

INTERCESSOR*

On the basis of His righteousness and shed blood, Jesus intercedes and advocates for us to the Father.

SCRIPTURE†	MUSIC‡
Isaiah 53:10-12 John 17 / John 17:5-9 Romans 8:31-39 1 Timothy 2:1-7 (5) Hebrews 7:22-28 (25) / 7:22-25 Hebrews 9:23-28 (24) 1 John 1:5-2:2 / 1 John 2:1	All I Need Arise, My Soul, Arise (Forrest) SATB Before the Throne of God Above I Know that My Redeemer Lives I Run to Christ [§] Jesus, Thy Blood and Righteousness Merciful God (I James) SATB My Faith Has Found a Resting Place** My Faith Still Clings (Koerts) SATB My Hope Is In the Lord†† The Precious Blood (Campbell) SATB Wash Me Now (Hamilton) SATB What a Friend We Have in Jesus



* Theme concept has been presented before as “Advocate” in reference to 1 John 2:1.

† Daily preparatory readings shown in **bold**.

‡ Published choral and vocal music shown in **bold**.

§ “I bore God’s wrath, He pleads my case, my Advocate and Friend.”

** “I trust the ever-living one; His wounds for me shall plead.”

†† “And now for me He stands before the Father’s throne; He shows His wounded hands and names me as His own.”

PRESENTING & PROMOTING THIS THEME

CALLING IN A DEBT

Use the illustration of past-due payment phone calls for school tuition or some related profession. Note the enjoyable discovery that the call is unnecessary because payment has already been made. Our sin debt has already been paid; when our sins are “called in,” Jesus says the debt has been paid. “He shows His wounded hands and names me as His own.”

Promotional Post: [Social media post]

[Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]

As a private school principal over the years, one of the less enjoyable jobs I’ve had here and there is to call people about a past tuition bill that they owe. Unfortunately there has been a situation where I’ve contacted a person about an account where there is a balance owed, only to find out that I was mistaken, and the payment I’m asking for has already been made. The bill taken care of.

One of the ministries Jesus Christ has with us is somewhat similar. When I sin and the law demands payment, Christ is there to intercede and say, the payment has already been made. I paid that bill. Mark French is not to be condemned for his sin.

Think about the last sin that you committed. Do you know what was going on in heaven when you sinned? At the very moment that you were disobeying God and acting selfishly, Jesus was interceding on your behalf. Christ knows your sins, even ahead of time, and He died to save us from those sins, and He still defends us, pleading with the Father on our behalf. His unconditional love for us is amazing!

What a tremendous burden lifted – no guilt, no condemnation. Hallelujah for Christ our Intercessor! (Pastor Mark French)

ATTITUDE ABOUT SIN

Hebrews 7:25 | *Knowing the fact that Jesus is interceding right now for us should impact our attitudes about our own sin; His intercession should show us how serious sin really is. Our choices to sin activate something in heaven between Jesus and the Father. Salvation is a continuing action, not something that just happened. We are only saved because Jesus is continuing His active work as our Intercessor. While it could never happen, if He stopped interceding, we would no longer be saved the next time we sin. But He is faithful in this ministry. He will always intercede for His own.*

Promotional Post: If you're in Christ (a true Christian), what happens in heaven when you sin? Does God the Father ignore it? Join us Sunday to see again one of the offices of Jesus Christ we tend to forget. These passages can help you and your household prepare to worship: [Insert preparatory Scripture readings.]



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