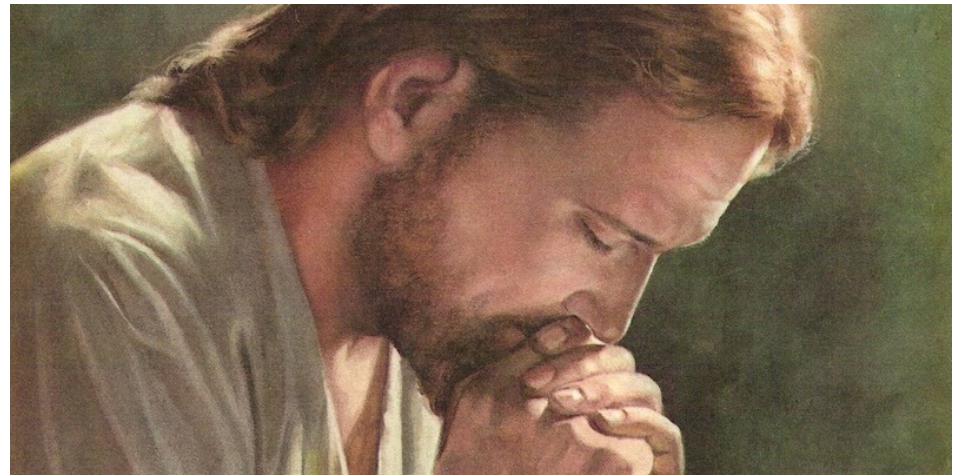


THE INTERCESSORY WORK OF CHRIST

Bible Study 9 April 2018



INTRODUCTION

John 14:2, "In My Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you." Jesus is actively engaged in the ministry of intercession.

Hebrews 7:25 and 9:24

A priest is a mediator, one who intercedes with a just God on behalf of guilty sinners. (Leviticus 4:16-18)

I. CHRIST'S ATONING WORK WAS FINISHED ON EARTH

On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished," John 19 :30. Salvation is perfectly complete. Sin was righteously dealt with at the cross. Jesus will never die for sin again.

Heb.9:24-28 shows the sin and error of Romanism daily offering Mass. The Romanists actually try to re-enact Calvary each time a Mass is offered. We consider this as blasphemy for it does despite to the Holy Scriptures.

II. CHRIST MET THE CONDITIONS OF BECOMING A PRIEST

1. He was taken from among men. Hebrews 5:1
2. He was ordained or appointed to the task.
Hebrews 3:2
3. He was called of God to the task
Hebrews 5 :4,5.
4. He served in things pertaining to God.
Hebrews 2 :17
5. He offered gifts and sacrifices for sins
Hebrews 5:1. Jesus Christ offered Himself.

III. CHRIST WAS MADE A PRIEST AFTER THE AARONIC PATTERN

On earth Jesus never acted as a priest. He never entered the Holy of Holies.

1. Both offered sacrifice before the people. Jesus publicly offered Himself at Calvary.
2. Both appeared in God's presence for the people.
3. Both came out to bless the people.

However, Aaron as a man died. Jesus as God lives to intercede for us. In this respect Jesus follows the Melchisedec pattern, a priest without end, Hebrews 5:6.

IV. CHRIST OFFERED HIMSELF AS THE SACRIFICE ON CALVARY

While we were yet sinners the Saviour died for us. He died at Jerusalem, without the gate upon that cross of shame. His sacrifice was:

1. Voluntary, of a free will, Heb. 10:5-10. He offered to die.
2. Substitutionary, Heb. 7:24-28. He died instead of me.
3. Spotless, Heb. 9:14, He was without spot, the perfect Lamb.
4. With blood, Heb. 9:12, His own divine blood Acts 20 :28.
5. Acceptable, Heb. 13:20-21. The Father's justice was satisfied.
6. Final, Heb. 7:27. There is no need for a re-enactment of Calvary.

V. CHRIST NOW APPEARS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD FOR US

1. The place: In heaven. Heb. 9:1-8 tells of the responsibilities of the priest. Also see Heb. 9:11-12,24 and Acts 7:55
2. For whom? His own. See Heb. 9:24 and 7:24-25, interceding for those who come to God.
3. Basis of His plea is His own blood. Heb. 9:12. Also see John 17:1-26 (His High Priestly Prayer), where Jesus speaks of the finished work.

V. CHRIST NOW APPEARS IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD FOR US

4. Actual plea:

- a. For grace to be given to the saints in need, II Cor. 12:9.
- b. For strength to be given to the weak, John 17:11
- c. That we may be kept from sin and temptation, John 17:15.
- d. That we shall be forgiven when we confess our sins, I John 1:9.
- e. That we have power to witness for Christ, Acts 1:8.
- f. That we be conformed to the image of Christ, Rom 8:29.

5. Purpose of the plea:

- 1. To sustain life, Heb. 9:24.
- 2. To give cleansing, I John 2:1.
- 3. To give grace and help, Heb. 4:15,16.
- 4. To secure victory, Heb. 2:17,18.

VI. CHRIST IS OUR ADVOCATE NOW

Satan is the accuser of the brethren at the throne of God, Job 1:6-12. To counteract the accusations of Satan we have a lawyer at the court of heaven.

Our lawyer-advocate is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself. I John 2:1

The sacrifice becomes the lawyer. When we sin He pleads for us on the ground of His finished work and Calvary. The saint then receives the Father's forgiveness for the sake of the Saviour, I John 1:9.

VII. CHRIST OFFERS TO BE YOUR INTERCESSOR TODAY

If we do not ask for forgiveness we will not receive it.

1. In times of severe trial we ought to be glad of a true friend at court.
2. The Saviour stands ready at the court of heaven to assist us.
3. He is willing to be our personal representative to the Father.
4. As we pray we place our case in His hands for His divine care.
5. As a true man He was tempted in all points like as we are yet He was without sin. He overcame sin and now offers that overcoming power to us.
6. We do not know the accusations that Satan is constantly bringing to the Father against us. Some may be true but many, many may be false. Rev. 12:10
7. Our departed loved ones, saints or Mary cannot be our advocates.

CONCLUSION

Luke 22:31, "And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat: but I have prayed for thee that thy faith fail not. " This is Christ's present intercessory ministry on our behalf.

The intercessory work of Christ has supplied strong motives for consistent and impressive Christian living. The resurrected Christ is watching over me.

The Christian soldier reckons on Jesus the Captain fighting the same battle but on a higher plane-fighting the battle in the heavenlies, Eph. 6:12.

The humblest believer now rests in the love of that unseen Friend whose faithful care is unaffected by time or events.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What is Christ's present work?
2. Is Christ still engaged in the perfecting of salvation? Explain.
3. What 5 conditions did Christ meet in order to become a Priest?
4. After what pattern was Jesus made a Priest?
5. Describe Jesus' sacrifice on Calvary.
6. Where does Jesus perform His High Priestly duties?
7. Name 5 possible pleas of the High Priest.
8. Why is it necessary to have a High Priest in Heaven?
9. What comfort do we draw from Rev. 12 :10?
10. Was Christ's prayer in Luke 22:31 an extraordinary event? Why?