Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ,

I am sure that we all get that there are some jobs or tasks that require few or no qualifications and other jobs that require very specific qualifications. For example, if I wanted someone to mow my lawn, pretty much anyone would do. But if I was sitting in a dentist’s chair, I would want the person on the other side of the drill to be a qualified dentist and not just someone who happened to be walking past and was keen to have a go! And I am sure you would like the same! Right? So, we understand that certain jobs require specific qualifications.

Well, in recent weeks we have seen that all human beings are sinners and that we deserve death and eternal condemnation. But last week we heard the good news that salvation is possible! And we saw this in connection with a passage in Job 9. For there, Job spoke of God’s majesty and his own sin and guilt, and he said, “*There is no mediator between us, who might lay his hand on us both*.” And with those words, Job recognized that he needed a mediator – someone who could sympathize with his situation as a human being, and represent him, but who could also represent God toward Job. And so, what we saw in that sermon was that if there was someone qualified to be such a mediator, then salvation was possible. And putting a little more flesh on the qualification bones, so to speak, the Catechism states in Question and Answer 15 that the mediator we need is someone who is “truly human … truly righteous … [and] true God.” If there is someone with those qualifications, then we can be saved.

So, that was the HOW of salvation. And today we consider the WHO of salvation. For the good news of the Bible is that there is someone who has these qualifications. And I gave you a sneak preview of this wonderful reality last week. For Job’s desire for a mediator is explicitly answered in our text in 1 Timothy 2:5-6: “*For … there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*.”

And that is our focus today – **Jesus is Our Fully Qualified Mediator**. And we will see this as we see **why our Mediator needs to be fully qualified**, **who our fully qualified Mediator is**, and **how we know about this fully qualified Mediator**. So, the **why**, the **who**, and the **how** of Jesus, our fully qualified Mediator.

And it is good and fitting that we get to consider this on a Lord’s Supper Sunday! And that is because, at its heart, the Supper is a reminder and a celebration of Jesus’ work as our Mediator. But we need to consider this subject, also, because there always have been and there always will be those who preach a different Jesus Christ than the one in the Bible. So, we must understand what sort of Saviour we need, in order to have any confidence that we are truly saved.

1. So, let us begin with **Why** **Our** **Mediator Needs to be Fully Qualified**.
	1. I mentioned dentists earlier. And dentists need to be experts about teeth and to have a steady hand and good eyesight and 5 years study at dentistry school. Why? It is so that you can get your filling or crown with as little pain as possible, and so that the filling or crown will stay there and not fall out. And I am sure we all get that. Well, I mentioned a few moments ago that our Mediator must be “truly human … truly righteous … [and] true God.” Why? Why does our mediator need these qualifications? Well, let’s start with the first two: Why must our Mediator be “truly human” and “truly righteous”?
		1. Well, we saw why our Mediator must be a **human** last week. And it is really straightforward: We are human beings and we sin as human beings. Therefore, the one who pays the price for our sin must be a human being. But the emphasis in Lord’s Day 6 is that He must be “**truly** human.” And this is a very important point in relation to our salvation. It has to do with representation and sympathy.
			1. Every three years we have **parliamentary elections**. And occasionally there have been candidates who did not live in the electorate that they wanted to represent. Does that matter? Would you vote for someone like that? Of course, you wouldn’t. If they do not live where we live, they cannot represent us or sympathize with the issues that we face.
			2. And so, let me ask you this: If this mediator just turned up on earth at age 26, fully grown, would He be *truly* human like you and me? What about if He just looked human to others, but was not actual flesh and blood, would He be *truly* human like you and me? Or, what if He had a human body but did not have a human soul, would He be *truly* human like you and me? Or, what if He never got hungry or tired, or was never tempted to sin, would He be *truly* human like you and me? Or, what if He just arrived on earth as a little baby, but did not have parents or other relatives, would He be *truly* human like you and me? Or, what if He was born knowing everything, so that He didn’t have to learn how to talk or walk or do math, would He be *truly* human like you and me? And what if He was not able to die, would He be *truly* human, like you and me? And the answer to all those questions is no. In order for this Mediator to be truly human, He needed to be conceived and born, to have a family, to grow up and learn, to have a fully human body and a human soul, to get hungry and tired, to be tempted in all things as we are tempted, and be able to die. Only then would He be *truly* human and able to represent us and sympathize with us.
		2. But, and this is a big but, there is one thing that this Mediator cannot share with us sinful human beings, and that is **sin**.
			1. Let me illustrate why this is so: Imagine if you were bankrupt. You have no money, and you have many debts that you cannot pay. But another bankrupt person arrives and says that he will go in and talk to the bank manager on your behalf. Would you feel any confidence? No. You would not. But what if Elon Musk walked up and offered to go in and talk with the bank manager? He is the richest man in the world! He does not have your money problems. So, he can help!
			2. Well, that is an illustration of why the Mediator we need cannot be sinful. For if he was sinful, he would have the same problem that we have. He would need help instead of being able to offer help.
			3. And this is basically the story of the Old Testament – men and women who have the same problem that you and I have. Moses? Sinner. Aaron? Sinner. King David? Sinner. Ruth? Sinner? Samuel? Sinner. Esther? Sinner. Elijah or Elisha? Sinners. But they all prepared us for and pointed forward to a human being who would be sinless; in other words, truly righteous. And that is what we sinners need.
	2. But together with being “truly human” and “truly righteous,” this mediator must also be “**True** **God**.” We saw in connection with Question and Answer 11 of the Catechism that because we sin against the supreme majesty of God, we deserve “the supreme penalty, eternal punishment of body and soul.” So, if a human being was truly righteous but *only* a human being, he could not endure an *eternity* of suffering, and not just any old suffering but the wrath of God. And He also could not, after dying, rise again. And that is why, alongside being truly human and truly righteous, the mediator we need must be true God.
2. So, all this brings us to our second point, which is **Who** **this Fully Qualified Mediator** **is**.
	1. And this does not require any clever guesswork on our part for our text is explicit and clear: “*For there is … one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*.” And alongside this plain and simple declaration, the Scriptures are also crystal clear about His qualifications to be our Mediator.
		1. Is Jesus **truly human**?
			1. Well, how does the New Testament begin? It begins with His **genealogy**. Through Mary, His biological mother, He was a descendant of David and Abraham and Noah and Adam. As **Romans 1:3** says, Jesus Christ “*was descended from David according to the flesh*.”
			2. But turn with me to **Hebrews 2:14-18**. There we read this of Jesus: “*Since therefore the children [meaning the children of God] share in flesh and blood, He Himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death He might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and deliver all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong slavery. For surely it is not angels that He helps, but He helps the offspring of Abraham. Therefore He had to be made like His brothers in every respect, so that He might become a merciful and faithful high priest in the service of God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people. For because He Himself has suffered when tempted, He is able to help those who are being tempted*.”
			3. So, Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary from one of her eggs. He had a family. He grew up and learned. He had a fully human body and a human soul. He was hungry and got tired. He was tempted in all things as we are tempted. And He was able to die.
			4. Jesus is truly human – First qualification – tick!
		2. But is Jesus **truly righteous**?
			1. Well, you just heard me say that Jesus was conceived in the womb of Mary from one of her eggs. But when Mary was told by the angel that she would be pregnant, do you remember her question? “*How can this be since I am a virgin?*” Mary knew her biology and she had not had sex with anyone. And the answer of the angel is beautifully mysterious but also wonderfully important to what we are considering; He said, “*The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy- the Son of God*.” And in this way, Jesus’ connection to sin, which would have come to Him if both His parents were human, was interrupted. And instead, His father, by the power of the Holy Spirit, was the Father in heaven. And thus, He was without sin.
			2. And this is plainly stated in **Hebrews 4:15**. There it says of Jesus: “*For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin*.”
			3. **Hebrews 7:26** says the same thing: “*For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners*.”
			4. Jesus is truly righteous – second qualification – tick!
	2. But is Jesus also **true God**?
		1. Well, listen to **John 1**, which says of Jesus, “*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God.”* So, Jesus existed eternally as God.
		2. And during His earthly ministry, a demon said of Jesus, “*Ha! What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are- the Holy One of God*.”
		3. And when Thomas saw the risen Jesus, he said, “*My Lord and my God*!”
		4. And **Romans 9:5** says that Jesus “*is the Christ who is God over all, blessed forever.*”
		5. And **Colossians 2:9** says of Jesus that “*in Him the whole fullness of deity dwells bodily*.” And deity means god-ness.
		6. And **Titus 2:13** says that we believers are “*waiting for our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of our great God and Saviour Jesus Christ*.”
		7. And **1 John 5:20** says, “*We know that the Son of God has come and has given us understanding, so that we may know Him who is true; and we are in Him who is true, in His Son Jesus Christ. He is the true God and eternal life*.”
		8. Jesus is true God – third qualification – tick! So, Jesus is fully qualified to be our Mediator. He ticks all the qualification boxes. And that why our text says, “*For there is … one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*.”
3. But thirdly and lastly, let’s see **How** **We** **Know** **about This Fully Qualified Mediator**.
	1. In terms of our imaginary dentist, we can know that he is suitably qualified by the **certificates** that will surely be hanging on his wall. And those certificates would tell us that dentist Bob gained his Batchelor of Health Sciences in Dentistry at Otago University in 1994. And so, when he fires up the drill, we relax, as much as is humanly possible when you are in a dentist’s chair, because we know he is qualified to operate it. But how do we know that Jesus is the Mediator we need?
		1. Well, think of the Bible as His certificate. It states, in black and white, in our text, that He is the “*one mediator between God and men*.”
		2. And we also have the many Bible verses that we just noted that explain the qualifications that our mediator needs, and that Jesus has those qualifications; He is truly human, truly righteous, and true God.
		3. And we also have the account in Genesis 3 of God’s first promise to send a Messiah, and the one in Genesis 22 where God accepts a sacrifice instead of Isaac, and the account of the Passover lamb that died in the place of Israel’s firstborn, and the account of the Day of Atonement where a goat symbolically takes away the sins of Israel, and the offerings of Leviticus 1-7. And all these promises and ceremonies point forward to and tell us something about the person and work of Jesus, our fully qualified mediator.
		4. And we also have Isaiah’s prophecy of a virgin birth and a suffering servant who would be pierced for the transgression of His people. And we have the other prophets, like Micah, whom we read earlier, that speak about the person and work of Jesus, our fully qualified Messiah.
		5. And then we have passages like **Hebrews 1:1-6**, which tell us that while God spoke to His Old Testament people in all sorts of different ways, now He has spoken best through His Son, Jesus, whom He sent to earth. And in the rest of Hebrews, we are told exactly how Jesus is the fulfilment of all the Old Testament prophecies and ceremonies and promises.
		6. And this is what Question and Answer 19 means when it talks about the many ways that the good news of Jesus – our fully qualified mediator, is laid out in the Bible.

But you know, I think it might be best if I summarize all this with an incredibly profound and glorious piece of theological definition. Are you ready for it? I am going to summarize Question and Answer 19 and all that I have just said about the promises and ceremonies and prophecies and Gospel accounts and New Testament testimonies with what one theologian called the most profound theology that he had ever wrestled with. Have you got a pen? Are you listening? Here we go: **Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so**.

To be saved from your guilt and condemnation, what you must believe about Jesus is that “*there is … one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus*.” He is our fully qualified Saviour. And if you believe this, then you can know for sure that you are a child of God, and that you will be welcomed into heaven. Amen.