

## **1 Timothy 2:1-7 NIV**

### **“Is your mediator doing a good job?”**

“I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession and thanksgiving be made for everyone--(2) for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness. (3) This is good, and pleases God our Savior, (4) who wants all men to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth.

**(5) “For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, (6) who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time.**

(7) “And for this purpose I was appointed a herald and an apostle--I am telling the truth, I am not lying—and a teacher of the true faith to the Gentiles.”

**Apply for a loan and they ask many questions.**

At doctor appointments they query you at length.

**“Have you fallen in the last three months?”**

**“Have you suffered recent memory lapses; why else would you come today without clothes?”**

**Before and after my 1996 bypass heart surgery, doctors, nurses, and medical specialists asked me if I ever smoked.**

Nearly everyone but the janitors asked me that question.

**Tell me someone has asked you the question suggested in today’s sermon title, however, and I’ll be amazed.**

**It is: “Who mediates with God for you?”**

Many assume their religious leaders mediate for them: **“My priest-bishop-pastor-minister helps me go to God.”**

**Have you considered what the Bible says about connecting with God?**

**“For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”<sup>1</sup>**

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<sup>1</sup> The word for men here is “anthropoi” meaning all human beings.

At about eleven years of age, I first heard the word “mediator.”

**After World War II, as my mother did her chores, she tuned to radio soap operas.**

**Mom listened to the likes of “Big Sister,” “Ma Perkins,” “One Man’s Family,” and “Guiding Light.”**

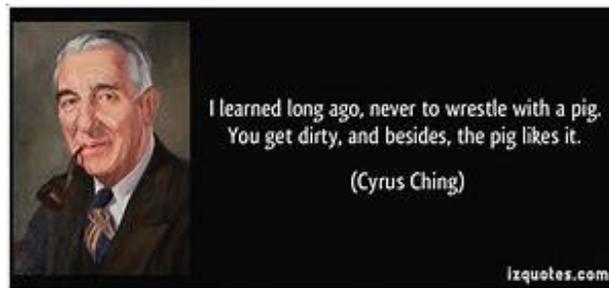
**News programs and bulletins often broke through the soap bubbles, sobs, and sniffles.**

During this post-war period, labor unions began flexing their muscles

**In various industries, unions struck demanding better wages and benefits.**

**I often heard the name of a federal mediator named Cyrus S. Ching.**

TV hadn’t yet become popular so I never knew what Cyrus Ching looked like until last week, when I checked the Internet.



**His name sounds Asian to many, but Ching came from a Welsh family named Chynge<sup>2</sup> on Prince Edward Island, thus beginning his life as a Canadian citizen.**

**During his long career, Ching successfully mediated numerous strikes.**

**He was a businessman, yet labor people trusted him.**

**The fact that Ching stood 6’7” tall likely lent to his effectiveness. As Ching interceded with labor and management, the word “mediator” indicates some type of go-between.**

We’ll return to the word mediator after we look at the first phrase of our text:

**“There is one God.”**

**The Bible expression living God denotes that he Created life and the entire Cosmos.**

**Our human minds sometimes would like to be where we aren’t.**

We’d like to be with loved ones miles distant.

<sup>2</sup> I think this was the correct spelling. See [www.bing.com/images/search?](http://www.bing.com/images/search?)

**We’d prefer to be at the lakes, or the mountains, or the beach.**

Out of a hospital bed or classroom.

**To get our bodies to places our minds visit requires a physical means to travel there.**

Last week the Cook Travel bankruptcy left thousands where they didn’t want to be.

**Physical distances or circumstances, however, do not confine or hamper God.**

**He continues everywhere simultaneously attending trillions of details at once.**

**At great peril, we text and drive.**

We forget cakes in the oven, water running in the sink, and kids in baking cars.

Jesus informed us that sparrows sell for “a dime a dozen.” **“Yet not one of them will fall to the ground outside your Father’s care. And even the very hairs of your head are all numbered.”**<sup>3</sup>

“An average person’s scalp has about 100,000 hairs. Redheads have 90,000...

blonds have 140,000; brunettes fall in between.”<sup>4</sup>

**If the average adult loses about 100 hairs per day as some estimate, the Lord’s “calculators” continuously run.**

God instantly, accurately absorbs and deals with occurrences throughout the Cosmos trillions of miles away.

**Nothing physical limits Him as it does us.**

He doesn’t need to be “beamed up”; he’s there.

**For God no secret places exist because he brought everything into being.**

God conceived and created all that we consider knowledge, scientific or otherwise, thus this Universe contains no mysteries, riddles, enigmas, or surprises for Him.

**At the beginning, God knows the end.**

SolarSystem&Beyond  
KESPhysicsproject9RS1024



<sup>3</sup> Matthew 10:29, 30 NIV

<sup>4</sup> [https://hubpages.com/education/How\\_many\\_hairs\\_are...](https://hubpages.com/education/How_many_hairs_are...)

**God is Spirit: we physical beings don't see God or experience Him through our senses of taste, smell, sight, or grasp.**

In the past, God revealed himself to people by communicating through their physical senses. One hot afternoon circa 1800 BC, God and two of his messengers (angels) visited Abraham.

**Abraham didn't recognize God.**

He thought merely that three travelers happened by and he welcomed them.

Abraham and Sarah acted kindly as good hosts and invited them to stay for dinner.

**Until God told Abraham His mission, Abraham stayed clueless as to His identity. The two messengers went on to the city of Sodom where Abraham's nephew Lot lived. Lot welcomed them, insisting that they stay the night with him and not out on the street. Lot readied a home-cooked meal and as all settled down for the evening, a mob of Lot's neighbors battered his door.**

They intended to brutally Sodomize God's messengers (angels) in Lot's home.

**Unlike many politicians and the media who promote confusion and unrest, the Lord does not long tolerate nonsense.**

**No one survived in Sodom, Gomorrah, or the nearby cities of Admah and Zeboim.**

**Remnants of all four cities are likely under the waters of the Dead Sea.**

When the Lord makes anonymous visits, we best be doing right.<sup>5</sup>

**One day when I was a high school freshman, two classmates argued near my locker.**

She spoke of her belief in God.

**He not only mocked her faith, he dared God to come and strike him.**

Sometimes God quickly displays his power, but God doesn't need to prove who he is.

We shall all learn these facts some day and many folks will not be prepared.

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<sup>5</sup> Hebrews 13:1, 2 NIV “**Keep on loving one another as brothers and sisters. 2 Do not forget to show hospitality to strangers, for by so doing some people have shown hospitality to angels without knowing it.**” See Genesis 18 & 19.

**As the first phrase of our text states:**

**“there is one God.”**

One loving Creator God exists who eventually punishes all evil doers and restores righteousness.

**2) There is “one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.”**

**What does the word “mediator” mean?**

Many think **Cyrus S. Ching** capably, fairly mediated between labor and management.

Our text speaks to mediation between the all-knowing, all-powerful, present-everywhere Spirit God and us very limited human beings.

We occupy a few cubic feet of space for a few decades, and often speak as if we know-it-all.

When the Lord blesses you with attractive physical features and you’ve refined the ability to speak as if you know all there is to know about virtually every subject, you can likely get a job as a TV news commentator.

**If we can’t see God, or feel God, how can we dependably know our Creator?**

Many churches claim to represent God and millions of people depend on church agents to mediate for them.

**Priests, bishops, pastors and others claim to represent God and dispense His salvation.**

**“There’s no salvation outside the church,” they claim.**

The church is the assembly or gathering of people saved by God’s grace.

But no church or any church agent can save anyone.

Christ saved us on the cross.

Jesus paid the debt all of us owe.

Our text states only one mediator exists: **“the man, Christ Jesus.”**

The all-knowing, all powerful God helped us obtain a good relationship with Him.

I spent some of my yearly years trying to define and discover “the right church.”

**I wanted to know: “Which church most closely fits the New Testament pattern?”**

**Should we try to follow New Testament examples of organization and lifestyle?**

**Absolutely! Inspired authors wrote the New Testament Epistles to provide organizing information churches needed and the lifestyle God expects of us.**

**But each of us must first form the right relationship with “the man, Christ Jesus.”**

As Ephesians 1 explains: “<sup>22</sup> God placed all things under his (Jesus’) feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church, <sup>23</sup> which is his body, the fullness of him who fills everything in every way.”

**The Son of God suffered excruciating rejection of people who envied him.**

**Jesus died to save all the hateful, angry, show-offs in Congressional hearings and in other places on earth.**

**To obtain Jesus’ salvation, we need to understand, appreciate, and give thanks for his painful, humiliating death on the cross.**

In Jerusalem that day, they reviled and killed the Creator of the Cosmos, who came to our planet in human flesh to help us.

In his 26 page review and discussion of the Greek word translated mediator (technically “to act as umpire or peacemaker”) in *The Theological Dictionary of the New Testament*, the German scholar, Albrecht Oepke of Leipzig<sup>6</sup> referred to a Greek legend of “the crayfish, which seeks to make peace between the dolphins and the whales, is the model of a busy, but insignificant politician playing a tragi-comic role.”<sup>7</sup>

Imagine a pencil-length, bottom-feeder trying to persuade a whale to keep its cool.

**Pompous politicians and preachers fat with self-importance look that petty and silly. Though Jesus could have summoned legions of angels to assist him, to show us the way, he humbly submitted to God’s plan.**

When the hateful mob came to arrest Jesus, Peter drew his sword, whacking a guy’s ear. **“Don’t need to do that Pete; I could call 10,000 angels, but that’s not God’s way.”**

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<sup>6</sup> Mesitas (μεσίτης)

<sup>7</sup> TDNT Vol. IV, 601 (Albrecht Oepke 1881-1955)

## How much power can 10,000 angels wield?

I don't know, but just one angel once defeated 185,000 soldiers, (2 Kings 19:35).

When someone mediates for us concerning life, we expect that person to have:

**A) power and self-discipline to accomplish the job;**

(Jesus proved he had that power.)

**B) We also want a welcoming, loving mediator; Jesus lived his entire life submitting to God and serving others.**

We follow him by dying to anger, pride, selfishness, bitterness, greed, and lust.

**In Revelation 1:6, John declared: God made the church “a kingdom and priests.”**

As we have noted any times, the word “kingdom” denotes God's control.

The kingdom exists wherever God rules.

**Does He rule your daily decisions, your habits, your conduct and your finances?**



**Many claim church membership who do not pattern their lives after Jesus.**

**Unless Christ rules our lives, church membership is pointless.**

**In the Bible, the word priest refers to a person who dedicates his/her life to God.**

Priesthood also means: God controls me, my decisions, habits, conduct and finances.

**God intends all his people live to that way; not just the ones who wear robes.**

The Lord's people (priests) recognize one great high priest (mediator): Christ, who proved his power, humility, and his perfect life.

**One last vital qualification:**

Christ mediates perfectly because only he came back from death having overcome it.

**Jesus convinced the hate-filled zealot, Saul of Tarsus of His resurrection:**

Paul (formerly Saul) wrote Corinth believers:

**“Now, brothers and sisters, I want to remind you of the *good news* I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand.**

By this *good news* you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain.

For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, and that he appeared to Cephas, and then to the Twelve. After that, he appeared to more than five hundred of the brothers and sisters at the same time, most of whom are still living, though some have fallen asleep.”<sup>8</sup>



**Bob at the  
Garden Tomb,  
Jerusalem, 1980.**

**You have heard why I choose this Good News about Jesus.**

**Christ capably mediates with our Creator for us concerning life because He is the only person in human history to overcome death.**

Just prior to having this picture taken at the tomb many consider Jesus’ actual burial place, I went inside it.

**The veracity and truth of God’s Good News concerning Jesus’ profoundly affected me.**

More than 500 brothers and sisters witnessed the risen Jesus at “the same time.”

**In Christ, death’s gates cannot overpower us.**

**Bob Blair  
PO Box 176  
Cleghorn, IA 51014**

**[www.robertblairbooks.com](http://www.robertblairbooks.com)**

<sup>8</sup> 1 Corinthians 15:1-7 NIV