



# CAPITOL COMMISSION™

## 1 JOHN 2:1- JESUS CHRIST OUR ADVOCATE!

COLORADO

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Dan File, P.O. Box 1088, Lake City, CO 81235-1088/303-345-8830 / [filefamily@centurytel.net](mailto:filefamily@centurytel.net)

*“God is light” is the message of 1 John 1:5-10. If we are to walk in the light as we are called to do, our first step is to recognize the darkness within our hearts. A proper assessment of self and sin in which we say “we have sin” and we “still sin”- should lead to an ongoing repentance of our sin whereby the Father’s forgiveness is given and our fellowship with God and others, through the blood of Christ, is renewed. It should also lead to a life that reflects the light of God- a theme that we will explore further in the rest of John’s Epistle.<sup>1</sup>*

### I. JESUS CHRIST OUR ADVOCATE! - 1 JOHN 2:1

*“My little children, I am writing these things to you that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous;” 1 John 2:1*

John gives a glorious summary of the gospel. In contrast with the false claims that sin really does not matter, John explains the lengths to which God has gone to set us free from the guilt, stain, power and curse of sin. John affectionately writes as a pastor to God’s people desiring to comfort the one who has sinned.<sup>2</sup>

John does not believe in sinless perfection, as he writes, that we may not sin. However, John does believe in lives transformed by the power of the gospel. There is no room for sin in the Christian life and John writes to commend a higher road. We struggle against sin, denying the desires of the flesh, the lust of the eyes and the pride of life that John will talk about later. To not sin is hard work. But it is work grounded in the finished work of the cross of Christ. It is a lofty goal.<sup>3</sup>

So John recognizes the sinfulness of all, even believers, and thus balances his admonition of not to sin with God’s ongoing mercies in Christ for when we sin. Sin is inevitable, but never excusable, and yet forgivable. And it is forgivable because of Christ’s advocacy on our behalf.

### A. “THAT YOU MAY NOT SIN”- 1 JOHN 2:1A

John writes to those he deeply cares for. He writes with fatherly tenderness and comfort, yet with authority. You will remember that John is around 90 years old at the time he pens this Epistle.

The aged elder wants those believers under his care, “My little children”, to not sin. Note the possessive adjective, “My”, which expresses John’s deep fatherly love as he instructs. John writes to encourage them in consistent holiness. John would say, do not take sin lightly. And he reminds us of God’s purpose for

our lives that we may not sin. This is a lifelong process. Moreover, a true believer will have an increasing hate for sin with a love for holiness and righteousness and a desire to be more like Christ.

### B. “IF ANYONE SINS, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS”- 1 JOHN 2:1B

The courtroom is set...Satan is the accuser and God the Father is the Judge, and every single person who has ever lived is on trial. The issue? How can unjust sinners be justified. This is a legal matter of the highest magnitude. All are guilty. (Romans 3:9-10, James 2:10) The just sentence this divine court should hand out is eternal punishment in hell. That is the deserved wage. (Romans 6:23)

But all is not hopeless for the guilty. There is one more to consider in this courtroom scene and that is Jesus Christ. He acts as the Defense Attorney, the Advocate for all those who believe savingly in Him. Surprisingly He does *not* maintain His clients’ innocence! Christ is a most unusual Defense Attorney for He acknowledges the guilt of His clients. Nonetheless, He has never lost a case and never will. (John 6:39, Romans 8:29-30) In Romans 8, the Apostle Paul uses the language of a courtroom and asks, “Who will bring a charge against God’s elect? God is the one who justifies; who is the one who condemns? Christ Jesus is He who died, yes, rather who was raised, who is at the right hand of God, who also intercedes for us.” (Romans 8:33)

How does Christ, without fail, win the acquittal for all who put their faith in Him? He intercedes with the Father on the basis of His own substitution for sinners by His sacrificial death on the cross, which fully paid sins’ penalty for all who put their trust in Him for salvation, meeting the demands of God’s justice. Jesus Christ our Savior and Lord has become our Advocate Who gains our acquittal.<sup>4</sup> (2 Corinthians 5:21)

“Advocate” Greek “**paraclete**” defines one who stands near to render help and plead one’s cause, counsel for the defense, anyone summoned for the assistance of another.

Jesus Christ is God’s gracious and loving provision for us when we sin. The Holy Spirit is Christ’s “*paraclete*” here on earth, testifying of Jesus as Savior and Lord before a Christ denying world. (John 14:16-26) So Christ is our heavenly “*paraclete*”-Advocate, the One Who pleads our cause with the

## BIBLE STUDIES

LEGISLATORS, GOVERNOR & SPOUSES: TUESDAY AT 7:15AM, CAPITOL BASEMENT, ROOM 0109

STAFF, LOBBYISTS, JOURNALISTS & SERGEANTS: TUESDAYS AT NOON, [SSB 1525 SHERMAN, RM #603- ACROSS COLFAX FROM CAPITOL](#)

# Colorado

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Father. And as our defense counsel, Christ is uniquely qualified to stand in God’s presence to represent us...because He is *“Jesus the righteous”*. Jesus testifies before the throne of God in favor of us, against our sin and its due punishment. We are assigned the greatest defense lawyer in the universe Who every time pleads our case. He is our generous champion of our otherwise lost cause.<sup>5</sup>

Think of it! There is God, the supreme Judge of the universe, seated at His heavenly bench and judging all people according to the absolute perfection of His holy law. His is the author, interpreter, and applier of the law. And we must view this with the reality of divine justice to be rendered against all. We must consider this with great sobriety and respect. (1 Peter 1:17, Acts 17:35, Colossians 3:25) Since God possesses the power and authority to condemn to hell every sinner who has ever lived, Jesus Himself said, *“Do not fear those who kill the body, but are unable to kill the soul; but rather fear Him Who is able to destroy both soul and body in hell.”*

We are given a serious warning regarding this judgment even in the Old Testament. (Amos 5:18-20, Zephaniah 1:14-18) The good news is that those who are saved do not need to fear divine justice because we have an Advocate with the Father Who is none other than, *“Jesus Christ the righteous”*. (1 John 2:1)<sup>6</sup> Only through a *“righteous”* Savior could we be cleansed from *“all unrighteousness.”* Christ is the One Who fulfilled God’s law perfectly on behalf of all believers. Therefore as our defense counsel, our *“paraclete”*, He is uniquely qualified to stand in God’s presence to represent us, because He is the righteous One!

Our defender, Christ, understands our weaknesses. (Hebrews 4:14-15) He accepts as clients only those who have confessed their guilt and desperate need for Christ as Savior and Lord. And He has become every believer’s Advocate. He gains our acquittal as our great High Priest before the Father! (Hebrew 7:25-28) Christ pleads our cause and secures our pardon. What a gracious and loving provision for us by God.

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<sup>1</sup> O'Donnell, Douglas Sean, *Reformed Expository Commentary: 1-3 John*. P&R Publishing Company: Phillipsburg, NJ, 2015. Pg. 23, 30.

<sup>2</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 9.

<sup>3</sup> O'Donnell, Douglas Sean, *Reformed Expository Commentary: 1-3 John*. P&R Publishing Company: Phillipsburg, NJ, 2015. Pg. 33.

<sup>4</sup> MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 43-46.

<sup>5</sup> Hamilton, Ian, *Let's Study the Letters of John*. The Banner of Truth Trust: Edinburgh, UK, 2008. Pg. 10.

<sup>6</sup> MacArthur, John, *MacArthur Commentary Series on 1-3 John*. Moody Press: Chicago, IL, 2007. Pg. 45-46.