

## ***DEATH PREVENTED THEM***

### ***'President John F. Kennedy is dead!'***

This announcement, broadcast in November 1963, shocked and saddened not only the citizens of the United States of America, but also people from all over the world. The great mourning that was evidenced in several nations around the world bore testimony to the fact that many had grown to love, admire and respect him during his short term in office.

This man who, as President, had been the representative of the American people, and their Mediator in world affairs, could now do no more for them. While he held this office of power, authority and influence, they had greatly benefited as a result of his work on their behalf. But now their beloved President's work was over. Beyond the grave he could no longer represent them or mediate on their behalf. Death prevented him from continuing in office.

Yet, when it comes to religion, many people believe that those who were their representatives, priests, ministers or mediators in this life can still continue to work on their behalf even after death.

Many of those involved in Eastern religions still depend upon deceased relatives, Gurus, and 'Holy' men or women to make intercession for them. In the Middle East many people depend upon the intercession of dead Prophets, like Abraham and Moses, men who lived in Old Testament times. In the Western world millions look to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saint Joseph, or the twelve Apostles, who lived in New Testament times. In recent years St Martin de Porres, Padre Pio, and many others have been added to the list of Mediators.

Multitudes firmly believe these people, though deceased, can still work on their behalf. But regardless of whether they be Gurus, Prophets, Priests or Saints, all have one thing in common - Death prevented them from continuing their ministry. None of them can Intercede or Mediate on anybody's behalf beyond the grave.

Even the Old Testament Priests, who ministered in the Tabernacle and the Temple, are included here. God says in His Word that ['There were many priests under the old system, for death prevented them from remaining in office'](#).<sup>1</sup>

In the light of what the Scriptures teach we must ask a very important question at this point! Is God saying in His Word that every man and woman who was a Mediator, Priest or Intercessor was, at the moment of death, prevented from continuing in office? Is He saying that in the next life these people, even if they were in Heaven, could not continue to represent, pray for, or mediate on behalf of others?

The answer to this question is **YES**, but with **ONE** exception! There is **ONE** who, though He died, still continues His Priestly ministry. Jesus said, ["I am the living one. I died, but look—I am alive forever and ever! And I hold the keys of death and the grave."](#)<sup>2</sup>

Through His sinless life and His death upon the cross, Jesus Christ paid in full the penalty for the guilt of our sins. He was buried, but rose again, and ascended to His Father's right hand, where He ministers as our great High Priest. God says in His Word, ['Here is the main point: We have a High Priest who sat down in the place of honor beside the throne of the majestic God in heaven. There he ministers in the](#)

heavenly Tabernacle the true place of worship that was built by the Lord and not by human hands'.<sup>3</sup>

Dear Friend, perhaps you have been depending for your salvation upon the ministry of some Mediator, Intercessor, Priest or Saint who is dead. Maybe you have been unaware of what God says in His Word concerning these people. Regardless of who they were or what ministry they had while on earth, death has prevented them from continuing their work. In other words, they cannot help you now. They cannot meet your needs.

### **BUT JESUS CAN!**

'He is the kind of high priest we need because he is holy and blameless, unstained by sin. He has been set apart from sinners and has been given the highest place of honour in heaven'.<sup>4</sup>

You may be of the opinion that if the dead person you are depending upon to Mediate for you is in Heaven then he or she can intercede on your behalf? But this is impossible! According to the Scriptures, there is only **ONE** Mediator in Heaven - 'For, There is one God and one Mediator who can reconcile God and humanity—the man Christ Jesus'.<sup>5</sup>

There is only **ONE** who can intercede for the sinner – 'My dear children, I am writing this to you so that you will not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate who pleads our case before the Father. He is Jesus Christ, the one who is truly righteous'.<sup>6</sup>

There is only **ONE** who can save the sinner – 'There is salvation in no one else! God has given no other name under heaven by which we must be saved'.<sup>7</sup>

So, dear Friend, instead of looking to those whom death has prevented from continuing in office, why not look to the Lord, who said, 'Let all the world look to me for salvation! For I am God; there is no other'.<sup>8</sup>

### **NOBODY ELSE CAN SAVE YOU**

We all need to be saved, 'For everyone has sinned; we all fall short of God's glorious standard.<sup>9</sup> As the Scriptures say, "No one is righteous—not even one."<sup>10</sup> For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life through Christ Jesus our Lord.<sup>11</sup> But cowards, unbelievers, the corrupt, murderers, the immoral, those who practice witchcraft, idol worshipers, and all liars—their fate is in the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.<sup>12</sup> The smoke of their torment will rise forever and ever, and they will have no relief day or night'.<sup>13</sup>

God says in His Word that Jesus IS ABLE to save all who put their faith in Him. 'Therefore he is able, once and forever, to save those who come to God through him. He lives forever to intercede with God on their behalf'.<sup>14</sup>

On the cross Jesus suffered and died as your substitute, paying in full the penalty for the guilt of your sins. He will forgive you and save you when you repent of your sins and put your faith in Him alone.

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Jesus said, "Look! I stand at the door and knock. If you hear my voice and open the door, I will come in, and we will share a meal together as friends."<sup>15</sup>

Could it be that the Saviour is knocking  
on the door of your heart today?  
How will you respond to His knock?

Will you come to Him in sincere repentance and  
Ask Him to forgive you and to save you?

For "Everyone who calls on the name of the LORD will be saved."<sup>16</sup>

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#### ScriptureReferences:

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|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1: Hebrews Ch.7 v. 23      | 2: Revelation Ch.1 v. 18   |
| 3: Hebrews Ch.8 vs. 1, 2   | 4: Hebrews Ch.7 v. 26      |
| 5: 1Timothy Ch.2 v. 5      | 6:1John Ch.2 v. 1          |
| 7: Acts Ch.4 v. 12         | 8: Isaiah Ch.45 v. 22      |
| 9: Romans Ch.3 v. 23       | 10: Romans Ch.3 v. 10      |
| 11: Romans Ch.6 v. 23      | 12: Revelation Ch. 21 v. 8 |
| 13: Revelation Ch.14 v. 11 | 14 Hebrews Ch.7 v. 25      |
| 15: Revelation Ch.3 v. 20  | 16: Romans Ch.10 v.13      |