

SCRIPTURE: 1 John 2

SINGING: 160:1-4 – 111:1-4 – 304:1, 2, 4, 6 – 302:1-4

Intro: John's dual purpose in our text (1 John 2:1)

A. that the believers would flee and fight sin: 1a

B. that the believers would not despair if they fell into sin: 1b-2

THE GOSPEL OF JESUS THE ADVOCATE

I. The work of the Advocate II. The Comfort of His work as the Advocate

I. The work of the Advocate

A. Hebrews 7:25 reveals Jesus as the Intercessor

B. 1 John 1:1 reveals in addition that Jesus is also *our Advocate*

1. An advocate is someone '*called to your side*' (Comforter in John 14-16)

2. An advocate is *more personally joined* with the person he speaks for

3. Jesus Christ the Advocate is infinitely unique: 1b-2

C. What an exquisite comfort is this revelation of the Advocate!

II. The comfort of His work as the Advocate

A. This comfort is not *universal*: 'any man' is not *everyone in world*

1. John is writing this to *the little children* in Christ (John 1:12)

a. examine yourself before you take up this comfort

2. Though preachers are not commissioned to apply this truth to all, they are commissioned to invite all to the Jesus Christ

B. The comfort of His work as the Advocate is astounding

1. Define more the *difference* between Heb. 7:25 and 1 John 2:1

a. Intercession is something Jesus does *always*

b. Advocacy is something He does *'if any man sin'*

2. What is now the comfort of Jesus Christ as *Advocate with the Father*?

a. when we come to God in confession of specific sin, Jesus will join us

Christ as Priest has need to act always but Christ as Advocate sometimes only. Christ as Priest continually intercedes; Christ as Advocate, in case of great transgressions, pleads.

Reflection:

A. This revelation of heaven's courtroom is to encourage us when we have fallen deep and hard in sins against love, light, and vows

B. Though this revelation of Jesus' work is exclusive to His Church, don't exclude yourself from Jesus' invitation

Truths on the Heavenly High Priest and Advocate

If I could hear Christ praying for me in the next room, I would not fear a million of enemies. Yet the distance makes no difference: He is praying for me!

(Robert Murray M'Cheyne)

It is a destructive addition to add anything to Christ. (Richard Sibbes)

Christ has taken our nature into heaven to represent us.

He has left us on earth with His nature to represent Him. (John Newton)

Prayer as it comes from the saint is weak and languid. But when the arrow of a saint's prayer is put into the bow of Christ's intercession, it pierces the throne of grace. (Thomas Watson)