

KNOWING OUR ADVOCATE

JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS



1. Following the flow of the letter thus far ...

We must keep reminding ourselves of John's overall purpose in writing this letter to us—that we may know that we have eternal life ... which if we think about it involves knowing that we truly believe.

- (1 John 5:13 ESV) **I write these things to you who believe** in the name of the Son of God, **that you may know that you have eternal life.**

A. **First ...** We were saved to have fellowship with God now and forever, 1:1-4.

B. **Second ...** We have fellowship with God and other believers if we walk in the light, 1:5-10.

C. **This week ...** We learn that God does not want us to sin but if we do sin, we have an Advocate, 2:1-6.

2. John writes to us, his believing family, about our advocate so that we may not sin, 2:1a.

- (1 John 2:1a ESV) My little children, **I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin.**

A. John states his purpose in writing—so that we may not sin.

B. So it is crucial that we pay attention to what John writes next if we desire to not sin.

3. We need to know that if we do sin (which we will) that we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, 2:1b.

- (1 John 2:1b ESV) **But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.**

A. The Father here speaks of God as the one we must stand before regarding our sins.

B. We need to understand our sinful condition and our need for an advocate—someone to stand before God in our defense.

- i. Our advocate comes alongside and represents us before the Father.

Advocate ... παράκλητος [parakletos] – one who is called to one's side, esp. called to one's aid; a person who acts as a spokesperson or representative of someone else's cause; especially before a judge in a court of law; counsel for defense; an intercessor.

- ii. "With the Father" speaks of our responsibility and the judgement for our sins in view of our position before the Father – holy, holy, holy God.
- iii. Jesus Christ the righteous is our advocate who will stand in our behalf before the Father.

C. Here are some examples of the strong defense that will be presented before the Judge by our advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous.

- i. Our advocate Jesus Christ the righteous died on the cross as our substitute—bearing the penalty and guilt of our sin and reconciling us to God to the amazing extent that in him we become the righteousness of God.

- (2 Corinthians 5:21 ESV) **For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**

- ii. This is evidence that our advocate presents before the Father as part of our defense.

- iii. More evidence to be presented by our defense – because of God [1] we are in Christ Jesus [2] **who has become to us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification and redemption.**

- (1 Corinthians 1:30 ESV) **And because of him [God] you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption.**

D. Only a fool could believe that he or she could stand before God without such a defense from an advocate.

E. Without an advocate the person remains as one of the wicked of whom it is impossible to stand before the judgment of Almighty God.

- (Psalm 1:5 ESV) **Therefore the wicked will not stand in the judgment,** nor sinners in the congregation of the righteous.
- (Psalm 5:5 ESV) **The boastful shall not stand before your eyes;** you hate all evildoers.
- (Psalm 76:7 ESV) But you, you are to be feared! **Who can stand before you when once your anger is roused?**
- (Psalm 130:3–4 NIV) **If you, Lord, kept a record of sins, Lord, who could stand?** 4 But with you there is forgiveness, so that we can, with reverence, serve you.
- (Nahum 1:6 ESV) **Who can stand before his indignation?** Who can endure the heat of his anger? His wrath is poured out like fire, and the rocks are broken into pieces by him.

F. Three attitudes toward our sin that we must avoid.

- i. We must never say we have no sin.

- (1 John 1:8 ESV) **If we say we have no sin,** we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

- (Ecclesiastes 7:20 ESV) Surely there is not a righteous man on earth who does good **and never sins.**
 - (1 Kings 8:46–47 ESV) If they sin against you—**for there is no one who does not sin**—and you are angry with them and give them to an enemy, so that they are carried away captive to the land of the enemy, far off or near, **47 yet if they turn their heart in the land to which they have been carried captive, and repent** and plead with you in the land of their captors, saying, **'We have sinned and have acted perversely and wickedly.'**
- ii. We must never say we have not sinned.
- (1 John 1:10 ESV) **If we say we have not sinned,** we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.
- iii. We must never hang on to our secret sins.
- (Psalm 139:23–24 NIV) **Search me,** God, and **know my heart; test me** and know my anxious thoughts. 24 **See if there is any offensive way in me,** and lead me in the way everlasting.
- G. A person might foolishly suggest that knowing we have an advocate would give a person license to sin but that would be a sign of unbelief and not belief.
- (Romans 5:20 ESV) Now the law came in to increase the trespass, **but where sin increased, grace abounded all the more.**
 - (Romans 6:1–2 ESV) **What shall we say then? Are we to continue in sin that grace may abound? 2 By no means! How can we who died to sin still live in it?**
- H. We will see as we progress through this study that just the opposite is true for the one who is walking in the light.
- The better we understand the righteousness of Christ the better we understand our human depravity and our lack of righteousness.
 - The better we understand our lack of righteousness the more we are ready and willing to repent and seek forgiveness.

Now we answer an important question ...

How does knowing that we have an advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous, help us to not sin?

Most simply put—**we come to know Jesus** and what he has done in our behalf, our love for him abounds and we want to please him in every area of our lives.

4. John explains the role of our advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous, as the propitiation for our sins, 2:2.

- (1 John 2:2 ESV) **He is the propitiation for our sins,** and not for ours only but also for the sins of the whole world.
- A. On the cross Jesus took the fullness of the wrath of God as the substitute for those who believe.
- (Psalm 75:8 ESV) **For in the hand of the LORD there is a cup** with foaming wine, well mixed, **and he pours out from it, and all the wicked of the earth shall drain it down to the dregs.**
 - (Romans 5:8–9 ESV) But God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. 9 Since, therefore, we have now been justified by his blood, **much more shall we be saved by him from the wrath of God.**
- B. This act of propitiation is not limited to any particular nation or ethnic group but is available to all who truly believe and are born again to new life in Christ.
- C. This is not speaking of universalism—a teaching that all will be saved.
- D. Propitiation means full payment that satisfies the Father's wrath for all our sins past, present and future—we drink none of the cup of wrath.
- E. This of course applies to those who acknowledge that they sin and confess their sins.

5. John explains how we may know that we have come to know our advocate, 2:3.

- (1 John 2:3 ESV) **And by this we know that we have come to know him, if we keep his commandments.**
- A. Keeping the commandments is the fruit of believing God, not a work or a legalistic proof of our goodness.
- B. A work of regeneration by the Holy Spirit has been accomplished in our hearts the fruit of which is that we now keep God's word.
- C. Thus we know that we have come to know him because of the fruit produced—our obedience.
- D. As we obey we learn more and more about Jesus as our advocate and his work of propitiation for our sins.

Keep ... τηρέω [tereo] – to observe; to conform one's action or practice to; to attend to carefully, take care of; to guard; to observe as in obedience.

- E. This is a simple test ... do we carefully attend to and obey his commandments.
- F. As we come to know him we become more and more familiar with who he is because we learn as he comes to our side and teaches us how to live ... and then it happens ... we find we love him.
- G. We grow in our appreciation of his character and his attributes as God and become more like him.
 - (Galatians 5:22-23 ESV) **But the fruit of the Spirit is** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law.
 - i. We trust him more as we share our lives with him.
 - ii. We learn to acknowledge him in all we do.
 - iii. We love him more as we learn his love for us.
 - iv. We grow in our love and loyalty.
 - v. We grow in living in his grace and mercy.
 - vi. Etc, etc ...

6. Test: John presents a test so that we may determine if we do know our advocate, 2:4-5a.

- (1 John 2:4-5a ESV) **Whoever says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar, and the truth is not in him, 5 but whoever keeps his word, in him truly the love of God is perfected.**
- A. The person who says "I know him" but does not keep his commandments is a liar.
- B. The truth is not in the person who only professes to know Jesus but does not value his word and live in obedience.
- C. In contrast to the liar, the person who keeps God's commandments has the truth in him and the love of God is perfected (fully accomplished and completed) in him as he is being transformed by God's word.

Perfected ... τελειόω [teleioō] – to be fully accomplished; be perfected; to be or become thoroughly or entirely accomplished; conceived of as becoming perfect or complete.

7. Test: John explains how we may know that we are in Jesus Christ the righteous, 2:5b-6.

- (1 John 2:5b-6 ESV) **By this we may know that we are in him:** 6 whoever says he abides in him ought to walk in the same way in which he walked.
- A. Being in him and abiding in him are the same thing.
- B. So we know we are in him and abide in him if we live in the same way that Jesus Christ lived.
- C. Living like Jesus lived is the fruit and the evidence of new life in Christ.
- D. Living like Christ would seem to logically and biblically be most evident in our transformed life of humility since humility is the antithesis of the prideful ways of our old life before Christ.

CONCLUSION: Are we following what has happened? How this fits God's purpose for our lives?

If we are in him, then we have fellowship with him. And now we are back to why God saved us ... We were saved to have fellowship with him.