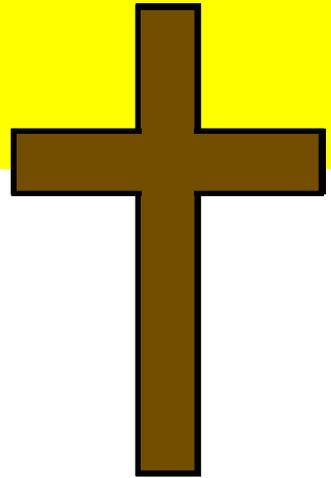


MAN IN THE MIDDLE



He gazed at me through eyes emblazoned with regret
O'er a life scarred by choices his heart yearned to forget;
From the pain of his past he so longed to be free –
'Can any plead my case in God's courts for me?

Is there a saint I can pray to, whose exalted state
Guarantees the ear of God, and whose pleas will placate
His justified anger o'er the mistakes I have made,
O'er every wrong thing that I've done, thought or said?

Can any ease my burden, and my longing soul bless
With freedom from this guilt, with the balm of forgiveness?
Is there a pastor, preacher, priest or clergyman
Who'll stand for me, before God, as my middleman?'

But I said: 'The most honest, upright clergyman
Can never do something that only God can;
Forgiveness of our sins He alone can grant,
'Tis fruitless to look elsewhere, for mortal man simply can't.

Even God's choicest saints also had feet of clay,
And each had to come His one appointed way –
By grace only, through faith only, in none but Jesus Christ,
For only the spotless Saviour could pay sin's costliest price.

On a hill called Golgotha there stood crosses, three,
The Son of God in the middle, hanging between two thieves;
And there Jesus died in submission to salvation's great plan –
You need this Man in the middle, not some assumed middleman.

If you yearn for forgiveness, provision has been made,
You may know fullest pardon, for your debt Christ has paid;
You can be brought nigh to God – the blood which flowed from
His cross
Will cleanse and save from a hell of everlasting loss.

A ransom's a price paid to set a captive free,
And that's just what Jesus did on the cross of Calvary;
Through His perfect life and death He paid a debt we ne'er can,
And only Jesus could do this, being both God and man.

1 Sam 2:25a

Mk 2:7; Jonah 2:9
Ps 130:3-4
Heb 10:11

1 Kgs 11:1-9
Lk 1:46-47; Jn 14:6
Eph 2:8-9
1 Pet 1:18-19

Jn 19:17
Jn 19:18
Lk 22:42
Acts 4:12

Eph 1:7
Rom 5:8
Eph 2:13

1 Jn 1:7; Job 33:24

Ps 49:6-8
Mk 10:45
1 Pet 2:21-24
Jn 1:14 & 18

He is the one mediator between God and mankind,
‘Tis vain to look elsewhere, for nowhere will you find
Another with the credentials to fully qualify –
A friend of both, sinless, peacemaker – who for the guilty
would die.

1 Tim 2:5-6
Job 14:4
Is 63:1

Col 1:20-22

Because He bore our punishment, and in our rightful place died
The demands of God’s justice He has perfectly satisfied;
And, because He lives those, in faith, fleeing to His riven side
Have the merits of His cross work to their souls applied.

1 Pet 3:18
Jn 19:30
Heb 7:19
1 Jn 4:10

Christ, the Man in the middle, hell and death has defeated,
Rising in power and majesty, at God’s right hand now seated;
And Jesus lives forever to mightily intercede
For all who recognise their sin, and come to Him in their need.

Rev 1:18
Mk 16:19
Heb 7:25
Is 1:18

If any falls or fails, none ever need despair,
He’s our Advocate with the Father, if we but come in prayer;
And this day all can change – you can make a new start
If you ask the Man in the middle to be the Man in your heart.’

Ps 37:24
1 Jn 2:1-2
2 Cor 5:17
Rev 3:20