

March 4 A-M

GOD'S MIDDLEMAN

2 Tim. 2:5-6

Dan MacPherson who preached in Scotland gave an illustration --
The middleman is a familiar figure in the modern world.

We meet him in many realms - Law - between the accused and the judge on the bench, there is an advocate, whose task it is to plead the case of the defendant - to seek acquittal.

In realm of Commerce - one hand the consumer and on other merchant - the distributor - who has the business of seeing the goods manufactured reach those for whom they are intended.

In realm of International Affairs - likewise between governments - ambassadors, diplomats, liaison officer - act as official intermediary.

God has a M - Text - There is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as ransom for all. One Mediator! Only one. One way to God. No union without M.

Sign in shop - These goods are cheap - because we cut out the M!

Any (brand of rel.) that cuts out the M. is cheap and worthless.

I. Christ is the M. between God and the Soul

Why is M necessary at this connection.

1. The Fact of Sin

Sin results in failure of communications.

Breakdown of relationships between human and divine.

Separates - alienates.

Ill. Imagine a man with an urgent message for President Nixon. The man goes to a phone booth - picks up receiver. Between the booth and the White House there is a living link, a wire along which words can be transmitted. Suppose some malicious person outside the booth snips the wire.

Immediately the contact is interrupted. Message cannot get through. No matter how loudly the would be messenger may shout he won't be heard beyond the walls of the booth. Certainly the President will never hear him.

Sin is like that, it cuts the contact between man and God. Living link.

John Hyde - Miss. India "One sin costs us the presence of God."

All have sinned times without number and one sin cuts - how can communications be restored between man and God?

How are they to be reconciled?

It is here the need of a M. - obvious Christ is the one. Christ paid awful price.

Story - King George V speaking radio at Disarmament Conference and his speech relayed to America. Just as broadcast was about to begin, a cable suddenly snapped in a New York Radio Station, plunging the staff into panic.

What was to be done?

Million listeners tuned in waiting for the King's voice. It could not get through.

Repair - take 20 minutes.

Before tape recordings - speech be lost.

Harold Vivien, a Jr. mechanic employed saw in moment how the problem might be solved.

Seizing with bare hands the live ends of the broken wire and held them, grimly and gallantly as the royal message passed through.

Electrical charges of some 200 to 250 volts shook his body, from head to foot, causing pain but he did not relax his grasp. Desperately he clung to the cable till the people heard the King.

Somewhat of a graphic picture of what Christ did on Calvary.

He repaired the breakdown in relations between God and man. Endured crucifixion - stretching his body on a cross, his hands to guilty man.

Costly to be a mediator.

✓ Moses - Ex. 32:31-32

Esther - 4:16 "I will go in before the King if I perish, I perish."

Paul - Rom 9:3 - "Wish myself accursed from Christ for my brethren."

No human M would do - not good enough to pay the price - lay down life.

Hubert Simpson - a word picture of World War I - a (signaller), unarmed, lying dead in no-man's land - sent out repair a cable snapped by shell fire, sent to restore interrupted contact.

The picture shows him lying dead in the fulfillment of his task, holding together, in his stiffening hands, the broken ends, holding them in contact. Beneath the picture is the one word "through!"

N. T. Assures Jesus has got us through.

I Pet. 3:18 - "Because Christ also suffered for sins once, the righteous for the unrighteous, that He might bring us to God."

Carlyle - "Christ takes the hand of God and the hand of the worst sinner and brings them together.

2. Fact of Innocent Suffering

Job - Happy Family

Diaster - crashing upon him.

Everything gone.

Worships - reaction - health - wealth.

Mother - child died - ball - street.

Gethsemane - She needed to gaze at cross.

Things Christ says - need find proof.

Jesus says - come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden and I will give you rest. Matt. 11:28.

Bonar - "I came to Jesus and was, weary and worn and sad; I found him a resting place, and He has made me glad."

✓ II. Christ is the Middleman between Church and the World

Live Arctic circle - imaginary line.

Crossing it - Alaska.

No recognizable difference.

Church inside and out!

Not iron curtain - Berlin Wall.

Some try Christianize society without converting individuals.

Some try Christianize society bring world into the church.

Sports, amusements, hope to attract and hold the young.

Church suffers at this point - its past time is inferior.

The young are not brought into the orbit of the church's real life.

Coax youth within the confines of the Christian fellowship - well-intended though it may be, can the church be an effective mediator between the church and the world?

Where shall we look?

"I will build my church" --

He is the M between the church and the world.

III. Christ is Middleman between one member and another, in the Christian Church.

Society - loyalty, tradition, self-interest, compulsion.

Holds church together - Christ links everyone to him. Comradship.

Married couple } get divorce.

Nothing in common - mutual love for their only child - 8 years old.

Injured by bus. Hospital. Beyond human aid.

Parents sent for - urgent - haste.

Stood looking down at the child in sorrow.

Plain - the child was past hope - her eyes close. Suddenly she opened her eyes - looked up. Smiled. After that they thought she was gone - stretched out her hand in direction of her father. Daddy give me your hand. Then turning to her mother - held out her hand. Mommy give me your hand.

Her last effort of strength she drew them both together.

Picture of Christ.

To come in perfect harmony with each other. He is M.

More than that -

Statue - The Christ of the Andes.

March 13, 1904 - Figure of our Lord. Bronze set on rough-hewn stone pedestal on peak separating Chile and Argentina at height of 14,000 feet, faces Northward and is turned in direction of both countries.

Appears to bless with up-lifted hands.

Historian says - "Long bitter dispute between the two nations over boundry line across Andes - Controversey threatened war.

Agreed on settlement to Queen Victoria by a common commission to examine the documents of the survey of the frontier.

Made report and accepted.

Grateful the struggle was over.

Cast this statue from a cannon at Buenos Aires as monument of peace and good will. 26 feet high.

Inscription - "Sooner shall these mountains crumble into dust than Argentina and Chileans break the peace which at the feet of Christ the Redsemer they have sworn to maintain."

That concordat has been kept for 65 years.

Christ - gives everlasting peace.