

1 John 2:1-2

1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

My little children

John is expressing the tender affection of an aged pastor and spiritual father, whom he regards with the tenderest feelings of paternal love, calling them my little children as “My own dear children, sons and daughters.” But not only John’s sons and daughters but “God’s eternal sons and daughters.” John used this term seven times in 1 John.

These things I write to you, so that you may not sin

Be watchful against temptation and sin and don’t allow yourself to even practice it. The apostle was writing to them that they should not sin, a continuation of what he had said at the end of the previous chapter.

1 John 1:7 But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin.

1 John 1:9-10 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

As His followers, we will still sin. But, when we do, we are commanded to confess that sin to God. Confession is an agreement with God about how bad our sin is. We stand guilty before Him with no argument and no justification of our own. The offer of forgiveness is made to us that we may be encouraged to abandon (repent) sin and return to God. Knowing what Christ has done for us on the cross should give us the desire to be obedient, because without Christ we would not even have a desire to be obedient.

Every Thursday me and my prayer partner pray before I go out for EE. We ask the Lord for safety, to guide and direct us to the people He has ready for us to talk to. I was on the Blvd. with my team who were 2 men who had been in EE for many years. We stopped by 4 groups of people and asked them if we could do a religious survey with them? No, thank you came from all 4 groups. As we continued walking I see a man standing in the middle of the street that was blocked with a repent sign and a bullhorn. We walk toward his wife and 2 children handing out tracts and we stop to see what their message was. She hands us a postcard that says, “Fear God” with very small lettering on the back that must have had 400 words squeezed on the backside. As we listened to her message she kept telling us that we had to “fear God, repent and be perfect and sinless.” She had been sinless for many months. What? Wait a minute, how can you be sinless for months? Not a bad thought, an angry attitude, a lie? She said, “We had to be perfect. If we were to die today and we had sinned we would not go to heaven.” That was our opportunity to share with her. Her husband then comes along side her, and one of the men talked with the wife and the other talked with the husband. I was on the sidelines praying

and observing the conversations. There was no convincing the woman and husband that we will still sin. We don't have a license to sin, we are to confess our sin, repent and turn from sin but we are still sinners and we still sin. Oh yes, every verse you can think of regarding this issue was presented to this man and woman. They came back with Scripture too. Unfortunately, a lot of their Scripture was out of context. As I thought about the whole incident that unfolded that night, I realized I was observing my Bible Study and the answers I had that night came from 1 John.

And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father

And if anyone sins (and we will), and we are guilty before God, we do not have to despair, for we have an Advocate (Jesus) with the Father who has made propitiation for the sins of the world.

What does the word propitiation mean?

The word propitiation means appeasement or satisfaction, specifically toward God.

How would you define the word Advocate?

An advocate is a person who comes to our aid or pleads our case to a judge. That is the picture John paints when he refers to Jesus as our "Advocate with the Father."

Imagine being accused of a murder in which you are totally innocent. What specific qualifications would you look for in a defense attorney representing your innocence?

An attorney is an advocate that speaks for the rights of his or her client. They study the details of the law and can navigate through those complicated statutes with accuracy and precision. I want the best attorney I can find!

Why do we need an Advocate?

God's righteous law pronounces us guilty on all counts. We have violated God's standards, rejected His right to rule our lives, and we continue to sin even after coming to a knowledge of the truth.

We have an Advocate with the Father; one who has undertaken, and is fully able, to plead in behalf of everyone who applies for pardon and salvation in his name, depending on his pleading for them. He is "Jesus," the Saviour, and "Christ," the Messiah, the Anointed. He alone is "the Righteous One," who received his nature pure from sin, and as our Surety perfectly obeyed the law of God, and so fulfilled all righteousness. All men, in every land, and through successive generations, are invited to come to God through this all-sufficient atonement, and by this new and living way. The gospel, when rightly understood and received, sets the heart against all sin, and stops the allowed practice of it; at the same time it gives blessed relief to the wounded consciences of those who have sinned. *Matthew Henry Concise Commentary*

Now envision you are standing in the heavenly court room. Our heavenly Father is on the bench upholding perfection of His holy law. Jesus stands as our defense attorney. Jesus who knew no sin, was perfect and holy in every way paid the price for us. His blood is our innocence before our holy and righteous Judge. Jesus is our perfect Advocate! As our Advocate, He never loses a case. We have the best Advocate that speaks to the Father on our behalf. If you are a child of God your case is dismissed!

The Greek word for Advocate is Paraclete: Intercessor, Helper, Comforter the same term as is applied to the Holy Ghost, as the “other Comforter”; showing the unity of the Second and Third Persons of the Trinity. Christ is the Intercessor for us above; and, in His absence, here below the Holy Ghost is the other Intercessor in us. Christ’s advocacy is inseparable from the Holy Spirit’s comfort and working in us, as the spirit of intercessory prayer. The advocacy of Christ is our antidote for sin and our walking in the light; for to know God, we must keep his commandments and love the brethren and not love the world nor give heed to antichrists, against whom our safety is through the inward anointing of God to abide in God; so at Christ coming we shall not be ashamed. *Jamieson, Fausset, Brown Commentary*

Jesus said in John 14:16 And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another Helper, that He may abide with you forever.

John 14:26 But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all things that I said to you

John 16:7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you.

Rom 8:26-27 Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses. For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groanings which cannot be uttered. And he who searches our hearts knows the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for God’s people in accordance with the will of God.

1 Cor 2:13 These things we also speak, not in words which man’s wisdom teaches but which the Holy Spirit teaches, comparing spiritual things with spiritual.

Titus 3:5 Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to His mercy He saved us, through the washing of regeneration and renewing of the Holy Spirit.

From the verses we just read, what does the Holy Spirit do for us on behalf of Christ?

Jesus Christ the righteous

God’s standard is what defines true righteousness.

The biblical definition of righteousness: The character or quality of being right or just. It denotes an attribute of God. It is used of that gracious gift of God to men whereby all who

believe on the Lord Jesus Christ are brought in right relationship with God. This righteousness is unattainable by obedience to any law, or by any merit of man's own, or any other condition that of faith in Christ. The man who trusts in Christ becomes the righteousness of God in him, i.e., becomes in Christ all that God requires man to be, all that he could never be in himself. This faith brings the soul into vital union with God in Christ and inevitably produces righteousness of life, that is conformity to the will of God. Strong's Expanded Exhaustive Concordance

2 Cor 5:21 For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.

We are to emulate our Savior, what should righteousness look like in our lives?

We pursue righteousness when we pursue the character of Christ and desire holiness more than our own desires. Those who are in Christ continue seeking God in order to please Him.

1 Tim 6:11 But you, man of God, flee from all this, and pursue righteousness, godliness, faith, love, endurance and gentleness.

2 Tim 2:22 Flee the evil desires of youth and pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace, along with those who call on the LORD out of a pure heart.

Prov 15:9 The LORD detests the way of the wicked, but he loves those who pursue righteousness.

Prov 21:21 Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.

Col 3:1 If then you were raised with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ is, sitting at the right hand of God.

He commands us to "walk in the Spirit." Walking in the Spirit means we live a lifestyle of total surrender to the Lordship of Jesus Christ. When we come to faith in Christ, He gives us the Holy Spirit who empowers us to pursue righteousness. We are to obey Him in everything we do.

Gal 5:16 I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.

Gal 5:22-23 But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control.

Something to ponder – Are we walking in the Spirit? Do our lives show the bountiful gift of the fruit of the Spirit? Bountiful means abundant or given generously. Is our love, joy, peace...given in abundance or generously to others?

God the Father is righteous (just); Jesus Christ his Son is the Righteous (Just) One; the Father through the Son and in the Spirit gives the gift of righteousness (justice) to repentant sinners for salvation; such believing sinners are declared righteous (just) by the Father through the Son, are made righteous (just) by the Holy Spirit working in them, and will be wholly righteous (just) in the age to come. They are and will be righteous because they are in a covenant relation with the living God, who is the God of all grace and mercy and who will bring to completion what he has begun in them by declaring them righteous for Christ's sake. *Baker's Evangelical Dictionary of Biblical Theology*

When we place our faith in Christ, God credits the perfect righteousness of Christ to our account so that we become perfect in His sight. Christ everlasting righteousness shall stand as our substitute before the throne of God.

As our "Advocate," Christ is not a mere suppliant petitioner. He pleads for us on the ground of justice, or righteousness, as well as mercy. Though He can say nothing good of us, He can say much for us. It is His righteousness, or obedience to the law, and endurance of its full penalty for us, on which He grounds His claim for our acquittal. The sense therefore is, "in that He is righteous"; in contrast to our sin ("if any man sin"). The Father, by raising Him from the dead, and setting Him at His own right, has once for all accepted Christ's claim for us. Therefore the accuser's charges against God's children are vain. "The righteousness of Christ stands on our side; for God's righteousness is, in Jesus Christ, ours" [LUTHER]. *Jamieson, Fausset, Brown Commentary*

Romans 8:34 Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.

1 Tim 2:5 For there is one God and one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.

John 14:6 Jesus said to him, "I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father but through Me."

Heb 7:25 Therefore He is also able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them.

Heb 9:24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us.

We do not become righteous because of our goodness, all of our righteousness is like "filthy rags." We can never out do what Christ has done for us. It's Jesus' work and only His work! God sees us as righteous because of our identification by faith with His Son. Thanks be to our Lord and Savior Jesus we can now have fellowship with God once again because of Christ's righteousness. Everyone that does righteousness is part of Him. The advocacy of Jesus is founded upon his everlasting righteousness, and perfect atonement. And that's the good news of salvation!

1 Cor 1:30 But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God—and righteousness and sanctification and redemption.

Rom 3:24-26 Being justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed, to demonstrate at the present time His righteousness, that He might be just and the justifier of the one who has faith in Jesus.

Rom 5:15 For if by the one man's offense death reigned through the one, much more those who receive abundance of grace and of the gift of righteousness will reign in life through the One, Jesus Christ.

2 Peter 1:1 Simon Peter, a bondservant and apostle of Jesus Christ, to those who have obtained like precious faith with us by the righteousness of our God and Savior Jesus Christ.

Because of what Christ has done for us, what do we receive?

Some of the blessings we receive are justification (being declared righteous), sanctification (holiness), continued intercession (mediation), and peace (reconciliation). He grants these to His children alone. These are His gifts of grace to you dear one!

1 John 2:2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.

And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins

Propitiation is a two-part act that involves appeasing the wrath of an offended person and being reconciled to Him. There is no service, sacrifice, or gift that man can offer that will appease the holy wrath of God or satisfy His perfect justice. The only satisfaction, that could be acceptable to God and that could reconcile man to Him had to be made by God. It is because of Christ's death on the cross and His resurrection on the third day that a lost sinner deserving of hell can be reconciled to a holy God. This is great news!

Rom 3:25 Whom God set forth as a propitiation by His blood, through faith, to demonstrate His righteousness, because in His forbearance God had passed over the sins that were previously committed.

Heb 2:17 Therefore, in all things He had to be made like His brethren, that He might be a merciful and faithful High Priest in things pertaining to God, to make propitiation for the sins of the people.

Jesus is all that is needed for propitiation on behalf of our sins. Christ was provided by the Father's love, removing our separation, and appeasing the righteous wrath, on God's part, against the sinner. He demonstrated His love by pouring it on underserving people. He loving

draws us to Himself, He forgives our rebellion against Him, and sent His Holy Spirit to dwell within us. Jesus is the propitiatory sacrifice that was given in order to have fellowship and union with our God...all because of His love for us!

Rom 5:8 But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us.

Rom 8:39 Nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Eph 2:4-7 But God, who is rich in mercy, because of His great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in trespasses, made us alive together with Christ (by grace you have been saved), and raised us up together, and made us sit together in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus, that in the ages to come He might show the exceeding riches of His grace in His kindness toward us in Christ Jesus.

1 John 4:10 In this is love, not that we loved God, but that He loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins.

Rev 1:5 And from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead, and the ruler over the kings of the earth. To Him who loved us and washed us from our sins in His own blood.

Ladies, how do you feel knowing Your God and Savior loves you this much?

And not for ours only

Not only for us who already believe in Him, but for those also who have not yet believed.

John 1:29 The next day John saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, "Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"

John 4:42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

John 11:51 Now this he did not say on his own authority; but being high priest that year he prophesied that Jesus would die for the nation, and not for that nation only, but also that He would gather together in one the children of God who were scattered abroad.

2 Cor 5:18 Now all things are of God, who has reconciled us to Himself through Jesus Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation.

But also for the whole world

Jesus has offered this invitation to everyone. Not only to the Jews but to the Gentiles, who are all given the same privileges, and become the children of God through faith in Jesus Christ.

Those who reject Christ as their Savior and refuse to believe in Him have no hope of salvation. They can only look forward to facing the wrath of God that they have stored up for the coming day of judgment (Rom 2:5 But because of your stubbornness and your unrepentant heart, you are storing up wrath against yourself for the day of God's wrath, when his righteous judgment will be revealed). There is no other propitiation or sacrifice that can be made for their sins.

Salvation is for God's glory by putting on display His boundless mercy and love for those who are spiritually dead because of their sinfulness. This atonement is made possible to all mankind, whatever race, gender or class and is sufficient (good/worthy) for all. His propitiation extends as wide as sin extends. Hallelujah! What a Savior!

1 John 4:14 And we have seen and testify that the Father has sent the Son as Savior of the world.

John 4:42 Then they said to the woman, "Now we believe, not because of what you said, for we ourselves have heard Him and we know that this is indeed the Christ, the Savior of the world."

Heb 2:9 But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels, for the suffering of death crowned with glory and honor, that He, by the grace of God, might taste death for everyone.

John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life."

And ladies, this is the gospel message of salvation that Christ died on the cross, 3 days later He rose from the dead, to pay the penalty of our sins and is now preparing a place in heaven for us. I hope you never tire of hearing the greatest news you have ever heard. This is our eternal security!

Prayer – Thank Lord Jesus for paying the penalty of our sins so that we would be holy and righteous before our holy God. You are our perfect Advocate that goes before our Holy Father on our behalf. Thank you for making this gift available to whomever will come to you in faith. We don't deserve it, but we thank you! Lord I ask that our love and knowledge of you will grow each day and that we would be pure and blameless before you. Thank you for the righteousness that only comes through Jesus. To You Lord, we give you glory and praise to the only One who deserves it! Amen