

e ssentials

Faith in One Accord

1) TITLE: We Believe In the Work of Jesus Christ—Part 2

2) INTRODUCTION

A. Our support Scripture texts for this lesson are:

- i. 1st Timothy 2:5 (NLT)—*"For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus."*¹
- ii. 1st John 2:1 (NIV)—*"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."*²
- iii. Hebrews 2:17 (CSB)—*"Therefore, he had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in matters pertaining to God, to make atonement, for the sins of the people."*³
- iv. 1st Timothy 4:1—*"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom."*⁴

B. What we believe...

"We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, who is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, who is fully God and fully Man and is without sin. He came to man and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born to the virgin Mary; who came to

¹ NLT—*New Living Translation, Tyndale House Publishers, (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2015)*

² NIV, *The New International Version (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2011).*

³ CSB, *Christian Standard Bible (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible Publishers, 2020).*

⁴ *All Scripture from the ESV—English Standard Version, (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2016)) unless noted.*

earth to die for the sins of the world on a cross, was physically buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead defeating sin and death who then ascended to Heaven sitting at the right hand of God the Father as our present High Priest and Advocate who will return again to judge the living and the dead" (GRCC Statement of Faith).

3) KEY POINT

A. Our key point is this—

- i. We continue to look into the Work of Jesus Christ as the bridge between humanity and God the Father.
- ii. Who speaks on behalf of Christians before the Father.
- iii. Who intercedes for us giving us access to the Father.
- iv. And will administer justice to both the saved and unsaved.

B. So, here are the remaining topics concerning the Work of Jesus:

- i. Jesus Christ as our MEDIATOR
- ii. Jesus Christ as our ADVOCATE
- iii. Jesus Christ as our HIGH PRIEST
- iv. Jesus Christ as our FUTURE JUDGE

4) TRANSITION

- #### A. So, we now complete our study as to why believing in the Work of Jesus Christ is essential to our Christian faith.

TEACHING

I. The Work of Jesus Christ as Mediator

- A. A mediator is someone who intervenes between two parties to reconcile or bring about peace.

- B. In Christian theology, Jesus is seen as the mediator between humanity and God. He bridges the gap, and restores the broken relationship between created humans and their Creator God, a broken relationship created by humanity's sin.
 - 1. 1st Timothy 2:5 state—*"For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus."*
 - a). Jesus' role as a mediator emphasizes reconciliation and communication between God and humanity.

- C. Because of the uniqueness of Jesus being WHOLLY God and WHOLLY Man, this allows Him to be the go-between or the mediator between a holy God and sinful humanity.

- D. Since the fall of humanity in the Garden of Eden, humanity has been in enmity towards a loving and holy God.
 - 1. Enmity means to be hostile; to be guilty of rebelling against our creator God.

 - 2. Romans 8:6-9—*"[6] Now the mindset of the flesh is death, but the mindset of the Spirit is life and peace. [7] The mindset of the flesh is hostile to God because it does not submit to God's law. Indeed, it is unable to do so. [8] Those who are in the flesh cannot please God. [9] You, however, are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, if indeed the Spirit of God lives in you. If anyone does not have the Spirit of Christ, he does not belong to him."*

- a). When we (humanity) went against God's words—sin entered humanity; and ever since then, every person ever born, with the exception of Jesus, has inherited sin and the devastating effects of sin which leads to separation from their Creator as well as spiritual and physical death.
- E. Nevertheless, because of God's love for us, He is not willing that anyone should perish but may experience forgiveness of sins, be restore in a right relationship with Him and have eternal life through His Son Jesus Christ.
1. So, God the Father willed or ordained that Jesus be the only bridge, the ultimate go-between in order that we may be reconciled to the Father for He is a relational God.
- F. In the past, God had sent previous mediators like Moses who served as Israel's go-between to God under the Old Covenant or Old Testament.
1. God gave Moses the Law for the people of Israel to follow. Though Moses was a faithful servant and friend of God, he was not perfect even when he reminded God's people to obey God's laws.
 2. Moses was a good servant leader of God, but he was only a foreshadow of the One to come who was and is superior to him—Jesus (Hebrews chapter 2).
- G. Additionally, prophets and priests were a type of mediators between God and His people. Prophets spoke on behalf of God, and priests spoke to God on behalf of His people.
1. As one commentator pointed out, *"A principal activity of a prophet was to declare the Word of God. Jesus not only declared the Word of God, He is Himself*

the Word of God. Jesus was the supreme Prophet of God, being God's Word in the flesh."⁵

2. In Matthew 13:57 (NLT) Jesus said, *"And they were deeply offended and refused to believe in him. Then Jesus told them, "A prophet is honored everywhere except in his own hometown and among his own family."* Here, Jesus clearly identified Himself as a prophet.

 3. During Jesus's time, because of His earthly ministry (including His miracles) people recognized Him to be a prophet as stated in Luke 7:11-17 (CSB). After Jesus entered the town of Nain He saw a dead man being carried out. After having compassion over the mother of the dead man Jesus said —*"[13] "Don't weep." [14] Then he came up and touched the open coffin, and the pallbearers stopped. And he said, "Young man, I tell you, get up!" [15] The dead man sat up and began to speak, and Jesus gave him to his mother. [16] Then fear came over everyone, and they glorified God, saying, "A great prophet has risen among us," and "God has visited his people." [17] This report about him went throughout Judea and all the vicinity."*
- H. Believing Jesus as our mediator between God and humanity is essential to our faith for our salvation and a right relationship with God comes only through Jesus.
1. In John 14:6, Jesus said, *"I am the way, and the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me."*

 2. From the ESV Study Bible—*"Jesus as the one way to the Father fulfills the OT symbols and teachings that show the exclusiveness of God's claim (see note on 3:18), such as the curtain (Ex. 26:33) barring access to God's presence from all except the Levitical high priest (Leviticus 16), the rejection of human inventions*

⁵ *Ibid.*

*as means to approach God (Lev. 10:2), and the choice of Aaron alone to represent Israel before God in his sanctuary (Num. 17:5). Jesus is the only "way" to God (Acts 4:12), and he alone can provide access to God. Jesus as the truth fulfills the teaching of the OT (John 1:17) and reveals the true God (cf. 1:14, 17; 5:33; 18:37; also 8:40, 45–46; 14:9). Jesus alone is the life who fulfills the OT promises of "life" given by God (11:25–26), having life in himself (1:4; 5:26), and he is thus able to confer eternal life to all those who believe in him (e.g., 3:16)."*⁶

- I. For added clarification, a mediator is: *"(1). One that interposes (INTERCEDES) between parties at variance for the purpose of reconciling them. (2). By way of eminence (DISTINCTION), Christ is the mediator, the divine intercessor through whom sinners may be reconciled to an offended God."*⁷
 1. Sin is an offence to God. *"Sin, in its broadest definition, is any lack of conformity to the character of God as is revealed in the living and written word."*⁸
 - a). It means, missing the mark of God's holy righteous standard due to our lawlessness which is against God's moral divine character.
 - b). 1st John 3:1 (NIV)—*"Everyone who sins breaks the law; in fact, sin is lawlessness."*
 2. As sinners, we are an offence to God. But Jesus is the remedy for our sin. And the crux of the work of Jesus as mediator? His ministry of reconciliation. 2nd Corinthians 5:19 (CSB)—*"That is, in Christ, God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and he has committed the message of reconciliation to us."*

⁶ Crossway Bibles, *The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 2052.

⁷ Noah Webster, *Noah Webster's First Edition of An American Dictionary of the English Language*. (Anaheim, CA: Foundation for American Christian Education, 2006).

⁸ https://www.blueletterbible.org/faq/don_stewart/don_stewart_561.cfm

- J. God takes issue with humanity's sin because we all have been born with it. Romans 3:10 (CSB)—*"There is no one righteous, not even one."*
1. This is a description of our spiritual condition—we are not righteous before a holy God. But there is hope—we are made righteous only through Jesus Christ.
 2. Jesus is the divine mediator/intercessor through whom sinners may be reconciled to an offended God.
 3. Again, Jesus who is God the Son is the only bridge who can connect sinners to God the Father.
- K. Romans 3:23-26 (NLT) captures the gracious beauty of Jesus' righteousness that has been imputed, ascribed or deposited to those who put their faith in Jesus for their salvation—*"[23] For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard. [24] Yet God, in his grace, freely makes us right in his sight. He did this through Christ Jesus when he freed us from the penalty for our sins. [25] For God presented Jesus as the sacrifice for sin. People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood. This sacrifice shows that God was being fair when he held back and did not punish those who sinned in times past, [26] for he was looking ahead and including them in what he would do in this present time. God did this to demonstrate his righteousness, for he himself is fair and just, and he makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus."*
1. If I'm understanding this correctly, those in the past looked forward to the Cross of Jesus, while we in the present look back to the Cross of Jesus who *"makes sinners right in his sight when they believe in Jesus."*
 2. When we read Romans 3:25b, *"People are made right with God when they believe that Jesus sacrificed his life, shedding his blood"*—this speaks of our

justification God declares to those who fully believe in His Son Jesus Christ for their salvation.

3. *"Justification is a legal concept meaning that in God's courtroom, he pronounced believers innocent of all charges. He does this through what theologians call 'imputation'—taking Jesus's perfect record and crediting it to our accounts."*⁹

- L. *"An effective mediator is one who is able to make peace between parties who are in conflict or estranged from each other. This is the role Jesus performed as our perfect Mediator. Paul declared that we have peace with God through Christ's work of reconciliation: 'Therefore, having been justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ' (Romans 5:1)."*¹⁰
 1. We are also reminded again of Colossians 1:19-22 says, *"[19] For in him all the fullness of God was pleased to dwell, [20] and through him to reconcile to himself all things, whether on earth or in heaven, making peace by the blood of his cross. [21] And you, who once were alienated and hostile in mind, doing evil deeds, [22] he has now reconciled in his body of flesh by his death, in order to present you holy and blameless and above reproach before him."*

- M. Now, 1st Timothy 2:5-6 (NLT) says, *"[5] For, there is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus. [6] He gave his life to purchase freedom for everyone. This is the message God gave to the world at just the right time."*
 1. *"There is one God from whom salvation is available. There is only one way to Him, through the Mediator, Christ Jesus, who has the full nature of God and the*

⁹ Tony Evans, *The Tony Evans Study Bible* (Nashville, TN: Holman Bible, 2019), 1318.

¹⁰ R. C. Sproul, *Essential Truths of the Christian Faith* (Wheaton, IL: Tyndale House, 1992).

*full nature of man. Christ has identified with us; He understands us perfectly and represents us at the right hand of God the Father (see Rom. 8:34)."*¹¹

- N. But Jesus' ministry as mediator extends beyond being a bridge for sinners to the Father. For the Christian, Jesus also mediates as our Advocate and High Priest.

II. The Work of Jesus as Our Advocate

- A. 1st John 2:1 (NIV) says, *"My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One."*
1. The word advocate in the Greek is the word *paraklētos* (παράκλητος) which means helper, adviser or counselor—*"refers to one who helps, advocates, or comforts someone on behalf of another."*¹²
 2. Like the Holy Spirit, Jesus is *also* our paraclete who comforts us as our Advocate when we come with repentant hearts before God to forgive us of our sins and our shortcomings.
 3. As one source illustrates—*"He (Jesus) pleads our case with the Righteous Judge. We may imagine the conversation going something like this: 'Father, I know this one has sinned and violated our commands. He is guilty as charged. However, you have said that my sacrifice is sufficient payment for the debt he owes. My righteousness was applied to his account when he trusted in me for salvation and forgiveness. I have paid the price, so he can be pronounced 'Not guilty.' There is no debt left for him to pay."*¹³

¹¹ Earl D. Radmacher, Ronald Barclay Allen, and H. Wayne House, *The Nelson Study Bible: New King James Version* (Nashville: T. Nelson Publishers, 1997), 1 Ti 2:5.

¹² G. D. Taylor, "Testimony," ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook, Lexham Bible Reference Series* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

¹³ <https://www.gotquestions.org/Jesus-Advocate.html>

B. You may ask yourself, how is He able to mediate on our behalf as our Advocate?

1. Jesus, who is entirely human understands what it means to be tempted, face hardships, express feelings and the daily struggles living in this sinful world because Jesus experienced life in our world yet never ever sinned!

a). *"Our Advocate can plead our case from personal experience, something like this: "Father, this young woman has violated our righteous command, but she loves you and wants to serve you. I remember what it was like to be tempted like that, and my heart goes out to her. She has confessed this sin and desires to turn away from it. Because of my sacrifice, you can forgive this sin and purify her heart once more. Let's teach her how to let the Holy Spirit comfort her and strengthen her to resist the next time."*¹⁴

b). As in a court of law, Jesus is our righteous Advocate who will stand up on behalf of us sinners saved by grace and plead our case when we do sin as God's sons and daughters, even when the world and Satan makes accusations against us *for* Jesus does so because God sees His Son Jesus's righteousness in which we are now clothed in.

C. But Jesus also mediates as our High Priest for through Him as His followers we have direct access to God the Father.

III. The Work of Jesus As Our High Priest

A. During the Day of Atonement, the earthly high priest would first offer a sin offering for himself because he was a sinner. He would then offer a second sin offering for the people for they were sinners as well.

¹⁴*Ibid*

- B. But then Jesus comes along and never offered a single sin offering for Himself like the earthly priests but offered Himself as the ultimate and final sin offering humanity would ever need.
1. Hebrews 7:26-28 (NLT)—*"[26] He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honor in heaven. [27] Unlike those other high priests, he does not need to offer sacrifices every day. They did this for their own sins first and then for the sins of the people. But Jesus did this once for all when he offered himself as the sacrifice for the people's sins. [28] The law appointed high priests who were limited by human weakness. But after the law was given, God appointed his Son with an oath, and his Son has been made the perfect High Priest forever."*
 2. Calvary Chapel pastor, Don Stewart shared, *"The High Priest would bring an animal sacrifice. The sacrifice Jesus made for sin was not that of an animal—He sacrificed Himself. The animals were brought to the altar as unwilling victims but Jesus went to the cross as a willing sacrifice. Jesus Himself said, 'The Father loves me because I lay down my life that I may have it back again' (John 10:17, NLT). Jesus willingly sacrificed Himself for humanity. He was a willing victim."*¹⁵
- C. As our High Priest—Jesus is merciful, faithful and our helper. Hebrews 2:17-18 (CSB)—*"[17] Therefore, he had to be like his brothers and sisters in every way, so that he could become a merciful and faithful high priest in matters pertaining to God, to make atonement, for the sins of the people. [18] For since he himself has suffered when he was tempted, he is able to help those who are tempted."*
1. Jesus is our sympathetic High Priest who understands the temptations and the difficulties we face. Hebrews 4:14-16 (CSB)—*"[14] Therefore, since we have a*

¹⁵ https://www.blueletterbible.org/Comm/stewart_don/faq/the-ascension-of-jesus-and-his-present-ministry-as-high-priest/05-how-is-jesus-priesthood-better-than-that-of-the-earthly-priest.cfm

great high priest who has passed through the heavens—Jesus the Son of God—let us hold fast to our confession. [15] For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who has been tempted in every way as we are, yet without sin. [16] Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in time of need."

2. Jesus as our High Priest intercedes for His followers before our Heavenly Father because His priesthood is eternal and unchangeable.

a). Hebrews 7:25 (NASB)—*"Therefore He is able also to save forever those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them."*

D. Jesus is our Redeemer, our Mediator, our Advocate, and our High Priest.

IV. The Work of Jesus as Our Future Judge

A. 2nd Timothy 4:1 says, *"I charge you in the presence of God and of Christ Jesus, who is to judge the living and the dead, and by his appearing and his kingdom."*

1. Here Paul shared his eschatological perspective as one inspired under the Holy Spirit that we believe Jesus will one day return to judge the living who are alive and to those who died but will be raised when He returns.

2. The word *judge* as used here in the Greek *krinō* (κρίνω) means *"to pass judgment, to make a judgment. This verb describes the act of carrying out a judicial process or making a judgment."*¹⁶

¹⁶ Matthew Aernie, *Judgment, Final*, ed. Douglas Mangum et al., *Lexham Theological Wordbook, Lexham Bible Reference Series* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2014).

3. *"The New Testament therefore exhorts believers to live in reverence of God, knowing that he is the impartial judge who will exonerate them and bring condemnation upon those who defy him (1 Pet 1:17; 2 Pet 2:3–16)."*¹⁷
- B. Also, that Jesus who is the Alpha and the Omega who once again will step out from eternity into our temporal world will one day return as the coming Judge *also* speaks of His *imminent* return which will be a blessed day for those in Christ Jesus.
1. *"When Christ appears, He will inaugurate the judgment and His faithful will be gathered into His kingdom."*¹⁸
 2. The late pastor and theologian Dr. J. Vernon McGee once wrote that *"Christ's appearing and His Kingdom are not the same thing. His appearing is the epiphany, the rapture of the church. His Kingdom refers to the revelation of Christ when He returns to earth to establish His Kingdom. Twice He will do some judging. He will judge His own when He takes them out of the world. Also, He will judge those who turn to God in the Great Tribulation. All of us who are believers will come before Him for judgment at one time or another. Our lives are going to be tested to see if we are to receive a reward or not."*¹⁹
 - a). Now, for the Christians, 2nd Corinthians 5:9-10 (NIV)—*"[9] So we make it our goal to please him, whether we are at home in the body or away from it. [10] For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, so that each of us may receive what is due us for the things done while in the body, whether good or bad."*
 - b). But for the non-Christians Revelation 20:11-15 (CSB)— *"[11] Then I saw a great white throne and one seated on it. Earth and heaven fled from his*

¹⁷ *Ibid.*

¹⁸ Charles Caldwell Ryrie, *Ryrie Study Bible: New American Standard Bible, 1995 Update, Expanded ed.* (Chicago: Moody Press, 1995), 1931.

¹⁹ J. Vernon McGee, *Thru the Bible Commentary: The Epistles (1 and 2 Timothy/Titus/Philemon)*, electronic ed., vol. 50 (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1991), 127–128.

presence, and no place was found for them. [12] I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the dead were judged according to their works by what was written in the books. [13] Then the sea gave up the dead that were in it, and death and Hades gave up the dead that were in them; each one was judged according to their works. [14] Death and Hades were thrown into the lake of fire. This is the second death, the lake of fire. [15] And anyone whose name was not found written in the book of life was thrown into the lake of fire."

- c). For both Christians and non-Christians, Jews and Gentiles, every tribe and nation, Philippians 2:9-11 says, *"[9] Therefore God has highly exalted him and bestowed on him the name that is above every name, [10] so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, [11] and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father."*

V. CONCLUSION

- A. In closing, there is more we can say about Jesus as stated in John 21:25. But believing the Deity and Humanity of Jesus Christ and His Work is essential to the Christian faith.
 - 1. Romans 10:9 (NIV) says, *"If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised him from the dead, you will be saved."*
 - a). To declare or confess Jesus is Lord is to believe in the Deity and Humanity of Jesus.
 - b). To believe that God RAISED Him from the dead is to believe in the Work of Jesus.

B. Acts 4:5-12 (CSB)— *"[5] The next day, their rulers, elders, and scribes assembled in Jerusalem [6] with Annas the high priest, Caiaphas, John, Alexander, and all the members of the high-priestly family. [7] After they had Peter and John stand before them, they began to question them: "By what power or in what name have you done this?" [8] Then Peter was filled with the Holy Spirit and said to them, "Rulers of the people and elders; [9] If we are being examined today about a good deed done to a disabled man, by what means he was healed, [10] let it be known to all of you and to all the people of Israel, that by the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom you crucified and whom God raised from the dead—by him this man is standing here before you healthy. [11] This Jesus is the stone rejected by you builders, which has become the cornerstone. [12] There is salvation in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to people by which we must be saved."* JESUS!

1. It is THIS Jesus who is the only bridge that can clear us over the chasm of sin's separation to our holy, gracious and loving Father through repentance and faith in Jesus Christ!

C. So, based on the inerrant and infallible Word of God—

"We believe that Jesus Christ is God's only begotten Son, who is the second Person of the Holy Trinity, who is fully God and fully Man and is without sin. He came to man and was conceived by the Holy Spirit, and was born to the virgin Mary; who came to earth to die for the sins of the world on a cross, was physically buried in a tomb and was raised from the dead defeating sin and death who then ascended to Heaven sitting at the right hand of God the Father as our present High Priest and Advocate who will return again to judge the living and the dead" (GRCC Statement of Faith).

To God Be The Glory Forever and Ever. Amen!