

Jesus's Present Work: Interceding for Us

I. Intro

- A. What has Jesus done as Prophet, Priest, and King?
- B. What is Jesus doing now?

II. Jesus's Present Work as Prophet (Col. 3:16)

III. Jesus's Present Work as King

- A. Head of the church (Eph. 1:22)
- B. Awaiting his enemies, whom he defeated, to be brought to humble themselves before his rule (Ps. 110:1, Phil. 2:9-11)

IV. Jesus's Present Work as Priest

- A. Questions about Christ's work of intercession
 - 1. Why do we need this work? Hasn't he justified us?
 - a. Intercession is the relational, ongoing application of what his atonement accomplished.
 - b. Redemption isn't a formula or random act, but a relational work God does
 - 2. Does this mean Jesus tries to persuade the reluctant Father to welcome us?
 - a. The Son loves us (Rom. 8:35)
 - b. The Father planned the work of the Son. He loves us and gave his Son for this purpose (Rom. 8:32, 39).
- B. Jesus's Present Work of Intercession
 - 1. His intercession means no condemnation for us (Rom. 8:34)
 - a. To condemn is to *pronounce a sentence after determination of guilt*¹
 - b. He is present at the right hand of the Father interceding.
 - c. Note that this hope of Christ's past and present work leads to assurance of God's unfailing love (Rom. 8:35).
 - 2. His intercession means our complete salvation (Hebrews 7:23-25)
 - a. Jesus's priesthood is permanent
 - b. The consequence is that he is able to save *to the uttermost* those who draw near to God through Him.

¹ BDAG, 519.

3. Jesus is our advocate, joining us as we approach the Father to confess our sin (1 John 2:1)
 - a. ESV Study Bible “He is the God-man who mediates and represents fallen people based on his fully sufficient work on the cross, and his intervention never fails. Jesus, the sinner’s divine lawyer, never loses a case.”
 - b. What does this mean practically? We don’t have to conceal, defend, or advocate for ourselves. We rest in Jesus’s righteousness.

V. Application

A. Pray Confidently (knowing he intercedes for you)

1. How this would calm our fears and anxieties
2. How it would assure us in the roughest seas of trial or the deepest canyons of sin that God will complete his work in us and save us to the uttermost!

B. Know His Heart

1. How amazing that Jesus’s heart of love for us wasn’t limited to his time on earth and on the cross.
2. His love is poured forth, moment-by-moment, in active intercession for us.
3. We aren’t just a number in a court system but loved individuals.
 - a. It isn’t like an employee showing up for a job in customer service with annoying people problems.
 - b. He exults in applying his saving work in moment-by-moment intercession.

C. Rest in His Advocacy

1. What an encouragement when we sin to know Jesus is our advocate.
2. Consider who Christ is for you, *even while you are fighting and struggling with sin* (not having overcome it).
 - a. He stands as our advocate *when we sin*; not simply *once we’ve stopped sinning*.
 - b. We rest in Jesus, who knows how sinful we are, and yet makes a better defense than we could ever make for ourselves.
3. John Bunyan describes it:
 Christ as a Priest intercedes for us in heaven Sin is still in us, and with us, and mixes itself with whatever we do, whether what we do be religious or civil; for not only our prayers and our sermons, our hearings and preaching; but our houses, our shops, our trades, and our beds, are all polluted with sin. Nor does the devil, our night and day adversary, forbear to tell our bad deeds to our Father, urging that we might forever be disinherited for this. But what should we now do, if we had not an Advocate; yes, if we had not one who would plead; yes, if we had not one that could prevail, and that would faithfully execute that office for us? Why, we must die. But since we are rescued by him, let us, as to ourselves, lay our hand upon our mouth, and be silent.²

² Bunyan, *The Work of Jesus Christ as an Advocate*, 1:197.