

In 1 Tim 2:5,6 we read, "For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all men--the testimony given in its proper time." This word ransom is to me a very interesting word. It is something to be given in exchange for a prisoner. But who is the prisoner? God says that all men were Satan's prisoners because all men have sinned. Satan had all of us in the palm of his hand, and for a ransom he demanded the most important hostage of all, God's unique son Jesus Christ. And Jesus offered himself willingly, giving his life as a sacrifice for us. How can we understand that through this death comes victory? Can you imagine the devil watching with glee as the prize comes into his grasp and Christ breathes his last breath upon the earth? All those who appreciate the sacrifice and take advantage of it by becoming a Christian Satan lets go, as his part of the deal. But he could not know, being limited as he was, that he could not keep Jesus. He could not foresee, evidently, that Christ would be raised from the dead and escape his power. Satan was betrayed in the deal, not by God but by himself, because he tried to match wits with God. He lost his prize because his pride made him think that he could outsmart God. He didn't, but he is still outsmarting some of us today. We're trying to match wits with God, too, trying to be a Christian without doing what God told us. The devil doesn't have to give us up if we are like that. Are you trying to do your own thing, or are you a Christian?