

“An Advocate”

1 John 2:1

JOHN'S INTRODUCTION: A SHORT SUMMARY OF THE GOSPEL

- 1:1-4: God has made Himself known by having His Son Jesus Christ come in the flesh.
- 1:5: God's character: God is Light. He has revealed His character as one of righteousness and truth.
- 1:6-10: Man's sin: Man ignores, minimizes, hides, or denies his sin.
 - Lie #1: It doesn't matter how I live. **v.6** (The lie of the antinomian.) 'I'm a Xn but I walk in darkness.'
 - Lie #2: Sin is no longer a problem for me. **v.8** (The lie of the legalist.) 'I'm no longer a sinner.'
 - Lie #3: Sin has never been a problem for me. **v.10** (The lie of the humanist.) 'I'm basically a good guy.'
- How does God deal with man's sin? Through an Advocate (2:1) by means of an Atonement (2:2).

THE BIG PICTURE. 1 John 2:1a

1. John reminds them of his purpose: I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.

- What is sin? 1 John 3:4: “Sin is lawlessness.” (Sins can be acts of commission or omission.)
- Catechism: “Sin is any lack of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God.”

2. John wants his readers to respond to God's forgiveness with a life of obedience.

- John loves them! So he calls them, *My little children...* and urges them to obey.

GOD'S PROVISION: AN ADVOCATE FOR US. 1 John 2:1b

1. What is an Advocate?

- A legal term; one to represent you before a judge. paraclete (Gk. **παράκλητος**)
- Lit. “one called alongside to help” an “Intercessor” (NIV: “one who speaks to the Father in our defense”)
 - used 5 X's in NT; 4 in John's Gospel (ref. to the HS) John 14:16, 26; 15:26; 16:7

2. We have an Advocate because we *need* an Advocate. Rf. 1 John 1:5; Isaiah 53:6; John 3:18-21

- We have broken the Judge's Law. James 2:10
- Isaiah 53:6: *ALL we like sheep have gone astray; each of us has turned to his own way...*

3. We have an Advocate who knows us—and is still willing to represent us before the Judge.

- 1 John 1:5—God is Light // 1 John 4:8, 16—God is Love.

→ Consider: Why does God reveal Himself as Light before He reveals Himself as Love?

4. We have an Advocate because we also have an Accuser (Satan). Revelation 12:10-11

- Satan is called ‘the accuser of the brethren’ who accuses believers “day and night before God.”

5. We have an Advocate who is still advocating (interceding) for us. Heb. 7:25; Rom 8:34

- Hebrews 7:25: *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.*

→ In what sense does Christ still advocate for us? As a sacrifice? NO. Jesus said: It is finished! John 19:30

CHRIST'S QUALIFICATION AS AN ADVOCATE: HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS

1. Our Advocate is revealed as “Jesus Christ—the righteous.”

- Why not: Jesus Christ—the loving or —the faithful?

2. Jesus was righteous in His life. 1 Jn 2:29; 3:7; Heb 2:14, 17; Acts 3:14; 7:52

- He never sinned. He perfectly kept the whole Law.

3. Jesus was righteous in His defense before God the Father. Romans 3:21-26

- Because of the cross, Jesus can truly defend us before the God as Judge—and not compromise justice.
- Christ is not an *incompetent* Advocate. He is able to represent us before the Judge b/c He never sinned.
- Christ is not an *unjust* Advocate. He justly proclaims our innocence before the Judge because He took the punishment for our sins.

→ God's justice is preserved (He can't and won't overlook our sin) while still truly forgiving our sins.

- Romans 3:26: ...so that he might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Thoughts from fellow Pilgrims...

"In any court in which I had a cause to maintain I would wish to have a righteous advocate. Not less than I would desire a righteous judge would I welcome a righteous advocate. I do not want an advocate who will flatter and cajole me. I do not want one to tell me smooth things and lead me on the ice; disguising or evading the weak points of my plea; putting a fair face on what will not stand close scrutiny, and touching tenderly what will not bear rough handling; getting up untenable lines of defense, and keeping me in good humor till disaster or ruin comes. Give me an advocate who will tell me the truth, and tell the truth on my behalf; one who will deal truly with me and for me, and fairly represent my case. Give me an advocate who, much as he may care for me, cares for honesty and honor, for law and justice, still more. Give me an advocate not afraid to vex or wound me for my safety, for my good. Whatever his name, let him be the honest, the upright, 'the righteous.'" (Robert Candlish)

*Now shall my inward joys arise,
And burst into a song;
Almighty love inspires my heart
And pleasure tunes my tongue.*

*God on His thirsty Zion-Hill
Some Mercy Drops has thrown
And solemn oaths have bound His love-
To shower salvation down.*

*Why do we then indulge our Fears,
Suspensions and Complaints?
Is He a God, and shall His Grace
Grow weary of His saints?*

*Can a kind woman e'er forget
The infant of her womb
Among a thousand tender thoughts
Her suckling have no room?*

*"Yet," saith the Lord, "should nature change
and mothers monsters prove,
Zion still dwells upon the heart
Of an Eternal Love."*

*"Deep on the palms of both My hands
I have engraved her name –
My hands shall raise her ruined walls
And build her broken frame."*

(from the song, *Africa*; author unknown)