

**Fundamentals, Study 8. Christ The Mediator (John 1:1-14)**

by BS Poh

o God has mercifully appointed a Mediator for sinners who, otherwise, will not be able to save themselves from eternal damnation for their sins.

1. We have become the enemies of God because of our sin against Him. We need a *Mediator*, or Peacemaker, to bring us into a good relationship with God again. The Mediator we need must be able to represent well the two parties - man and God. He must also be able to offer an acceptable payment to God for our offence against Him. God has appointed Jesus Christ as the only Mediator. 1 (1. Isa 42:1; 1 Tim. 2:5)

2. At the time determined by the Triune God in eternity, Jesus Christ was conceived in the womb of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit. He was born to a woman from the tribe of Judah, a descendant of Abraham and David, just as has been taught in the Scriptures. The eternal Son of God took on real human nature, but without sin, because the power of the Holy Spirit was working in Mary.<sup>2</sup> Two perfect and *distinct* natures were joined together in *one* person forever. The joining of the divine and the human natures are without *conversion* (i.e. without the changing of one nature into the other), *composition* (i.e. without the mixing of the two natures together to form a different kind of nature), and *confusion* (i.e. without the characteristics of one nature being transferred to the other.)<sup>3</sup> (2. Matt 1:22-23; Luke 1:27, 31, 35; 3. Rom 9:5; 1 Tim 2:5; Phil. 2:5-11)

3. The Lord Jesus Christ was enabled by the Holy Spirit to fulfil the task of Mediator, which the Father had assigned to Him, perfectly. He kept the law of God perfectly despite being tempted to sin. This is known as His *active obedience*.<sup>4</sup> He then died on the cross as the perfect sacrifice, to pay the penalty of the sins of His people. This is known as His *passive obedience*.<sup>5</sup> On the third day, He rose from death with the same body in which He had suffered, and went up to heaven to intercede for (i.e. speak on behalf of) His people.<sup>6</sup> He shall return to judge men and angels at the end of the world.<sup>7</sup> (4. Gal 4:4; Matt 3:15; 5. Gal 3:13; Isa 53:6; 1 Pet 3:18; 6. Mark 16:19; Acts 1:9-11; Rom 8:34; Heb 9:24; 7. Acts 10:42; Rom 14:9-10)

4. All God's elect (i.e. those chosen to be saved) are saved by Christ's work as the Mediator, regardless of whether they lived before the time He was born or after that.<sup>8</sup> The elect will certainly be saved because the Holy Spirit gives them understanding of the message of salvation in God's word, persuades them to believe and obey, governs their hearts according to the teaching of the word, and preserves them in the faith to the end.<sup>9</sup> God saves His people not because He foresaw any worthy deed or response of faith in them, but solely by His grace (i.e. undeserved mercy and favour.)<sup>10</sup> God's choice of the elect for salvation has been called *Unconditional Election*. Christ's death for the redemption of the elect, and the elect alone, has been called *Limited Atonement*, or *Particular Redemption*. (8. Heb 4:2; 1 Pet 1:10-11; 9. John 3:8; 16:8; Rom 8:9-14; 1 John 5:20; 10. Eph 2:8-9)

5. As the one and only Mediator between God and man, Christ acts as Prophet, Priest, and King over His people.<sup>11</sup> As *Prophet* He reveals God, and His will, to us. As *Priest* He reconciles us to

God and presents us to Him as acceptable. As *King* He rules over us and preserves us until we arrive safely in heaven. This number and order of offices (i.e. Prophet, Priest, and King) is essential to the life of the Christian and of the church.<sup>12</sup> Many Christians, and many churches, face difficulties because of not appreciating the relevance of the three offices of Christ - in that number and in that order. (11. Acts 3:22; Heb. 4:14; Luke 1:31-33; 12. John 1:18; Col 1:21; Luke 1:74-75)

= Let us seek peace with God through our Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **Review Questions**

1. Why do we need a Mediator?
2. What are the qualifications of that Mediator?
3. How did the Son of God become the Mediator?
4. Explain what is meant by *without conversion*, *without composition*, and *without confusion*, as applied to the natures of Christ.?
5. How was the Lord Jesus Christ able to fulfil the task of Mediator perfectly?
6. What is the *active obedience* of Christ?
7. What is the *passive obedience* of Christ?
8. How were the elect before the time of Christ saved?
9. Why will the elect be saved certainly?
10. Why do we need Christ as our Prophet, Priest, and King?

### **Assignment/Discussion**

Jesus Christ, as Head of the church and Mediator between God and man, occupies the offices of prophet, priest and king. How do the number and order of these offices affect evangelism and the reformation of the church?

### **Memory Passage (1 Tim 2:5)**

5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~