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Jesus Our Intercessor

Hebrews 7:25

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

Hebrews 9:24

24 For Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands, which are the figures of the true; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

When Jesus died on the cross, He was our sin offering.

His payment was sufficient to pay for the sin of the whole world.

He could thus offer it as a free gift to those who will receive it by faith.

1 John 2:2

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

His work and ministry to us didn't end then.

After Jesus rose from the grave He ascended to the Father and He sits at the right hand of the Father.

Colossians 3:1

1 If ye then be risen with Christ, seek those things which are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God.

Now He serves as our advocate, our defender.

He now makes intercession for us in heaven.

The meaning of intercession is wrapped up in the phrase "that come unto God by him." Heb 7:25

We cannot come before a holy God because we are sinful creatures.

I am able to come before the presence of God because of Jesus.

"intercede ...

1. To plead on another's behalf.

2. To act as mediator in a dispute.

Jesus is always pleading our case before the Father, like a defense lawyer on our behalf.

1 John 2:1-2

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. **And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:**

2 And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.

Praise the Lord! We have an advocate that stands before the Father and pleads our cause.

Let's see some truths about Christ, our intercessor.

I. Christ's Atoning Work Was Finished on Earth

On the cross Jesus said, "It is finished," John 19 :30.

The payment for our salvation was perfectly complete and there was nothing more to add.

Sin was dealt with completely at the cross. Jesus will never die for sin again.

Heb.9:24-28 shows the sin and error of Roman Catholicism as they daily offer the Mass. Each time they take the Mass they believe that they are putting Jesus back on the cross. That is blasphemy.

II. Christ is our High Priest, After the Order of Melchizedec

In the Old Testament the priesthood was established to bring offerings before God to deal with the sins of man.

The priests were mediators between God and man, but their offerings had to be repeated again and again. Their offerings could not take away sin.

Hebrews 10:3-4

3 But in those sacrifices there is a remembrance again made of sins every year.

4 **For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins.**

Christ made His offering once.

Hebrews 7:25-28

25 Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.

26 For such an high priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens;

27 Who needeth not daily, **as those high priests**, to offer up sacrifice, **first for his own sins, and then for the people's**: for this he did once, when he offered up himself.

28 For the law maketh men high priests which have infirmity; but the word of the oath, which was since the law, maketh the Son, who is consecrated for evermore.

Hebrews 9:12

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood **he entered in once into the holy place**, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Jesus offered a better sacrifice... Himself.

This was a one-time offering.

In making this offering He was a priest, not through the lineage of Aaron, but through Melchizedec.

Hebrews 5:5-10

5 So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest; but he that said unto him, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee.

6 As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec.

7 Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered up prayers and supplications with strong crying and tears unto him that was able to save him from death, and was heard in that he feared;

8 Though he were a Son, yet learned he obedience by the things which he suffered;

9 And being made perfect, he became the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey him;

10 Called of God an high priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Most of Hebrews 7 also speaks of this priesthood of Melchisedec.

III. Christ Now Appears in the Presence of God For Us

1. The place: In heaven.

Hebrews 9:8-9

8 The Holy Ghost this signifying, that the way into the holiest of all was not yet made manifest, while as the first tabernacle was yet standing:

9 **Which was a figure for the time then present**, in which were offered both gifts and sacrifices, that could not make him that did the service perfect, as pertaining to the conscience;

The Old Testament temple was a figure, a type, of the perfect temple in heaven.

Hebrews 9:11-12

11 But Christ being come an high priest of good things to come, **by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands**, that is to say, not of this building;

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

Hebrews 9:24

24 For **Christ is not entered into the holy places made with hands**, which are the **figures of the true**; but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us:

2. For whom? His own.

Hebrews 9:24 “now to appear in the presence of God for us”

Heb. 7 :24,25, interceding for those “that come unto God by him.”

As we pray, He intercedes and takes our requests to the Father.

If the Father were to ask, “Why should I listen to their prayers?” the answer would come from Jesus “I paid for their sin. They are clean.”

3. Basis of His plea is His own blood.

"... by His own blood. . ."

Hebrews 9:12

12 Neither by the blood of goats and calves, **but by his own blood** he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

In John 17:1-26 (His High Priestly Prayer), Jesus speaks of the finished work.

He was getting ready to leave, but He prayed for His people – His disciples and those that would follow (us).

John 17:9-11

9 I pray for them: I pray not for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine.

10 And all mine are thine, and thine are mine; and I am glorified in them.

11 And now I am no more in the world, but these are in the world, and I come to thee. Holy Father, keep through thine own name those whom thou hast given me, that they may be one, as we are.

IV. Christ is Our Advocate Now

Satan is the accuser of the brethren at the throne of God, Job 1:6-12.

To counteract the accusations of Satan we have a lawyer at the court of heaven.

Our lawyer-advocate is the Lord Jesus Christ Himself.

1 John 2:1

1 My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:

The sacrifice becomes the lawyer that speaks up for us and defends us.

When we sin He pleads for us on the ground of His finished work and Calvary.

The saint then receives the Father's forgiveness for the sake of the Saviour.

In times of severe trial we ought to be glad of a true friend at court.
The Saviour is our personal representative to the Father.

As we pray we place our case in His hands for His divine care.
As a true man He was tempted in all points like as we are yet without sin.
He understands what you are facing.

When we pray, we go to the Father in Jesus name.

John 14:13-14

13 And whatsoever ye shall ask in my name, that will I do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son.

14 If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it.

Saying "in Jesus' name" at the end of a prayer is not a magic formula.

If what we ask for or say in prayer is not for God's glory and according to His will, saying "in Jesus' name" is meaningless.

It is not the words at the end of the prayer that matter, but the **purpose** behind the prayer.

Praying for things that are in agreement with God's will is the essence of praying in Jesus' name.

You are praying for what He would want.

Hebrews 4:16

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

We don't know the accusations that Satan is constantly bringing to the Father against us.
Although Satan is a liar, the accusations that he makes against us are probably all true.

Rev. 12 :10, "The accuser of our brethren is cast down."

Luke 22:31-32

31 And the Lord said, Simon, Simon, behold, Satan hath desired to have you, that he may sift you as wheat:

32 But I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not:

This is Christ's present intercessory ministry on our behalf.

Since He knows all things He can pray about temptations even before they come.
He pleads our case so we receive grace, strength and power for daily living.

Jesus was my mediator in salvation, as He paid the payment that the Father required, and He is my intercessor as I pray.