

# TRUTH COMMUNITY

- TEACHING GOD'S PEOPLE GOD'S WORD -

## **Christ Our Propitiation**

1 John 2:1-2

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Good morning to every one on this holiday weekend. Welcome to GraceLife, especially to our visitors who are with us today. We are glad that you are here as we consider the gospel of the Lord Jesus Christ and look in detail at what that means.

Over this past week, I was reading an article by the incomparable Dr. Al Mohler on the Washington Post web site. He was giving some spiritual commentary on one of the main news events of the past week, the problems that the governor of South Carolina has been having. And in the article, he talked about the nature of repentance and salvation and those things. What was striking to me and this is always a waste of time, one thing to read the article, when you read the comments on articles, and you relegate it in to the depths of banality.

But in response to very clear discussion about the nature of repentance and so forth, the comments left behind were very striking for the vitriolic hatred that they showed to Al Mohler and more importantly to the content of the things that he was saying and the cursings and the mockings of Christianity that were stated there were typical, but nevertheless striking. The ease in which that kind of mocking and cursing and rejection that flippant way that unbelievers mock the truth and reject it and go on their way is just especially, especially tragic because of the nature of the themes that are found in the gospel. It reminded me how the passage in Acts 26 (you don't need to turn there, this is just by way of introduction) but Paul was giving his defense before King Agrippa and Festus as Paul said in Acts 26:22:

*I stand to this day, testifying both to small and great, stating nothing but what the prophets and Moses said was going to take place, that the price was to suffer and that by reason of His resurrection from the dead, He would be the first to proclaim light both to the Jewish people and to the Gentiles. While Paul was saying this in his defense, Festus said in a loud voice "Paul, you are out of your mind. Your great learning is driving you mad." But Paul said (I love this quote) I am not out of my mind most excellent Festus, but I utter words of sober truth.*

When you understand the gospel, you realize we are talking about matters of sober truth, matters that deserve the utmost serious consideration by every man on the face of the earth, and yet it is so flippantly mocked and disregarded and laughed at.

But beloved, we are not intimidated by that, we are not deterred by that, we won't join in the mocking here, we will simply proclaim what the law and the prophets have said and we will proclaim what the writers of the New Testament have said and lay forth before all who hear the sober truth of the gospel and the sober truth of coming judgment and the sober truth of the holiness of God and the sober truth of His holy wrath against sin. All of those themes come in to play in the passage that is before us this morning. I invite you to turn to the book of 1 John, toward the end of your New Testament, 1 John chapter 2. We are going to go back to this passage that we have been considering for a few weeks, 1 John 2:1-2.

We took the time off last week to consider Matthew 1 for various reasons. The week before that, we were in 1 John and we discussed Christ's advocacy on our behalf, the wonderful reality that for believers, Christ is in the presence of the heavenly Father representing us, representing our case before the Father as our great high priest. We are assured of the forgiveness of our sins as believers in Christ because among other things, Jesus Christ is constantly before the throne of God as our heavenly advocate.

Now, the question might be asked, what gives Him the right to be our advocate, on what basis does He advocate our cause? That is a crucial question and the more clearly you understand the answer to that question, the more clearly you understand how it is that Christ can advocate on our behalf. The deeper your joy, the deeper your assurance, the greater clarity you are going to have in your mind about the nature of your salvation.

We are going to see today that the advocacy of Jesus Christ on our behalf is premised on, is based on the reality that Jesus has satisfied God's wrath against our sin. We can have confidence in Christ's advocacy because He has fully satisfied the demands of God's justice on our behalf and thus we are reconciled to God through Him. Look at 1 John 2:1-2 with me here. John, speaking to believers as you see by the nature of his address here at the opening of verse 1 says:

*My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin, and if any one sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only, but for those of the whole world.*

It is that word "propitiation" in verse 2 that we want to consider here this morning. I am going to build the message around three questions that I will give answers to. The first question, the first point of today's message is this:

### **1. What is Propitiation?**

What is propitiation? That is a rather uncommon word in modern conversation; it really is not a part of every day vocabulary for most of us. Without going in to a lengthy examination of the basis for this definition and all of the historical support that goes in to it, we simply want to say this. In this context here in 1 John, the word "propitiation"

means a sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God. When John is using the word “propitiation” to describe our Lord Jesus Christ, he is describing a sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God. God’s wrath against sinners must be turned away in order for them to have eternal life. What the apostle John is saying to us as Christians here this morning is that wonderful word of sober truth that Jesus Christ Himself by virtue of His death on the cross is that sacrifice on our behalf that turns away the wrath of God from us—that’s the idea of propitiation, a sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God.

Now, that was point #1. Point #2, You think, oh, boy, if all the points are this quick, we’re going to be out of here in 10 minutes—no, it doesn’t quite work that way, but the truth is most of you wouldn’t want us to be done that quickly because you love the word of God and I love you for it.

What is propitiation? It is a sacrifice that turns the wrath of God.

## **2. Why is Propitiation Necessary?**

Why is propitiation necessary, what is the significance of that? Why do we talk about a concept that is not familiar so much to the modern mind?

What we want to do here in this point as we answer this question is to unpack the concept that lies behind the word “propitiation” and explain why it is necessary. And here beloved, in this point, we are going to see the words of sober truth that the biblical message conveys to every man who lives. These words, these things that we are going to talk about over the next 10 or 15 minutes or so are words of sober truth that any one in his right mind should pay very close heed to. And if you are here and you are not a Christian, you need to pay riveting attention to what the word of God has to say about these things because if you are not a Christian, the wrath of the holy God is abiding upon you and nothing is preventing the release of His full fury upon you except His grace that has given you breath to hear the gospel today.

Why is propitiation necessary? I want to take you through step by step some very simple biblical concepts that are deep in their meaning.

First of all, why is propitiation necessary? Propitiation is necessary, a sacrifice to turn the wrath of God is necessary because God is holy. God is holy, we said this and we said that the apostle John has premised all that he has been saying in the last several verses by this fundamental statement in chapter 1, verse 5 that:

*God is light and in Him there is no darkness at all.*

God is holy. He does not tolerate sin, He is morally pure. He has given His law for men to obey, and all of us without exception have broken His law; the window pane has been shattered as it were and cannot be fixed. And God, by the nature of His holy character, by the intrinsic internal commitment that He has to uphold His justice, by nature of His

holiness, God must punish every violation of His law—His justice demands it. Exodus 34:7 says that:

*God will by no means leave the guilty unpunished.*

Beloved, the Bible makes it very clear that all men are guilty; all of you in your own life, in your own marriage are guilty sinners before the holy God apart from Christ. No one has the merit to stand before God. Quite to the contrary, we have an infinite amount of demerit that calls for His judgment and that is all rooted in the fact that God is holy. Why is propitiation necessary? Because God is holy.

Now secondly, working out the implications of this just kind of step by step, God is holy, we are all sinners (I'm combining those two points in to one there).

Secondly, our sin separates us from God. The Bible teaches us that all men have sinned. Psalm 43:2 for example in speaking to God says that:

*In your sight, no man living is righteous.*

There is no righteous man on earth. No one is good enough for God. No one meets the standard of His absolute pristine holiness. And here is the problem beloved, you start to walk through this and unpack these concepts step by step. By its very nature, sin separates man from God because He is holy, because sin is repugnant to Him, there cannot be communion between the light of God in the darkness of sin. The holiness of God and the sinfulness of man, there is a separation that takes place that is required by God's holiness.

If you think back to the start of the biblical narrative in the book of Genesis when Adam and Eve sinned, God expelled them from the Garden, there was separation that had to take place as a result of that. The fundamental order of life on earth had been changed permanently. Isaiah 59:2 says:

*Your sins have made a separation from you and your God.*

And so God in His holiness is separate from man who is sinful. Now, the truth of the matter is that most sinners couldn't care less about that, there are quite content to live their life apart from God, they don't mind being separated from Him because they are not seeking after Him. It is not a matter of consequence to them in an of itself that they are separated from God, they don't even think about it except perhaps to blaspheme His name.

But beloved, the sinners who don't mind the separation from God have to understand a very important thing—that's the third aspect of why propitiation is necessary, it is that sin brings God's wrath—it brings about His righteous anger against sinners. Psalm 7:11 says:

*God is a righteous judge and God who has indignation every day.*

Indignation, righteous anger, not the fury of sinful human temper, but the settled holy opposition to sin that requires His justice to be vindicated.

John 3:36 says:

*He who does not obey the Son, the wrath of God abides on him.*

Bible is clear about this point beloved. One writer said that the Old Testament alone mentions the wrath of God 585 times. The New Testament continues that theme as well. God's wrath is upon sinners because He is righteous; He is settled in opposition to it. The violation of His law calls forth for punishment. The violation of God's law screams for justice to be vindicated, that righteousness be upheld and that sin and wickedness be judged.

Here is the point for these callas, mocking sinners, while they might be content to live separate from God and couldn't care less about the fact that they are separated from Him. The truth of the matter is that God has reached across that divide and placed His wrath upon them, His wrath abides upon them whether they regard God or not, they are living under the wrath of God. God is not passive in face of the limitless violation of His law that goes on day by day in the lives of sinners. They are storing up wrath, storing up anger, and if they truly understood that, they would not mock, if they truly got the point, they would not be laughing, they would not be joking; they would see with those words that these are matters of sober truth.

Oh beloved, if you are here today and not in Christ, the words could not be more sober. Nothing else in your life matters but dealing with this wrath of God that is righteously upon you because of your sin. Sin brings God's wrath. God's wrath flows from His holiness. God's wrath transcends the separation that forbids our communion with Him.

There is one final out that the sinner might try and say, "Well, you know, I can live with that, I'm going to die anyway and then it will all be over." That doesn't work either. It is right to say that God's wrath pursues sinners even after death, you can't die and get away from it, there is no escape from the wrath of God because, remember we were saying why is propitiation necessary. We are systematically going through step by step why propitiation is necessary—God is holy, sin separates us from God, in that state of separation, the wrath of God abides upon us.

Fourthly, sinners face God's eternal judgment in hell—eternal, unending judgment from the wrath of God. See beloved, these are no trifling matters, this is not a superficial discussion that we are having, this is not about self-improvement, this is about how God orders the universe and runs it in light of the rebellion of man against His law. God will vindicate His law, He will vindicate His holy character. No man, no man will escape accountability for his sin. There may be a parenthesis of time where it seems like there is no accountability.

But there is ultimate accountability beloved. Hebrews 9:27 says:

*It is appointed for men to die once and after this comes judgment.*

Jesus Christ Himself said in Matthew 25:46:

*Sinners will go away in to eternal punishment.*

*(Matthew 24:51) In that place, there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.*

Relentless, unending, eternal torment in hell awaits all of those who die with unforgiven sin. The self-righteous sinner as well as the profligate drunk in the street, the man who sits in Grace Community Church and never bows the knee to Christ as much as the heathen in Africa who has never heard the gospel, all men brought to accountability before God and will face His wrath as a result of their sin. Sinners face God's eternal judgment in hell and it is right that they would, this is what God has established, it does not belong to man to question this, to question the justice of this—what man thinks about it is irrelevant. The truth of the matter is that an eternal God has established an eternal law and created man and placed him on this earth and man has violated that eternal law, given by an eternal God, an eternal holy God. And the violation of an eternal law calls for an eternal punishment in order for justice to be upheld, in order for righteousness to be vindicated. Sin must be punished because God's holy character demands it, and His righteous anger must be vindicated.

In light of all of that beloved, your eternal welfare depends upon having God's wrath turned away from you and you cannot do that on your own. You cannot do any good deeds to turn away God's wrath. Your good deeds, the Bible says are like filthy rags before Him, you have nothing to offer Him. You cannot offer the fruit of your soul for the sin of your soul—we're lost, we're doomed, we're under God's judgment and are helpless to do anything about it on our own.

Now, that beloved is why the passage in front of us today is so important. That is why we are taking so much time to deal with these one or two verses carefully because for you and for me, the consequences of facing God in His righteous judgment are just too awful to bear. The prospect of facing God with unforgiven sin and on the brink of eternal hell just waiting for Him to pronounce the sentence, that's too awful to bear, this is too sober to treat casually or lightly.

The question then becomes:

### **3. Where can we find propitiation?**

Where can we find propitiation? Where can we find that which will turn away the wrath of God from us? Where can we find some one to intervene on our behalf? Is there some one who can help us in our miserable and lost condition?

Now, beloved, as a preliminary matter, as we look at these two verses that I read earlier, as a preliminary matter, remember that the apostle John is speaking to true Christian here. If you have not surrendered your life to Christ, you still face the awful wrath of God. If you are here and you are not in Christ, I don't want you to draw a false comfort from these verses. Instead, I would plead with you to hear the words that follow and receive Christ for eternal life. But you must bow the knee before Him, you must repent of sin, you must receive Him by faith for eternal life.

What we are about to look at is the basis upon which you can trust Him for eternal life if you do not know Him.

And those of you who are Christians whom I will be addressing for the rest of this time, this passage teaches us how we can have certainty that Christ has turned away the wrath of God from us—certainty, assurance and the joy that flows from that.

There is an old gospel song that often comes to my mind, the chorus has often injected itself in my preaching. It says “We have heard the joyful sound, Jesus saves, Jesus saves.” It is joyful, the gospel is good news, the gospel is the best news, the gospel is the news, it is the message that this wrath can be turned away from us. The gospel is the news that God can be satisfied, God can be propitiated. And when you have truly gripped, truly grasped the depth of the wrath of God on your sin, first of all it strikes you with terror. You have to know something of the terror of the Lord, the fear of the Lord in order to come to Him in the first instance. You have to be conscious of sin before you seek deliverance from its consequences. And if you have not felt the terror of the Lord in some measure somewhere along the line, you have serious reason to wonder if you are a Christian or not. But you feel that conviction of sin when you are conscious, when you are convicted in your mind that it is not just everybody else that is a sinner but it is “me” and you feel that sense of terror, then in that condition you understand why the gospel is good news. You understand why it is a joyful sound to hear the words “Jesus Saves.” The whole context of those kinds of statements is that we have to be saved from something, and it is a desperately miserable condition that we are in.

And so for the herald of the gospel to come to a sinner and say, I have joyful news for you, Jesus saves you in that condition, Jesus has the power and has done the work necessary to rescue you from your sin. Then the soul should flower open in joy, in response to this, in readiness, with the words to say “What must I do to be saved?” Because, under the conviction of sin and conscious of the terror of God, you want words of sober truth, you need words of sober truth. You don't want a funny pastor at that point, you don't want an entertaining message, and you don't want a goofy skit. You need words of sober truth that help you understand the way out of your miserable lost condition—that's why we teach the Bible at Grace Community Church beloved.

Where can we find propitiation? Where can we find relief from this wrath of God that is righteously upon us? What can we say about the wrath of God as believers in Christ?

These two verses that we were looking at, this passage teaches us how we can have certainty that Christ has in fact turned away the wrath of God from us. When we last looked at this passage, we saw that Christ is our advocate, chapter 2, verse 1 “If any one sins” we talked about this, talking about those sins that come from time to time in the life of the believer and your soul wells up with the sense of guilt and anxiety, what do we have in that condition, knowing that we have sinned against God. Speaking to believers the apostle John says (sweet words) “...we have an advocate with the Father...” We have some one in the presence of God in heaven who is representing us, who is advocating our cause, who is interceding for us so that our salvation could never fail. We saw that our sins as believers do not forfeit our salvation, you don’t sin your way out of true genuine conversion because Christ represents us in heaven before the heavenly Father as our great high priest.

Now, having said that Jesus is our advocate (follow me here) John is going to explain the basis of Christ’s advocacy, the grounds upon which He advocates our position before the father, the grounds upon which our salvation we can say is eternally secured. How can we know that Jesus is able to maintain our cause with the Father as our advocate? That is what John is going on to explain here. And in a very few compact words that the brevity of which simply showing forth the genius of the Holy Spirit who inspired them, in the brevity of these words that we are going to look at this morning, we are going to see why Jesus is most certainly an affective advocate and an affective high priest on our behalf. Look at the end of verse 1 with me again, John says “...we have an advocate with the father...” beloved, this is the most important thing in the world. How is it that you could be reconciled to a holy God? These are the most important words in the world—these things that the Bible teaches us. We have an advocate with the Father, who is that advocate?

*Jesus Christ the righteous, and He Himself is the propitiation for our sins.*

There are three ways in which John says here that undergirds the advocacy of Christ on our behalf. And so in this point #3 there is going to be three sub points here as well.

First of all, we know that we have propitiation in Christ because of:

#### **A. His saving purpose**

In verse 1 he says this advocate is Jesus Christ the righteous. Now in the providence of God, last week we considered the name of Jesus. It is easy to forget something important that the name of Jesus in itself communicates peace to our hearts beloved because you remember that when the angel announced the birth of Jesus to Joseph, he explained the very meaning of Jesus’ name in Matthew 1:21. The angel instructed Joseph to call this baby’s name Jesus for “He will save His people from there sins.” At the very birth of Christ, the angel announced the reason that He had come to earth. He came to earth in order to save His people from their sins. His name, Jesus, speaks to His purpose. The whole reason that the Son of God left heaven and came to earth and walked on this guilty



sod for some thirty odd years, the reason that He went to the cross, the reason that He was crucified was because He came to save His people from their sins. Understand that when we talk about Jesus, when we use that name, Jesus, the thought should be connected in our minds that the very nature of His purpose, His name expresses His purpose to save us from our sins. And so, when we sin as believers and we go and call upon the Lord Jesus, we are instantly reminded of the fact that He came for the very purpose of saving us from that which we are now confessing. We have an advocate in heaven whose very purpose from all of eternity established by the triune Godhead, His very purpose in coming was to save His people from their sins. How marvelous is that beloved—I ask you, this is wonderful. And so as we go to Jesus, confessing sin, we are immediately reminded that the whole reason that He came to earth was to save us from our sins. A sympathetic savior has done what is necessary to relieve us from the consequence of that which we are confessing.

Beloved, if you are a Christian here this morning, and you feel the guilt of sin and have been walking away from the Lord, and you feel that sense of anxiety of having gone so far in to sin—Beloved, hear the merciful words of the gospel, Jesus came to save sinners, He will receive your genuine repentance, your heart-felt cries of confession, He will receive them and cleanse you and restore you to a clear conscience and to joy in walking with the God of your salvation. Now why would you resist that beloved? Why would you tense up for the love of your own sin? No beloved, cast aside your sin, cast aside your rebellion and come to Christ in humble confession because by knowing that He will receive you because His saving purpose in coming was for just that reason. Jesus came not to give us earthly satisfaction, but eternal salvation. And I for one, beloved, thank Him and praise His holy name for that, don't you?

The word “Jesus Christ the righteous” speaks as His role as mediator, He stands for the people of God as the one who came to save them from their sins. Where can we find propitiation? How can we know that Christ is affective on our behalf? First of all is the whole reason He came. And you tend to think that if God had a purpose in sending Christ to fulfill that purpose without fail, He is a sovereign God, He does whatever He pleases, He accomplishes all of His good pleasure. Jesus came to save sinners, save His people from their sins and we are one of His people, then we are saved from our sins.

Not just His saving purpose, but secondly, we can rely on Christ as our advocate because

### **B. His righteous character**

Look at the end of verse 1 with me again:

*...we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous...*

Jesus Christ the righteous, our advocate is righteous. Stated differently, Jesus has the necessary character to represent us before the holy God. He has the necessary character to represent us before our righteous Father. He can satisfy the righteousness of God

because He is God and thus He is able to represent us perfectly before the Father. God's perfect righteousness calls forth for justice and vindication and punishment of sin and in to that breach our lovely Lord Jesus Christ steps forth with an equal righteousness to God the Father and is therefore able to represent us on a one-to-one correspondence. Jesus' righteousness meets the Father's righteousness on our behalf. His righteousness is that which is counted to us when we believe in Christ, that imputed righteousness is what is credited to our account. The righteousness of God which cries out for vindication is met in heaven by the righteousness of Jesus Christ and He is there on our behalf, and as we said two weeks ago, representing us like the high priest bore the names of the tribes of Israel on his shoulders and over his heart. Jesus is there in perfect intrinsic righteousness representing His people before the father—these are words of marvelous sober truth beloved.

Hebrews 7:25, speaking of Jesus, listen to this because it is the very picture that John is invoking in greater brevity here. Hebrews 7:25, talking about Christ in the presence of God on our behalf, he says that:

*Jesus is able to save for ever those who draw near to God through Him since He always lives to make intercession for them. For it was fitting for us to have such a high priest, holy, innocent, undefiled, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens.*

That's our Lord Jesus, holy, innocent, separated from sinners and exalted above the heavens and that is the Jesus that stepped forth to represent you before the righteous God. You go and stand before God not in your own merit, but in the perfect righteousness of Christ, clothed in His righteousness and even now as we speak, Jesus in that matchless righteousness is representing us before God.

You want to know how and why you can trust your advocate? You want to know why your salvation is settled? Jesus came to save sinners and now He stands before God as a perfectly righteous representative on their behalf. Having fulfilled all righteousness on their behalf, He stands before the Father, our champion, satisfies the righteousness of God because He is the very righteousness of God.

All of this building in our hearts a sense of security and assurance and humility and grateful love for our Lord Jesus Christ who did all of this beloved, who in conjunction with the counsels of the Godhead, worked all of this out before time began, had planned it all, who 2000 years before you were even born, went to the cross of Calvary to intercede on your behalf (that's what we're getting ready to talk about) long before you were born beloved, God had planned this out and done what was necessary to prepare the groundwork for you to be saved.

If any one can hear truth like that and still mock, ah, he is himself condemned. Jesus' intercession is effective because He is perfectly righteous and He is there on our behalf.

Where can we find this propitiation? It is in Christ, it is in His saving purpose and His righteous character. How can we know that we have this propitiation? Thirdly, it is by

### **C. His perfect sacrifice.**

In the Old Testament, going back to the book of Leviticus and there in the Mosaic revelation of the first five books of the Old Testament, in the Old Testament, God established a pattern of animal sacrifices which were designed to teach the nation of Israel about the consequences of sin and maintaining fellowship with the holy God. Without going in to the passages, doing this in very broad brush summary, an innocent animal, perfect in its characteristics would be brought before the priest and the worshiper would lay his hands on the head of that animal to symbolize the transfer of his personal guilt to the innocent animal in front of him. And then the animal would be slaughtered as a sacrifice on his behalf. The sacrifices were designed to provide something like a temporary cover for sin, but the root problem of sin was never addressed, it was never fully resolved as shown by the fact that sacrifices had to be repeated over and over.

The Bible is clear that those Old Testament sacrifices never truly took away for ever the sin of the worshiper. Hebrews 10 says it is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins. But the value of those sacrifices for us to day is that they give us a picture of the need for a substitute sacrifice to take away sin, they provide a picture to help us understand the sacrifice of Christ on the cross.

Now, with that in mind, look at verse 2 with me where John says:

*...and He Himself (referring to Jesus Christ) is the propitiation for our sins.*

Tying the definition that we gave a half hour ago, Jesus is the propitiation, He Himself is the sacrifice which turns away the wrath of God from us—that's the message of this passage beloved. Christ is our propitiation indicates that Jesus Christ Himself is the sacrifice that turns away the wrath of God from our sins. It was His blood, shed on the cross, it was Him, the perfectly righteous, the innocent Lamb of God, it was He, that innocent sacrifice that was nailed to the cross of Calvary. And it was Him that Peter says "bore our sins in His body," and it was Him on the cross that God poured His wrath down and the dark veil covered the earth while He hung on the cross during those three hours. Beloved, understand this, understand what was happening at that time. God was pouring out His wrath against your sin, if you are a believer in Christ, God was pouring out His wrath on Christ, He was vindicating His judgment, He was satisfying what the law demanded. An innocent substitute sacrifice had the sins of every one who had ever believed on Him placed on His head and then God punished Him.

Beloved, understand this, we think about the gospel as a message of forgiveness and rightfully so. But the gospel is also a message about satisfied justice. Every sin requires penalty. For those who reject Christ, they will bear the penalty of all of their sins in hell for ever.

But beloved, the glorious message for those of us that know Christ today is this, Jesus Christ Himself has absorbed God's wrath on our behalf. The full fury of God's wrath has been satisfied in Christ on the cross. There is no further sacrifice to be made because Christ's sacrifice is perfect, He gave a full payment for sins for all who would ever believe in Him. Romans 5:8-10 says this:

*God demonstrates His own love toward us in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us, much more than having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from the wrath of God through Him. For if while we were enemies, we were reconciled to God through the death of His Son, much more, having been reconciled, we shall be saved by His life.*

Now, beloved, get this, when we talk about Christ being your advocate in heaven, understand that His advocacy is grounded upon, is based upon, it is rooted in His work on the cross. He can advocate now on our behalf because of what He did on our behalf. Christ's sacrifice continually and in an unbroken way turns away the wrath of God from all of your sins. When you sin in your Christian life, there is no need for another sacrifice. The blasphemy of the Roman Catholic mass has exposed to the point like this. Christ has satisfied the wrath of God and now God views us with faith. Hebrews 10:17-18 says this (and I'm almost done beloved) after a lengthy talk about the sufficiency of the sacrifice of Christ says:

*Their sins and lawless deeds I will remember no more. Now where there is forgiveness of these things, there is no longer any offering for sin.*

If you are in Christ beloved, forgiveness is settled. God's wrath has been satisfied because Jesus' sacrifice has an eternal virtue that for ever cleanses you from sin and turns away God's wrath. God was satisfied and raised Him from the dead. And now Jesus represents our cause in heaven before the satisfied Father to intercede for us and He will do so until we are brought all the way to glory.

Beloved, don't think of Jesus pleading love against an unloving Father. What is happening in the intercession of Christ on our behalf is Jesus is pleading the merit of satisfied justice with the loving father who wants to bless His children. There is perfect harmony in heaven on our behalf. Their joined purposes of love is bringing about our salvation has been fulfilled. Your sins, if you are a Christian, are forgiven and they will not be brought to bear before the bar of God ever again because Christ's sacrifice was perfect, it was once for all, and it has satisfied the wrath of God on our behalf.

The writer of Hebrews can say that because God has been propitiated, God has been satisfied by Jesus and His sacrifice on the cross. Dear Christian, you are eternally secure in Him, go forth in that security, humble, grateful, praiseful until He brings you in to your heavenly reward. Let's pray.

*Our Father, indeed we have seen from your words, great words of sober truth, and yet Lord, words of great magnificent joy “Jesus saves, Jesus saves” shout it out to all the land, Jesus, the wrath of God has been satisfied on our behalf. Oh God, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.*

*And oh God, for the hardened hearts that are under the sound of my voice, draw them to Christ as well Father. We would not keep this salvation to ourselves. We just pray that you would do in the lost that still remain, the work that you did in our hearts some time ago. Save them from the wrath that is to come, burden their hearts until they turn to Christ in repentant faith. We bless your magnificent name this morning. In Christ’s name we pray. Amen.*