TITLE: Christ our Mediator

TEXT: 1 Tim 2:5-6; Gen. 1:26-31; Ro. 8:19-25;

Rev. 21:1-4; 1 Jn. 1:9; Phil. 2:5-11

INTRODUCTION: This morning I want to talk about mediation, specifically about the mediation of Christ or Christ being our mediator.

**1 Timothy 2:5 - 6 (NIV) 5For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,  6who gave himself as a ransom for all men—the testimony given in its proper time.**

**5For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus!**

 What does Scripture mean when it addresses Jesus as the mediator between God and man? Or why is a mediator between God and man necessary in the first place?

First, just what is a mediator?

***mes-ee'-tace***

**From****G3319****; a *go* *between*, that is, an *inter-enunciator*, or (by implication) a *reconciler* (*intercessor*):—mediator.**

Come from the root, *mes'-os which means among or amidst or between them.*

So Christ as our mediator is one who stands in-between us and God for the purpose of bringing reconciliation.

Example: When union workers go on strike with their company and they come to an impasse in negotiations often a mediator is brought in. A mediator who is a neutral party and who will stand in-between the workers and the company and try to work out a deal and bring them back together, bring them into reconciliation.

If God is the Company and we are the workers Christ is our mediator with God.

Secondly, why is it that we need a mediator or someone to bring us into reconciliation with God?

It is because of the chasm that stands between us and God that was brought about by our sin.

Have you ever stood at a canyons edge, such as the Grand Canyon, and marveled at the canyon’s depth and width? Have you stood at the edge of a great canyon and contemplated what it would be like to try to bridge that great canyon.

Some canyons, such as the Grand Canyon, are so big, so deep and so wide, that it would be virtually impossible for man to bridge them.

Our sinfulness has created an unfathomable canyon or chasm between us and God. And as we stand and look at this canyon of separation between us and God we can see the impossibility of our ever being able to bridge that canyon. It is simply too wide and too deep for us to ever hope to bridge it.

To fully understand, or at the least, more adequately understand our dilemma we need to go back to the beginning. Back to a time before this canyon of separation between God and man came into existence.

**Genesis 1:26 - 31 (NIV) 26Then God said, “Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.” 27So God created man in his own image,     in the image of God he created him;     male and female he created them. 28God blessed them and said to them, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.” 29Then God said, “I give you every seed-bearing plant on the face of the whole earth and every tree that has fruit with seed in it. They will be yours for food……  31God saw all that he had made, and it was very good. And there was evening, and there was morning—the sixth day.**

God had created a perfect creation! There was no sin, no weeds, no thistles and no thorns but only lush green grasses and fruit bearing trees in which man could simply pick and eat when he became hungry.

Man’s original charge was not to work but to procreate and to simply manage and enjoy Gods perfect creation.

 **Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it.**

 **Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”**

 In essence man was handed the title and deed to planet earth by God. God says: Here it all is---enjoy!

Man was not only given charge of Gods perfect creation but he also had direct access and one on one fellowship with God!

 In those early days in the Garden of Eden Scripture says that Adam and Eve literally walked with God and talked with Him in the garden in the cool of the day.

As recorded in Genesis Chapters 1 and 2 there was no canyon or chasm that separated man from his God!.

 Picture waking up in the morning and when you walk into the kitchen God is already there and has the coffee pot on waiting to talk and commune with you.

(And yes it is Starbucks coffee)

 After breakfast you, your wife and God would take a walk through the Garden marveling at its wonder and perfection..

 Picture God saying: Adam this morning I have a surprise for you.

 I have made the animals and I am going to bring them before you one by one and allow you to name them.

 Can you even imagine what it would be like to have that kind of personal and intimate relationship and fellowship with God?

To literally walk with Him and talk with Him and enjoy personal times of literal fellowship with Him..

 Have something happen that was simply beyond your ability to understand or comprehend and then being able to ask God about it and get the answer from the one who has brought all things into existence and knows and understands all things.

 Having absolutely nothing standing in-between you and your creator.

 This is what God originally intended for us! This is what life was like for Adam and Eve in those early days in the Garden.

 But then we come to Genesis Chapter 3 and Adam and Eve end up setting off a bomb that is so powerful that it blows a chasm so large in the spiritual realm that it separates, not only them from God, but separates all future generations of humanity from God as well.

 They set off the bomb of sin.

In order to give man the ability to exercise His most precious gift to man, man’s free will, man’s right to choose, God had to place an alternate choice to Himself in the Garden.

 God called it the tree of the knowledge of Good and Evil and commanded man not to eat from its fruit.

 He even gave man a stern warning that in the day that you eat of it you will surely die.

Again, this tree simply represented choice in Gods perfect creation. A way for man to exercise the free will that he had been created with.

 Man was created specifically to love and worship and fellowship with God, but for it have any meaning, take on any real significance, man would have to be given free will, the right of choice. Without freewill we may very well love and worship and fellowship with God but if it is not because of choice then it has no meaning to God.

 Without free will we would have been nothing more than a creation of robots programmed to do a certain thing and respond in a pre-programmed manner.

 God created us specifically for fellowship and relationship with Himself and that demanded that He give us the right to choose for ourselves.

 Without the right of choice we may worship & serve God but without the right of choice love and relationship would be impossible.

A robot can be programmed to serve and worship but it cannot be programmed to love or have relationship.

Love and relationship require emotional responses that are only possible through free will. Having the right of choice.

 Having the right to choose for one-self to love or choose not to love!

 Without the right of choice everything else becomes a robotic response.

EXAMPLE: parents and children…how does it make you feel if your children love and obey you? How would it make you feel if they had no choice to do otherwise but only did it because of being programmed to do it like a computer?

 The second most powerful and thee most destructive thing that has ever happened on this planet is when Adam and Eve set off the explosion of sin. When they first used their free will to choose something other than God, something contrary to God.

 When they first sinned and brought sin into God’s perfect creation and then as they started to procreate, have children of their own, they passed on that seed of sin to their offspring and subjected all of humanity to sin as they passed on their sinful nature.

 You see everything procreates after its own kind.

 Horses procreate horses, dogs procreate dogs, cats procreates cats and human beings procreate human being. Everything procreates after its own kind. Sinful human begins procreate after their own kind—sinful human beings!

That is the second most powerful and thee most destructive thing that has ever happened on this planet.

You may be thinking, if Adam & Eve’s fall to sin and the subsequent passing on of the nature to sin to the rest of the human race is the second most powerful thing that has ever happened on this planet, what is the first greatest or most powerful thing?

The First most powerful thing, even more powerful than the nuclear bomb of sin that Adam and Eve dropped in the garden through their disobedience was what Christ did and accomplished on the cross of Calgary…

 When He who knew no sin became the atoning sacrifice for all sin!

 The land of Persia was once ruled by a wise and beloved Shah who cared greatly for his people and desired only what was best for them. One day he disguised himself as a poor man and went to visit the public baths. The water for the baths was heated by a furnace in the cellar, so the Shah made his way to the dark place of the cellar to sit with the man who tended the fire. The two men shared the common food of the fire tender, and the Shah befriended him in his loneliness. Day after day the ruler went to visit the man. The worker became attached to this stranger because he "came where he was". One day the Shah revealed his true identity, and he expected the man to ask him for a gift. Instead, the man looked long into his leader's face and with love and wonder in his voice said, "You left your palace and your glory to sit with me in this dark place, to eat my coarse food, and to care about what happens to me. On others you may bestow rich gifts, but to me you have given yourself!"

 As we contemplate what Jesus has done for us, we should echo that same sentiment.

"*You left your palace and your glory to sit with me in this dark place, to eat my coarse food, and to care about what happens to me. On others you may bestow rich gifts, but to me you have given yourself!"*

 What a step down our Lord took for us-- from heaven to earth, from the worship of angels to the mocking and mockery of cruel men, from the glory of heaven to the shame and humiliation of the cross.

How is what Jesus did more powerful, more significant than all the devastation that Adam and Eve did in the garden when they fell to sin and by so doing subjected, not just themselves, but Scripture says subjected all of creation to sins curse?

The Apostle Paul says this in:

 **Romans 8:19 - 25 (NIV) 19The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed.  20For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope  21that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay and brought into the glorious freedom of the children of God. 22We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**

Man not only subjected himself to the curse of sin but he also subjected all the rest of creation to the curse of sin as well.

**20For the creation was subjected to frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it, in hope  21that the creation itself will be liberated from its bondage to decay.**

Again, man was the only thing in creation that God created with a free will.

 Rocks don’t have free will-Trees don’t have it-You won’t find it growing in a corn field or watermelon patch-Neither Dogs nor cats nor lizards or snakes have it. Free will was only given to man.

 Man was given dominion, was put in charge over all the rest of creation!

 The rest of creation would go the direction that man would take it!

When man chose to disobey God and sin---- **the creation was subjected to (that) frustration, not by its own choice, but by the will of the one who subjected it!**

So even today---- **the whole (of) creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**

 You ladies who have experienced the pain of Childbirth---Scripture says that creation itself is in that kind of pain because of man’s sin!

So, How is what Jesus did more powerful, more significant than all the devastation that Adam and Eve did in the garden when they fell to sin and by so doing subjected, not just themselves and their offspring, but subjected all of creation to the devastation of sin as well?

 Because what Jesus did on the cross paid the price of all sin, for all time-- in full!

 What Jesus did on the cross gave, not just mankind, but all of creation the hope of restoration!

Jesus built a bridge across the Grand Canyon!

Jesus bridged the gap, bridged the chasm of separation between man and God that was caused by sin!

 Not only has Christ given us the possibility of restoration and a restored and renewed relationship and fellowship with God but He has provided the way to end sins frustration for all the rest of creation as well.

**Romans 8:22 - 25 22We know that the whole creation has been groaning as in the pains of childbirth right up to the present time.**

 **23Not only so, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.  24For in this hope we were saved. But hope that is seen is no hope at all. Who hopes for what he already has?  25But if we hope for what we do not yet have, we wait for it patiently.**

 **We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.**

 The older that I get the more aches and pains I wake up with in the morning and the more I look forward to this promise of the redemption of my body.

 The promise of this redemption of our bodies will come on that day that the book of revelation talks about in:

**Revelation 21:1 - 4 (NIV) 1Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth, for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and there was no longer any sea.  2I saw the Holy City, the new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride beautifully dressed for her husband.  3And I heard a loud voice from the throne saying, “Now the dwelling of God is with men, and he will live with them. They will be his people, and God himself will be with them and be their God.  4He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away.”**

 **We ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit,** we who have accepted Jesus as the Lord and Savior of our life, **groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for our adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies!**

 And even though we wait patiently for this hope to be fulfilled we, even now, have a mediator who stands in the gap for us.

 If you have come to confess Jesus as your Lord and Savior, then at this very moment, Jesus is standing in the gap for you interceding with the Father on your behalf.

 Even if we mess up, fall flat on our face, Scripture says that we have an advocate, a mediator, one who stands in the gap between us and the Father to intercede on our behalf.

**1 John 1:9 (NIV) 9If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just and will forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness.**

As we confess our sins Jesus in standing in the gap for us to intercede for us with the father!

 Satan brings the accusation against us to God and Jesus steps up and comes to our defense and silences the accusations of the enemy!

 Father, Terry has been covered by my blood! My blood has washed away his sin! He is my brother and your adopted child!

That is powerful! The gap has been closed! Jesus has bridged the chasm of separation between us and God!

 We can once again have a relationship of love and personal fellowship with our creator!

 One day we will be given a new resurrection body that will enable us to literally enter the very presence of God!

 Once again man will be able to walk with God and Talk with God and enjoy one on one personal fellowship with God!

 A day is coming when…

**The dwelling of God will be with men, and he will live with us. We will be his people, and God himself will be with us and be our God.  4He will wipe every tear from our eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things will have passed away.”**

If we have embraced Jesus as the Lord and Savior of our life this is the promise of our future!

And until that time comes we now have a mediator! One who stands in the gap for us making intercession to the Father on our behalf.

 Is this a promise that has been realized in your life this morning?

 Is Jesus standing in the gap for you? Have you allowed Jesus to become your mediator?

 Have you allowed Him Lordship of your life?

If you haven’t then know that He wants to become your mediator, your intercessor this morning and He is only a prayer away.

 If you have made Jesus the Lord and Savior of your life, if Jesus is already your mediator that is standing in the gap for you, then I want to share one last Scripture with you this morning…

 Speaking to those of us who do know Jesus as Lord and savior Scripture says this..

 **Philippians 2:5 - 11 (NIV) 5Your attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6Who, being in very nature God,     did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing,     taking the very nature of a servant,     being made in human likeness. 8And being found in appearance as a man,     he humbled himself     and became obedient to death—     even death on a cross! 9Therefore God exalted him to the highest place     and gave him the name that is above every name, 10that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow,     in heaven and on earth and under the earth, 11and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord,     to the glory of God the Father.**

**5(our) attitude should be the same as that of Christ Jesus: 6Who, being in very nature God,     did not consider equality with God something to be grasped, 7but made himself nothing,     taking the very natureof a servant…**

To have the same attitude of Christ Jesus will necessitate our being willing to stand in the gap for others just as Jesus stands in the gap for us.

 To intercede to our Heavenly Father for others just as Jesus intercedes for us.

 This morning, have you done what is necessary to put Jesus in the gap for you? Have you allowed Him to become your Lord and Savior?

 And if you have are you standing in the gap for others who may not know Him praying and interceding for them? Praying that God would open their eyes and hearts to this same salvation?