

CHRIST OUR MEDIATOR



PURIFY ME WITH HYSSOP, AND I SHALL BE CLEAN; WASH ME,
AND I SHALL BE WHITER THAN SNOW.

(PSALM 51:7 LSB)

1. Christ is the mediator of the new covenant, 9:15.

- (Hebrews 9:15 LSB) And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant, **so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the trespasses that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called** may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

A mediator is someone who acts as a link between parties; **sometimes specifically selected [as Christ was];** one who intervenes between two, either in order to make or restore peace and friendship, or form a compact, or for ratifying a covenant.

A. Christ Jesus is the only mediator between God and humans.

- (1 Timothy 2:5 LSB) For there is one God, and **one mediator also between God and men, the man Christ Jesus.**

B. Christ is the mediator of the new covenant which is the basis of salvation for all the saints of God—both Old and New Testament.

C. Christ's death "has taken place" to redeem those under the first covenant who believed.

D. The Old Testament saints were saved by believing in a promised, coming redemptive act of God which was fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

Abraham believed this:

- (John 8:56 LSB) **Your father Abraham rejoiced to see My day,** and he saw it and was glad.
- (Genesis 15:6 LSB) Then he [Abraham] **believed in Yahweh; and He counted it to him as righteousness.**
- (Romans 4:3 ESV) For what does the Scripture say? **"Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness."**
- (Romans 4:16 LSB) For this reason it is by faith, in order that it may be according to grace, **so that the promise will be guaranteed to all the seed,** not only to those who are of the Law, **but also to those who are of the faith of Abraham,** who is the father of us all.

Moses believed this:

- (John 5:46 LSB) For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me, **for he wrote about Me.**

All the Prophets believed this:

- (John 1:45 LSB) Philip found Nathanael and said to him, **"We have found Him of whom Moses in the Law and also the**

Prophets wrote—Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph."

- (1 Peter 1:10–11 LSB) Concerning this salvation, the prophets, who prophesied of the grace that would come to you, made careful searches and inquiries, **inquiring to know what time or what kind of time the Spirit of Christ within them was indicating as He was predicting the sufferings of Christ and the glories to follow.**

2. Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant because his blood cleanses the conscience of dead works, 9:13-15.

- (Hebrews 9:13–15 LSB) For if the blood of goats and bulls and the ashes of a heifer sprinkling those who have been defiled sanctify for the cleansing of the flesh, **14 how much more will the blood of Christ,** who through the eternal Spirit offered Himself without blemish to God, **cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God?** **15 And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant,** so that, since a death has taken place for the redemption of the trespasses that were committed under the first covenant, those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.

A. Christ offered himself without blemish through the Spirit as a sacrifice to God.

B. The blood shed from this sacrifice cleanses the conscience from dead works to serve a living God.

C. By virtue of the cleansing work of his blood Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant.

D. His death took place for the redemption of the trespasses under the first covenant.

E. By this redemption those who have been called may now receive the promise of eternal inheritance (life).

EXCURSUS: What does it mean to have our conscience cleansed from dead works to serve the living God?

1. Dead works ...

A. Christ is the mediator because his blood cleanses our conscience from dead works.

B. Our conscience needs cleansed of dead works so that we may serve the living God.

C. Dead works (or good deeds) are attempts to merit

right standing before God by adherence to a perceived moral, legal or religious obligation.

- D. Dead works are useless in relation to our right standing with God.
- E. Dead works are counterproductive—they lead away from life and to death.

2. Our conscience ...

- A. Our conscience is our God-given, human sense of right and wrong, good and evil.
- B. Our conscience needs cleansed because Adam and Eve corrupted the human conscience when they chose to operate the conscience—know good and evil—independently of God.

3. Adam and Eve began with a clear conscience and in perfect standing with God their Creator.

- A. There was intimate fellowship and no hindrances between them and Yahweh.
- B. They were given the opportunity at creation to work for and serve the living God.
- C. God laid out his plan for them to be fruitful and to rule over the entire earth.

- (Genesis 1:27–28a LSB) And God created man in His own image, in the image of God He created him; male and female He created them. 28 God blessed them, and God said to them, “Be fruitful and multiply, and fill the earth.”

D. Everything God gave them was very good.

- (Genesis 1:31 LSB) And God saw all that He had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

4. But Adam and Eve rejected the very good life God gave them as humans blessed by their Creator.

- A. Tempted by the serpent Adam and Eve chose the life the serpent offered which was the opportunity to be like God knowing good and evil.

- (Genesis 3:5–6 ESV) For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil.” 6 So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate.

Several things happened at this point ...

- B. For the first time Adam and Eve knew evil.
- C. Their conscience was operative but corrupted.
- D. Adam and Eve performed the first dead works when they covered themselves and hid from the presence of Yahweh.

Note: The first religious act of humans to cover their shame was to sew plant leaves together to cover their private parts ... but this was merely a precursor to all the foolishness that would follow ... until a person realizes that only the blood of Christ covers our nakedness.

- (Genesis 3:7–101 LSB) And the eyes of both of them were opened, and they knew that they were naked; and they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loin coverings. 8 Then they heard the sound of Yahweh God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of Yahweh God in the midst of the trees of the garden. 9 Yahweh God called to the man and said to him, “Where are you?” 10 And he said, “I heard the sound of You in the garden, and I was afraid because I was naked; so I hid.”
 - i. They sensed that what they had done was wrong and not knowing what else to do they covered themselves.
 - ii. They sensed fear and guilt in God’s presence so they hid in the trees.

5. Our “new” conscience – what that means ...

- A. Our conscience has been cleansed from dead works.
- B. Our conscience has been redeemed by the blood of the Lamb and sanctified by the will of God.
- C. We have repented of our ways and believe in God alone for salvation.
- D. We now have the mind of Christ as the blood of Christ has cleansed our minds and souls from our foolish, sinful efforts to make things right with God.
- E. We are now ready to serve the living God.
 - (1 Corinthians 2:16 NLT) For, “Who can know the Lord’s thoughts? Who knows enough to teach him?” But we understand these things, for we have the mind of Christ.

END EXCURSUS

3. Christ is the mediator of the New Covenant because his necessary death had taken place for the redemption of those who had been called to receive the promise of eternal inheritance, 9:15-22.

- (Hebrews 9:15–22 LSB) **And for this reason He is the mediator of a new covenant**, so that, **since a death has taken place for the redemption of the trespasses that were committed under the first covenant**, **those who have been called may receive the promise of the eternal inheritance.** 16 For where a covenant is, **there must of necessity be the death of the one who made it.** 17 For a covenant is **valid** only when men are dead, for it is never in force while the one who made it lives. 18 Therefore not even the first covenant was **inaugurated** without blood. 19 For when every commandment had been spoken by Moses to all the people according to the Law, he took the blood of the calves and the goats, with water and scarlet wool and hyssop, and sprinkled both the book itself and all the people, 20 saying, **"THIS IS THE BLOOD OF THE COVENANT WHICH GOD COMMANDED YOU."** 21 And in the same way, both the tabernacle and all the vessels of the ministry he sprinkled with the blood. 22 **And according to the Law, one may almost say, all things are cleansed with blood, and without shedding of blood there is no forgiveness.**

A. All those who have been called since the beginning of time on earth are redeemed based on the shed blood and the death of Jesus Christ.

B. The death—thus the blood—of Christ validated and inaugurated the new covenant.

C. The shed blood of Christ is the basis for God forgiving and cleansing our sins throughout all the ages/dispensations.

- (1 John 1:9 LSB) If we confess our sins, He is faithful and righteous to **forgive** us our sins and to **cleanse** us from all unrighteousness.