



I JOHN: WHEN TRUTH IS LIVED
“JESUS CHRIST---OUR ADVOCATE”
I JOHN 2: 1-2

THESE VERSES TEACH US THAT FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS IMPOSSIBLE APART FROM JESUS CHRIST WHO IS OUR ADVOCATE. IT IS HE WHO, IN SPITE OF OUR LAPSES, MAINTAINS OUR FELLOWSHIP. THE IMAGE JOHN GIVES US IS THAT OF A COURTROOM DRAMA. GOD THE FATHER IS THE JUDGE, SATAN IS THE ACCUSER, AND EVERY PERSON WHO HAS EVER LIVED IS ON TRIAL. THE ISSUE IS HOW UNJUST SINNERS CAN BE JUSTIFIED BEFORE A HOLY GOD. ALL OF US WHO STAND BEFORE THE JUDGE ARE GUILTY---“THERE IS NONE RIGHTEOUS, NO, NOT ONE.”(ROM. 3: 9-10). THE JUST SENTENCE THE DIVINE COURT SHOULD HAND DOWN IS ETERNAL PUNISHMENT IN HELL. BUT ALL IS NOT HOPELESS FOR THE GUILTY, BECAUSE THERE IS ONE OTHER CHARACTER TO CONSIDER IN THIS COURTROOM SCENE—THE LORD JESUS CHRIST. HE ACTS AS OUR ADVOCATE, OR DEFENSE ATTORNEY, FOR ALL THOSE WHO BELIEVE SAVINGLY IN HIM. IN THESE TWO VERSES WE WILL SEE HOW AND WHY JESUS IS ABLE TO BE OUR ADVOCATE:

I. JESUS IS FIT TO BE OUR ADVOCATE BECAUSE OF THE UNIQUENESS OF HIS RELATIONSHIP TO GOD OUR FATHER

HE IS OUR ADVOCATE “WITH THE FATHER.” THE USE OF THE WORD “FATHER” RATHER THAN “GOD” CALLS ATTENTION TO THE FATHER-SON RELATIONSHIP EXISTING BETWEEN GOD AND OUR ADVOCATE. IT IS NOT A STERN JUDGE BUT A LOVING FATHER BEFORE WHOM HE HAS TO PLEAD. ALSO IMPORTANT IS THE FACT THAT THE GREEK LANGUAGE DENOTES A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EQUALS, THUS IMPLYING THAT CHRIST OUR ADVOCATE ENJOYS EQUALITY WITH GOD.

II. JESUS IS FIT TO BE OUR ADVOCATE BECAUSE OF HIS RELATIONSHIP TO US

NOTICE THE HUMAN NAME, “JESUS.” BEARING OUR NATURE, HE CAN PLEAD OUR CASE WITH FULL KNOWLEDGE AND DEEP SYMPATHY. IT WAS GOD THE FATHER WHO SENT HIS SON TO DIE FOR US IN THE FIRST PLACE, SO WE CAN BE CONFIDENT IN KNOWING THAT OUR ADVOCATE WAS SENT BY THE JUDGE HIMSELF. GOD ANOINTED HIS ONLY SON TO BE OUR SAVIOR AND REPRESENTATIVE.

III. JESUS IS FIT TO BE OUR ADVOCATE BECAUSE OF HIS SINLESSNESS

HE IS “JESUS CHRIST *THE RIGHTEOUS*.” BEING RIGHTEOUS, HE IS QUALIFIED TO ENTER THE “PRESENCE OF GOD” FROM WHICH ALL SIN EXCLUDES. IF JESUS HIMSELF HAD BEEN A SINNER THEN THAT FACT WOULD DISQUALIFY HIM AS OUR ADVOCATE. NO ONE WHO IS UNWORTHY CAN POSSIBLY PLEAD THE CASE FOR ANOTHER. BECAUSE JESUS IS SINLESS, THEN HE CAN STAND IN THE PRESENCE OF A HOLY GOD AND PLEAD OUR CASE. WE CAN KNOW THAT HE WILL BE HEARD AND ACCEPTED.

IV. JESUS IS FIT TO BE OUR ADVOCATE BECAUSE HE IS THE PROPITIATION FOR OUR SINS

IF THIS WERE NOT SO THEN HE COULD NOT BE OUR ADVOCATE BECAUSE HIS MINISTRY IS BASED UPON HIS PROPITIATORY DEATH FOR US ON THE CROSS. THE MEANING HERE IS THAT CHRIST IS BOTH THE HIGH PRIEST WHO OFFERS THE SACRIFICE AND THE SACRIFICIAL VICTIM.

Presented by Dr. Jimmy Hilton

**SOUTH POINT
BAPTIST CHURCH**

Finding God's Direction for Life



THE ROOT MEANING OF THE WORD 'PROPITIATION' CARRIES WITH IT THE IDEA OF APPEASING AN OFFENDED PERSON. WE HAVE OFFENDED GOD OUR FATHER BY OUR SINS, AND THE ONLY WAY TO APPEASE HIM, TO PAY THE PUNISHMENT, WAS FOR CHRIST TO BE OUR SUBSTITUTE, OUR "PROPITIATION." CHRIST'S DEATH ON THE CROSS TOOK CARE OF THIS, SO HE IS EMINENTLY QUALIFIED TO BE OUR ADVOCATE.

IT IS THROUGH JESUS CHRIST THAT OUR FELLOWSHIP WITH GOD IS FIRST RESTORED, AND THEN MAINTAINED. IF WE WANT A RELATIONSHIP WITH THE LORD, THEN WE MUST GO THROUGH JESUS CHRIST. WITHOUT HIM, THERE IS NO CHRISTIANITY.