

HC 18-19-The Only One Fit

Beloved Congregation of our Lord Jesus: There are many who have written books and teach on television that you play some part in your salvation. They misquote verses like Philippians 2:12 which says: "Work out your salvation with fear and trembling." This verse was not teaching about how you are saved, but how you are to live after you are saved. These false teachers then ignore clear passages that teach that your salvation was completely earned by Jesus Christ, who was everything you needed him to be – God and man! That was last time. Today we will go further and see that Christ was the only one fit to be everything you needed him to be!

Our headings are:

The Only One Who Met the Conditions for your Salvation – Stated

The Only One Who Met the Conditions for your Salvation - Demonstrated

Our goals are: That seeing the exclusivity of Jesus, and a demonstration of his exclusivity, that you will then embrace his salvation more strongly and expand that salvation to those still in darkness.

The Only One Who Met the Conditions for your Salvation - Stated

18 Q. AND WHO IS THIS MEDIATOR 中间人 – TRUE GOD AND AT THE SAME TIME TRULY HUMAN AND TRULY RIGHTEOUS?

A. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who was given us to set us completely free and to make us right with God.

1. Christ Jesus was fully human. He was completely pure. He was fully God. He met God's conditions to redeem man. He could satisfy God's justice and set you free from God's curses on you. Consider two passages that clearly teach these things.

Matthew 1:21 "And she will bring forth a Son, and you shall call His name JESUS, for He will save His people from their sins." 22 So all this was done that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the Lord through the prophet, saying: 23 "Behold, the virgin shall be with child, and bear a Son, and they shall call His name Immanuel," which is translated, "God with us."

1Timothys 2: 5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus, Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

Jesus Christ was determined. He did not leave the work halfway. He set his face, as Isaiah said, like flint 燧石 and headed to the cross and completed the job.

Isaiah 50:7 "For the Lord GOD will help Me; Therefore I will not be disgraced; Therefore I have set My face like a flint, And I know that I will not be ashamed.

This work of Jesus not only paid for sin (by his death) but assured the sinner that he has new life (through his resurrection).

2. Jesus Christ was not only qualified as God and man, but he was the only one fit to save the whole world. Listen to his own words, reflecting the covenant he made with his Father. He was the only means of salvation.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. [18] "He who believes in Him is not condemned; but he who does not believe is condemned already, because he has not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God.

3. Jesus Christ gained for you, believers of the Old Testament, and believers who will come after you, a clean heart, a clean record and a clean life. You are prisoner of no one. No one, including Satan, has any claim against you, nor can anyone ever. You are freed forever. He fully saved you.

1Corinthians 1: 30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption—

Acts 4:12 "Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved."

But let's move from the statement to the demonstration of the exclusivity of Jesus – as the only one who met God's conditions for salvation.

The Only One Who Met the Conditions for your Salvation - Demonstrated

19 Q. HOW DO YOU COME TO KNOW THIS?

A. The holy gospel tells me. God himself began to reveal the gospel already in Paradise; later, he proclaimed it by the holy patriarchs先祖 and prophets, and portrayed it by the sacrifices and other ceremonies of the law; finally, he fulfilled it through his own dear Son.

1. The prediction of Christ's work came in the Garden of Eden shortly after the Fall.

Genesis 3: 15 And I will put enmity 敌意 Between you and the woman, And between your seed and her Seed; **He shall bruise your head**, And you shall bruise His heel."

This is called the promise of salvation in seed form. It is the proto evangelium. Crushing of the Devil's head means complete freedom from those who were under his tyranny 暴政. This was fulfilled on the cross. Satan, the snake, bit the heel of the Lord ...as snakes usually do (temporary hurt), but Christ rose and again, set his people free. Satan's kingdom was crushed and Satan himself was chained-restricted.

Galatians 3:16 Now to Abraham and his Seed were the promises made. He does not say, "And to seeds," as of many, but as of one, "**And to your Seed**," who is Christ.

1John 3:8 He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He **might destroy the works of the devil**.

2. The predictions of Christ's exclusive redemptive work (the only fit one) continued through the

Patriarchs – Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. In Jesus all the nations would receive blessings of salvation.

Genesis 22: 18 "**In your Seed all the nations of the earth shall be blessed**, because you have obeyed My voice."

Genesis 49: 10 The scepter 圭 shall not depart from Judah, Nor a lawgiver from between his feet, **Until Shiloh comes**; And to Him shall be the obedience of the people.

Shiloh was another name for Jesus. When Judah gave birth to him, the Jews were still ruling through Herod. After Jesus died, the Jews lost the scepter forever. **Now Christ will rule over all the nations.**

3. The predictions continued through the prophets. Consider one. There are many more.

Jeremiah 23: 5 "Behold, the days are coming," says the LORD, "That I **will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper**, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. 6 In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS**."

New Testament passages testify that the prophets spoke of Jesus.

Acts 10: 43 "**To Him all the prophets witness** that, through His name, whoever believes in Him will receive remission of sins."

Jesus himself said that the prophets of the Old Testament spoke of him.

Luke 24: 25 Then He said to them, "O foolish ones, and slow of heart to believe in all that the prophets have spoken! 26 "Ought not the Christ to have suffered these things and to enter into His glory?" 27 And beginning at **Moses and all the Prophets, He expounded to them in all the Scriptures the things concerning Himself.**

The prophets like Moses talked about the work of Jesus. Isaiah said that the Messiah would save him...by his stripes... He used present tense (Isaiah 53). Look what John said about Moses who wrote.

John 5: 46 "**For if you believed Moses, you would believe Me; for he wrote about Me.**

Moses believed in Jesus for his salvation.

Jesus in this pre-incarnate form ("Angel of the Lord") pointed to his work. Dispensationalists 时代

论 who deny unity between the OT and NT argue that people were saved in some other way in the Old Testament. This false claim robs Christ of the glory that rightly belongs to him. He was the only fit one. Animals had no power to remove sins.

4. The predictions of Christ were further seen in the sacrifices and ceremonies of the Old Testament.

Read Leviticus 1-7 to see many of them there. And consider selected verses from Hebrews 10 that highlight the promises of Christ in picture form.

Hebrews 10: 1 For the law, having a **shadow of the good things to come**, and not the very image of the things, can never with these same **sacrifices**, which they offer continually year by year, make those who approach perfect. 2 For then would they not have ceased to be offered? For the worshipers, once purified, would have had no more consciousness of sins. 3 But in **those sacrifices there is a reminder of sins every year.** 4 **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and goats could take away sins.** 5 Therefore, when He came into the world, He said: "Sacrifice and offering You did not desire, **But a body You have prepared for Me.** 6 In burnt offerings and sacrifices for sin You had no pleasure. 7 Then I said, 'Behold, I have come—In the volume of the book it is written of Me—To do Your will, O God.'" 8 Previously saying, "Sacrifice and offering, burnt offerings, and offerings for sin You did not desire, nor had

pleasure in them" (which are offered according to the law), 9 then He said, "Behold, I have **come to do Your will**, O God." He takes away the first that He may establish the second. 10 By that will we have been sanctified through the **offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all**.

And then all the promises, ceremonies, and sacrifices were all fulfilled when Jesus Christ, fully God, fully pure, and fully man, came to die for the sins of the world.

Galatians 4: 4 But when the fullness of the time had come, God sent forth His Son, born of a woman, born under the law, 5 to redeem those who were under the law, that we might receive the adoption as sons.

Colossians 2: 16 So let no one judge you in food or in drink, or regarding a festival or a new moon or Sabbaths 安息日, 17 which are a shadow of things to come, but the substance is of Christ.

5. Hebrews 11-12 highlight the fact that all men in the OT who were saved had faith in Jesus Christ.

(Chapter 11-the "faith" chapter.) **How could Jesus Christ save retroactively?** In God's eyes, he knows everything exhaustively. He is not a creature of time. All things exist in God's mind always. This is why Jesus was "slain before the foundation of the world." (Rev. 13:8)

6. Nicodemus, the Jewish leader, was reprimanded 训斥 for not knowing how one could be saved.

John 3:10 Jesus answered and said to him, "**Are you the teacher of Israel, and do not know these things?**"

The Lord's point was that things did not change. Nicodemus should have known. And how did the Lord summarize the way of salvation – the way that all the Old Testament saints should have known?

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that **whoever believes in Him** should not perish 消灭 but have everlasting 永恒的 life. 17 "For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn 谴责 the world, **but that the world through Him might be saved.**

Now all Christians are together.

Ephesians 2:11 Therefore remember that you, once **Gentiles** in the flesh—who are called Uncircumcision by what is called the Circumcision made in the flesh by hands — 12 that at that time you were without Christ, **being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel and strangers** from the covenants of promise, having no hope and without God in the world. 13 But now **in Christ Jesus you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ.** 14 For He Himself is our peace, who has made both one, **and has broken down the middle wall of separation.**

So Gentiles have been brought into the community of those who loved Jesus...the only fit one.

7. Roman Catholics and Mormons, who deny the exclusivity of the message of salvation by Christ alone, hold a serious heresy.

Conclusion:

Only Jesus Christ could remove sins and restore man into a right relationship with the Father. And he did. God predicted in through his holy prophets and he fulfilled it in the New Testament. He saved people in the Old Testament and the saved people in the New Testament fully-in the same way – through the only fit one. The Old and New Testaments are double witnesses of the same promise.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

1. What privilege you have to be chosen by the Lord and redeemed through Jesus Christ: Rejoice! He was the only one who could do it and he did...and he did it willingly!

2. That privilege, however, has responsibilities. Work and worship.

3. Consider one important aspect of that work: Evangelism. Satan's sting 刺 was destroyed on the cross. And God uses you today, by the Sword of the Spirit, the Word of God, to crush Satan's head. How well are you working for the destruction of the Devil's work? Are you indifferent...or lazy? Or are you working hard to see God's Word spread?

Finally, God's Word says: "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and you will be saved." Believing means to receive in your heart the whole life and death of Jesus Christ. You can do nothing to earn your salvation. You simply receive what Christ has done. And there is no salvation outside of Jesus Christ...there never was and never will be. So if you want to be saved, ask God to count Jesus' life and death as yours.