

NEWSLETTER No. 5
May 5, 2004 by Jim Burks

GOD, ALL IN ALL- I Corinthians 15:28

After the resurrection God will be all in all, but not immediately. Some major events must occur before Jesus turns the Kingdom over to His Father. First, the order of the resurrection must take place, which runs from His Second Coming until the end of His 1000 year reign (v23). As the years pass, following the resurrection, Jesus abolishes all rule and authority that oppose God (24). Finally, His last work is done when He abolishes death (V26). Amen!

What these verses show is that mediation continues between God and man - up and until - God is all in all. Or, to say it another way, anything short of complete perfection within man hinders relationship and therefore, mediation is necessary. Thus, Jesus mediates now, and shall until all things restricting fellowship are abolished. Certainly, Jesus mediates between God and man when one trusts Him for salvation. But, it doesn't stop after one is saved, or after he joins the church. Mediation doesn't stop until Jesus turns the Kingdom over to His Father. And that won't happen until after all the events mentioned in Corinthians come to pass. Again, some of the events are the first resurrection, millennium reign, the final battle against Satan, and the Great White Throne Judgment. Finally, when death is abolished, Jesus will step down and deliver the Kingdom to His Father. It is now that mediation ends. That's because all things are now subjected to God and all things that are not are removed. And now, God is all in all.

What jumps out at us is man's hopelessness without Christ. Therefore, the Father has put all things under His feet. In Colossians 1:17, we read about the Incomparable Christ, "He is before all things, and in Him all things hold together."

My understanding and appreciation of Jesus Christ lies largely in His act of emptying Himself (Kenosis effect). He gave up His environment of glory to become a bond-servant, "...being made in the likeness of men," Phil. 2:7. He was more than just man He was the Word made flesh. But, in the flesh, Jesus subjected Himself to the authority of man, including the Law and parental care. He subjected Himself to man's wicked abuse of ridicule and finally, the cross. There He died, as Man for man. Jesus left His glory to come and get Jim Burks, the man. I could never become God, so He became man and purchased my life at Calvary by dying in my place, paying the sin debt. It is known as GRACE!

Therefore, "God highly exalted Him," Phil. 2:8. Amazing, this thought of taking on the flesh of man is so powerful and wonderful that we can easily see why He mediates on man's behalf.

Notice this next point! Jesus did not empty Himself and then go back to what He was before. It was for eternity. What Jesus exclusively enjoyed with the Father is gone. Through suffering, there shall now be many sons in glory, He 2:10. He emptied Himself forever, becoming Head of the New Creation, where "Christ is all and in all," Col 3:11. In the New Creation, we see what it means for man by coupling Ps 8, "Thou dost make him (man) to rule over the works of Thy hands;" with Hebrews 2:8, "...But now we do not yet see all things subjected to him (man). BUT WE DO SEE HIM...namely, JESUS."

Hebrews 2 goes on to say, "Therefore, He had to made like His brethren in all things, that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, verse 17.

Mediation is defined as A friendly intervention designed to render assistance. We ask then, is there any time that man does not need intervention? Certainly, when he is lost. After being saved, mediation is necessary, I Jn 1:7. And, during the millennium, He rules over all. Therefore, Jesus, the Lamb and bond-servant intercedes for man. As Head over the church, He is man's

mediator. Mediation necessarily changes, as God's plan unfolds and man grows in grace. Gloriously, with each change, another aspect of the Person and work of Jesus becomes available for man. Man needs a Lamb to mediate salvation, a High Priest for intercession and a King to direct his heart. Indeed, Christ is all in all, bringing mankind to a final relationship, God all in all.