

prayed to Mary and asked me what I thought about that. I responded by saying “Why talk to the secretary when you can talk to the president directly.” He nearly drove the taxi into a lamp post! I went on to explain that we need to pray to God through Jesus, and not through Mary or any other saint. I tried to explain to him that we have a direct line, an open line in Jesus and that we need no other mediator between God and man. In fact that there simply is no other mediator between God and man. He responded by saying that he didn’t feel worthy to talk to Jesus. I explained to him that neither am I, in fact no one is worthy on their own merits. Then I told him that Jesus out of His tremendous love and mercy, through His shed blood, by His grace, has opened the line of communication for us. It is a gift of God’s amazing grace, and that because of Jesus sacrifice, we can come boldly to God’s throne of grace.

Our text today bears this out in verses 5-6: ***“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 the proper time.”***

There is one God, and one mediator between God and man – the man Jesus Christ. It is vital that we understand this truth fully. There is only one way, not many. There is only one truth, not many truths. There is life only in Jesus. There is only one path to God and that is Jesus himself. He said:

“I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me” (Jn.14:6).

Jesus could not have made it any clearer or any more simple than that, yet so many simply do not get it. So many are still dialing the wrong number or heading along the wrong path. There are so many that think that they can change things in the Bible, and that God will still accept them and hear their prayers. However, if you twist Scripture, remove certain texts,, or alter them, then it is no longer the Truth. It may still look the same to the untrained eye, but you have changed the nature of it.

Recently upon arriving in Latvia, I had the sim card in my phone changed, so that I could make cheaper calls. From the outside my phone looked exactly the same as before, but it had changed. It now had a different number. People calling my number 0412 024 476 could no longer reach me on that handset, because the sim was different.

We have to be on our guard all the time that we do not alter or substitute God’s Word with something foreign. There are Churches that teach that Jesus is one of many ways to God. They have altered the truth, of Jesus statement that “No one can come to the Father except through Me.” They have altered this to win the approval and acceptance of men.

This raises the question why? Why do people not want to accept that Jesus is The Way and the only way? I believe that in order to accept that Jesus is the only way, we need to surrender all to Him, and so many people are simply not prepared to do that.

All of the world’s religions with the exception of true Christianity, teach you that you have to do something to earn God’s favour. But that is a lie. God tells us through Christ Jesus that He loves us, and that there is absolutely nothing that we can do to earn His love. He loves us as we are. God loved us even before we came into existence. God tells us through Jesus:

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish, but have eternal life” (John 3:16).

There is nothing for us to do, except to put our trust in Jesus believing in Him. We just need to accept His gift of love. He has done it all! On Good Friday as He died, Jesus said “It is finished!” It is finished, the work of salvation has been completed. As He died, the great heavy curtain in the Temple, that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the sanctuary, tore open from the top to the bottom. Jesus, by shedding His Holy, precious and innocent blood, had opened the way for sinners to come to God directly. The telephone line was open.

Many people cannot accept the simplicity of this. Paul wrote that the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, to those who do not believe. Our natural tendency is to think that there is something that we must do, that we must in some way earn God’s favour, that we must win over God. The truth is that it has all already been done. Jesus said “It is finished.”

Praise God we have a mediator between God and man – The Lord Jesus Christ. He is more than our mediator, He is our dearest and best friend who loves us. Through Him, we have the number that connects us with Almighty God. Someone coined the phrase “Royal Telephone” and wrote a song with that title.

Through Jesus, the line is never busy, always available, and never disconnected. God is always at the other end. He listens to us and He answers our prayers. Not always as we would desire, but always for our ultimate good and blessing.

Jesus said something very powerful about this telephone line:

“You did not choose Me but I chose you, and appointed you that you would go and bear fruit, and that your fruit would remain, so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you” (John 15:16).

Very powerful words indeed. ***“so that whatever you ask of the Father in My name He may give to you...”*** Jesus made this promise more than once. Where two or three gather together in His name and are agreed upon what they ask according to God’s will, they will get a positive response from The Father. This does not mean that we can treat prayer as a vending machine where we press the buttons and get the candy bar. To pray in Jesus name is to trust in Him and to seek His will, To submit and surrender to the will of God. To completely surrender all to Him.

Out of His great love for us, God had graciously given us the royal telephone line. It is free, it is His gift of love. We must learn to use it properly.

°Paul wrote to the Thessalonians to “pray without ceasing”.

Keep the handset close to your ear all the time, close to your heart as well. Maintain a living and true contact with God always and everywhere.

May God help us.

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All Bible quotations taken from New American Standard Bible.