and Savior in every area. His grace has been sufficient.

Founder and Director,

Dr. James and Hkaw Win Humphries

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## Discipleship / Leadership Booklets

1. My Call with Christ
2. Called to His Purpose
3. Abiding in the Vine
4. Knowledge, Wisdom and Understanding
5. Scripture: The Disciples' Anchor
6. Baptism: The Disciples' Testimony
7. The Disciples' Church
8. Servant Leadership
9. Teacher / Learner, Learner / Teacher
10. Being Wise Builders
11. Shepherds of God's Sheep
12. End Times
13. Relationship Pilgrimage
14. Christ's Disciple
15. Disciple's Prayer Life
16. Communion
17. Ambassadors for Christ
18. Full Armour of God
19. Good News for Challenging and Changing Times
20. Christ our Mediator
21. Jesus our Deliverer
22. Mission and Missionaries
23. Passing the Torch
24. Full Gospel Discipleship
25. Five Fold Ministry
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