

BRINGING THE WORD OF LIFE

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER

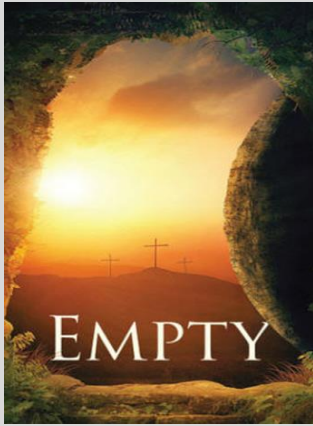
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'...that you may know that you have eternal life.' 1 John 5:13

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Issue: 1177

April 2017



THE EMPTY CROSS

Less than a week earlier, Jesus of Nazareth entered the city with His disciples and many others proclaiming Him as Messiah, our long-awaited Savior. We were full of hope, because He was clearly a teacher sent by God with the power to work miracles—healing, feeding, and even raising people from the grave!

But then, the one who we thought would bring salvation was dead. It all happened so quickly; one day He was teaching His followers, and the next He was on trial and condemned to death by crucifixion. Even the execution was rushed, as the soldiers used a spear to ensure that He was dead before the day was over.

The empty cross, and the emptiness in my heart, both testified to one fact—Jesus died.

THE EMPTY TOMB

Three days later, some of His followers went to the tomb, found it empty, and returned with amazing news—He was alive! For the next forty days, He continued to teach and encourage His disciples, appearing first to one, then two, then eleven—and eventually more than five hundred of us at once!

Jesus had predicted that He would suffer, die, and rise again, but we just couldn't comprehend the beauty of God's divine plan to redeem our souls. When He said, "I lay down My life, that I might take it again," we didn't realize what He meant at the time.

Arriving at Golgotha that evening, I was overcome with a sense of emptiness. The area was completely deserted, but three blood-stained crosses at the top of the hill served as solemn reminders of the events of the day.

But now, looking back on these events, I see how the empty cross testifies of His love, and the empty tomb declares His mighty power. God's Word says:

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because He laid down His life for us" (1 John 3:16).

"[Jesus was] declared to be the Son of God with power ... by the resurrection from the dead" (Romans 1:4).

This narrative was compiled using Biblical testimony found in Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Acts, and 1 Corinthians.

YOUR RESPONSE?

Jesus took our sins upon Himself—suffered and died in our place—so we can be forgiven. There on the cross, He cried out, **"It is finished"** (John 19:30).

The empty cross tells us that the work is done, the price has been paid, and the door to Heaven stands open.

The empty tomb demonstrates that Jesus won the victory over sin and death. Listen to His words: **"I am the resurrection, and the life: he that believeth in Me, though he were dead, yet shall he live" (John 11:25).**

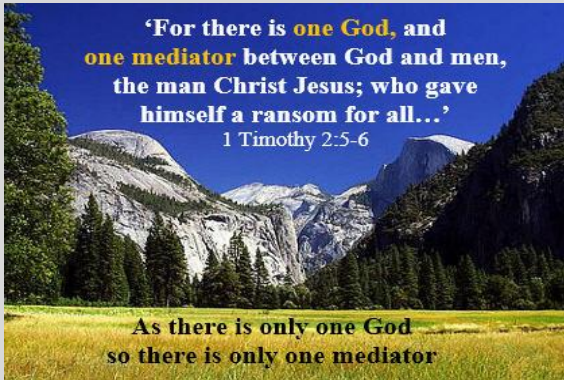
Jesus now offers salvation to all mankind. If we reject Him, we must stand before God and be judged for our sins – **"cast into the lake of fire"** (Revelation 20:15). But if we admit that we are sinners, turn to God, and put our trust in Jesus Christ, we will find forgiveness and eternal life. **"If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved ... For whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:9,13).** *Moments with the Book*

JESUS CHRIST - UNIQUE THE ONLY MEDIATOR BETWEEN MANKIND AND GOD

(Mediator – 'a go-between' – one who
Intervenes between two persons at variance)

His qualifications:

Who He is: Christ Jesus the unique Son of God
What He has done: Gave Himself a ransom for all.



A MEDIATOR

- Is needed when there is a difference between two parties.

The Bible says:

Now a mediator is not a mediator of one, but God is one. (Galatians 3:20)

A MEDIATOR

- Is a middle-man, a reconciler.

The Bible says:

God sent forth His Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law. (Galatians 4:4,5)

A MEDIATOR

- Is often appointed when an agreement or contract is broken.

The Bible says:

They have transgressed the laws, changed the ordinance, broken the everlasting covenant. (Isaiah 24:5)

A MEDIATOR

- Must be willing to undertake the task.

The Bible says:

I came down from heaven, not to do Mine own will, but the will of Him that sent Me.

(John 6:38)

A MEDIATOR

- Must be approved for the job.

The Bible says:

Jesus of Nazareth, a man approved of God among you by miracles and wonders and signs, which God did by Him in the midst of you. (Acts 2:22)

A MEDIATOR

- Is made the sole judge in matters set before him.

The Bible says:

The Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgment unto the Son ... And hath given Him authority to execute judgment also, because He is the Son of man. (John 5:22-27)

A MEDIATOR

- Must be someone who loves peace & longs after it.

The Bible says:

Unto us a Child is born, unto us a Son is given ... His name shall be called ... The Prince of Peace. (Isaiah 9:6) In Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace. (Ephesians 2:13,14)

A MEDIATOR

- Must put personal ambition aside and seek the best for others.

The Bible says:

Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God ... made Himself of no reputation, and took upon Him the form of a servant, and ... humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross. (Philippians 2:5-8)

A MEDIATOR

- Must be very wise.

The Bible says:

Christ Jesus, who of God is made unto us wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. (1 Corinthians 1:30)

A MEDIATOR

- Must be righteous.

If any man sin, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. (1 John 2:1)

A MEDIATOR

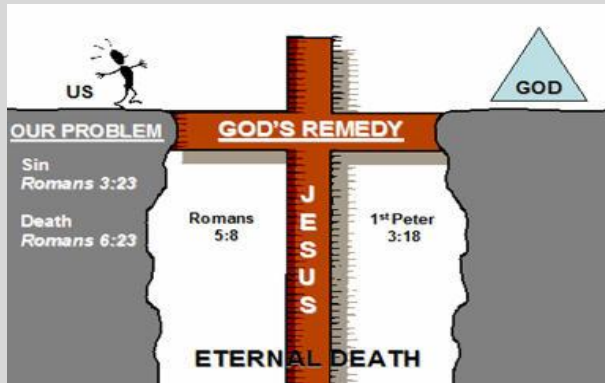
- Must be faithful.

The Bible says:

Christ Jesus; Who was faithful to Him that appointed Him. (Hebrews 3:1,2)



THE RESURRECTION OF JESUS CHRIST, PROVES WITHOUT ANY DOUBT THAT JESUS CHRIST IS THE SON OF GOD AND THAT HE DIED THE JUST FOR THE UNJUST TO BRING US TO GOD. THEREFORE, GOD CAN BE JUST AND THE JUSTIFIER OF HIM THAT BELIEVES ON JESUS.



A MEDIATOR

- Must endure hardship and rejection in bringing the parties together.

The Bible says:

He is despised and rejected of men; a Man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as it were our faces from Him; He was despised, and we esteemed Him not. Surely He hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows: yet we did esteem Him stricken, smitten of God, and afflicted. But He was wounded for our transgressions, He was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon Him; and with His stripes we are healed. (Isaiah 53:3-5)

A MEDIATOR

- usually has a set amount of time in which to complete the mediation.

The Bible says:

He hath appointed a day, in the which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he hath ordained; whereof he hath given assurance unto all men, in that he hath raised him from the dead. (Acts 17:31)

A MEDIATOR

- if ultimately rejected (after long patience), will leave the offender subject to the severity of the law.

The Bible says:

He that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him. (John 3:36)

Learn the Bible

'HE GAVE HIMSELF FOR ME'

The Apostle Paul declared: '...the Son of God who loved me a gave Himself for me...' Galatians 2;20.

This glorious fact changed his life – forever. It could change yours too!

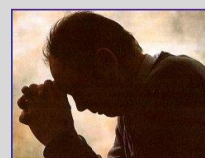
Amazing words! "He gave Himself for me"
For me—rebellious, sinful, guilty me,
For me the Saviour bore the Cross and shame,
Rejoice my soul, and bless His Sacred Name.

For me He left His glorious throne above,
For me revealed His Father's wondrous love,
For me He tabernacles here below,
For me He drank the bitter cup of woe.

For me He was reviled, despised, betrayed,
For me was scourged, condemned and crucified,
For me He hung accursed on the tree,
For, lost, wretched, vile, unworthy me.

For me in agony He groaned and died,
For me God's righteous law He satisfied,
For me complete atonement He has made,
For me He rose triumphant from the grave.

POINT TO PONDER



Upon a Life I have not lived,
Upon a Death I did not die,
Another's Life; Another's Death,
I stake my whole eternity.

Horatio Bonar

Bringing the Word of Life,

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