

CHRIST, OUR INTERCESSOR

1John 2:1 *My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.*

What is the role of an advocate? The Greek word, *paraklētos*, means “one who pleads another's cause before a judge, a pleader, counsel for defense, legal assistant, an advocate”, according to James Strong. One needs an advocate because an advocate is trained in the language and custom of the law. We have all been summoned before the heavenly court of Christ’s judgement seat. “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad” (2 Cor 5:10). The Lord Jesus offers himself to us as our advocate. It would be downright foolish to reject this gracious offer. In his novel, *The Trial*, Franz Kafka (1883-1924), wrote about a man who was accused of crimes he had no knowledge of and was summoned to a court where the charges were not read out to him. Be assured that everyone will have perfect knowledge of their sins when they appear before the righteous Judge of all the earth.

2Chron 6:36 *If they sin against thee, (for there is no man which sinneth not,) and thou be angry with them, and deliver them over before their enemies, and they carry them away captives unto a land far off or near.*

Rom 3:10 *As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:*

Rom 3:23 *For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God.*

Jesus is our advocate when we appear before his own judgement seat. He knows his laws and ordinances; he wrote them. Jesus is both advocate and Judge. Hallelujah! This is the ultimate advantage of the Christian. A human lawyer has to his or her utmost to understand the law of the particular land where the trial takes place, gather sufficient evidence to acquit his client and hope the judge or jury comes to the same conclusion. Jesus, however, acknowledges our guilt when defending us, but he mixes our case with his blood, his Spirit, his mercy and acquits us. “There is therefore now no condemnation to them which are in Christ Jesus, who walk not after the flesh, but after the Spirit” (Romans 8:1). The Law of Moses condemned gentiles as “dogs” and “enemies of God”. The Law was designed for the natural children of Israel, not for the gentiles. Gentiles had no law; as such, there was no need for an advocate – for where there is not law, there cannot be an advocate or a judge. Thank Jesus, however, that he came and defended us gentiles against the Law. The Apostle Paul puts this very well.

Eph 2:12 *That at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world:*

Eph 2:13 *But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ.*

Eph 2:14 *For he is our peace, who hath made both one, and hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us;*

Eph 2:15 *Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances; for to make in himself of twain one new man, so making peace;*

Eph 2:16 *And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross, having slain the enmity thereby.*

When a person is in trouble with the law, it is customary to seek out a lawyer or advocate. One explains the nature of the problem and agrees a fee with the advocate. The Lord Jesus does not even charge a fee to defend us. All he expects is for us to accept his identity – that he is the one true God manifested in the flesh (I Tim 3:16) and obey Acts 2:38. There are people who are innocent but wrongly accused of committing murder. Just imagine the hope they invest in their advocate to convince the judge or jury of their innocence! We, on the contrary, know we are guilty as charged. We have sinned against the commandments of God. If one has any doubt, allow me to mention some sins that the Apostle Paul enumerated. “Know ye not that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? Be not deceived: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God” (I Cor 6:9,10). To hate one’s fellow-human and to call someone a fool are also serious sins, according to Jesus. Dare we say that we are not sinners? However, there is hope:

1Cor 6:11 *And such were some of you: but ye are washed, but ye are sanctified, but ye are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God.*

Once I had an individual send me a letter intended for the police – it was a serious case. He asked me to assist with the Norwegian. The language was indeed very poor. I ended up rewriting most of the letter with more convincing arguments. This is what Jesus does for us when we pray. Our prayers are often very weak. Once I prayed a long, confusing prayer with many words. At one point I stopped and just told the Lord, “I don’t even know what I am saying Jesus. Please save me!” That was when I felt peace and joy. This is what Jesus does for us. He takes our letters to heaven, rewrites them with his blood, Spirit and mercy, and sends them on to himself. Hallelujah! “Likewise the Spirit also helpeth our infirmities: for we know

not what we should pray for as we ought: but the Spirit itself maketh intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered” (Romans 8:26).

Consider the Apostle Peter! He was a brave and daring man. Yet, when he realized that he was about to sink in the Sea of Galilee, he prayed the shortest prayer, “Lord, save me” (Matt 14:30). This was one of the shortest prayers of the Bible. It is never too late to pray, “Lord, save me!” With God all things are possible. Even when the situation seems hopeless, let us pray, “Lord, save me!”, “Lord, save her!”, “Lord, save him!” Jesus is able to save at the last moment and to the utmost. He is the advocate, he will never abandon our case. It is good to pray short, effective prayers with intensity sometimes rather than lengthy, flowery prayers. Jesus knows what we are going through – we don’t need to explain what happened to him. Come to the point! Advocates deal with specifics, facts and truth. I once asked someone to pray for the food and he ended up praying twenty other issues. Just bless the food! Back in my boarding school, we had a fixed prayer: “For what we are about to receive, may the Lord make us truly thankful!” Thank God for brevity and concision sometimes! Jesus, our advocate is listening to us – let us speak directly and concisely to him and he will save us, heal us, strengthen us and bless us!