

WORD

⁵For there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, ⁶who gave himself as a ransom for all, which is the testimony given at the proper time. **1 TIMOTHY 2:5,6**

Jesus is the perfect mediator, and no one else can do what He has done for us, in our behalf. In the Old Testament, the high priests were mediators. They were holy men chosen and called by God to offer gifts and sacrifices for sins on the Israelites' behalf. However, this old sacrificial system could only cover sin, not take it away. Jesus changed all that when He came here on earth, died on the cross, and rose again. In this lesson, we will learn from Hebrews 7:24-27 why Jesus is the perfect mediator.

1 Jesus lives forever.

. . . but he holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever. **HEBREWS 7:24**

The line of priests continued from generation to generation because death prevented them from continuing in their role to mediate between God and man. But Jesus' resurrection ensures that He lives forever and saves those who come to Him in faith. How does the fact that Jesus lives forever assure you and strengthen you in your faith?

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2 Jesus intercedes on our behalf.

Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them. **HEBREWS 7:25**

Once we put our faith in Jesus, we can go directly to God our Father in full confidence and without the need for

other mediators. According to 1 Timothy 2:5, how many mediators are there between God and men?

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3 Jesus is without sin.

For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. **HEBREWS 7:26**

Even if Jesus was tempted in every way when He lived here on earth, He never committed sin (Hebrews 4:15). He is not only our mediator between God and man; His sinless life made Him the perfect sacrifice for sin and gave us the hope of eternal life in heaven. Knowing that no one else can meet these qualifications to be the perfect sacrifice, how have you become more appreciative of who Jesus is and what He has done for you?

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4 Jesus' sacrifice is complete.

He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

HEBREWS 7:27

Just as we need to pay the full amount for things we purchase, there is also a full amount to be paid for the forgiveness of our sin. Animal sacrifices in the Old Testament only provided a temporary covering of sin. In contrast, Jesus' sacrifice was done *once for all*. What does *once for all* mean?

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