

“All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth... I am with you always, even to the end of the age” (Matt. 28:18-20)

With Us in  
God’s  
Presence

With Us as Advocate



With Us  
as High  
Priest  
and  
Mediator

With Us as  
Intercessor

With Us in Community

### Class #3: With us as Intercessor

- What is Our Mental Image of Intercession?
- “But how does he intercede for us? There is a danger that we view the work of Christ in heaven as something akin to that of a telephone switchboard operator – mechanically passing on messages to God. This is far from the truth, for the one at God’s right hand is a living Lord, vitally concerned about our needs and our wish to pray through him.” (Bro. John Morris, *The Path of Prayer*)
- Honouring Christ’s Role in Intercession
  - “We recognize the principle of prayer to the Father through the Son; but there were times when the disciples could mark the intimacy of their relation with the glorified Jesus by addressing him directly. A sentimental cult which adores Jesus to the neglect of the Father is woefully unscriptural; but a doctrinaire approach which deprives the Son of honour is hardly less so.” (Bro. L.G. Sargent, *The Christadelphian*, 1967)
    - Paul’s example: Eph. 1:15-21; Phil. 2:9-11

- “For all the present exaltation of the Lord Jesus Christ, the scriptures make it plain that He retains, and desires to retain, the status of His Father’s obedient Son, ministering still to the Father’s glory as He did in His mortality...It is this position which the Lord clearly wishes to maintain, and wishes his servants to maintain. When He refers to the petitions which His servants will offer after He has ascended to be with the Father, His wish is always that His disciples shall present their prayers to the Father in His, Jesus’, name.” (Bro. A. Norris, *The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*)
- God Describes Our Need for an Intercessor to Help Us
  - “He saw that there was no man, and wondered that there was no intercessor [*paga*]; therefore His own arm brought salvation for Him; and His own righteousness, it sustained Him.” (Isa. 59:16 NKJV)
  - God provided an intercessor through His Son, seated with power at God’s right arm, having sat down with the Father after having lived a life of righteousness
- “Through Christ” is Foundational
  - In a fundamental sense, all the outworking of God’s plan and purpose is through Christ (Jn. 1:1-3; Col. 1:15-16; 1 Cor. 8:6; Eph. 3:9)
    - “All things were made through Him”
    - “All things were created through Him and for Him”
    - “Lord Jesus Christ, through whom are all things”
    - “God who created all things through Jesus Christ”
- Our Relationship with God is Through Christ
  - “I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one comes to the Father except through Me” (Jn. 14:6 NKJV)
  - Reconciliation through Christ (2 Cor. 5:18)
  - Our adoption as children is through Christ (Eph. 1:5)
  - Our sacrifices are accepted through Christ (1 Pet. 2:4)
- “Having been begotten by the Father by the word of truth, and born of water...He is constitutionally ‘in Christ’. When, therefore, nations and individuals are said to be in Abraham and in Christ, it is manifest, it must be in a figurative sense. Hence, ‘in thee,’ ‘in him,’ and ‘in Christ,’ are figurative expressions, or terms of constitution. They are things of stubborn import. They do not express a feeling; but a relationship, which is predicated on belief and obedience.” (Bro. J. Thomas, *Elpis Israel*)
- A Key Part of Our Relationship With God is Praying to God Through Christ
  - Examples of praying through Christ (Rom. 1:8; 5:11; 7:24-25; 15:30-33; 16:25-27)
    - See appendix for an exhaustive list
  - “through” doesn’t always come “through” in translations
  - In *koine* “through”, “with”, “in” can be cognates
  - If we are in Christ, then we are praying through Christ
- Praying Through Jesus’ Name
  - Jesus commands us to pray in his name (Jn. 14:13-14)

- Connected to abiding and bearing fruit (Jn. 15:16-17)
- A key part of communal worship (Eph. 5:17-21; Col. 3:16-17)
- “Nor is there salvation in any other, for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved.” (Acts 4:12 NKJV)
- “As members of Christ’s body, therefore, we may surely speak to our head...confessing our weakness and waywardness, and offering humble service by which he is glorified. Then, when we lift our petitions to God in Jesus’ name, we shall have confidence that he will know our hearts and intercede.” (Bro. John Morris, The Path of Prayer)
- Christ with Us as Intercessor
  - Christ’s work as an intercessor is explicitly stated five times in Scripture
  - OT word *paga* (Isa. 53:6, 12)
  - NT word *entynchano* (Heb. 7:25; Rom. 8:26\*, 27, 34)
- Intercede
  - OT *paga* “to meet”, “to fall upon”
  - Antonym is *chata* (“to miss the mark”, e.g., Judges 20:16,” to sin”)
  - NT *entynchano* = “to meet” or “to have a conversation with”
    - The root of 5177 (*tygxánō*) means “to strike, hit the bulls-eye” (“spot on”)
    - Used in classical Greek as the antonym of *harmartia* (“to miss the mark, sin”)
- OT Intercession: *paga*
  - Pertaining to Christ:
    - “All of us like sheep have wandered, each to his own way we have turned, and Jehovah hath caused to meet [*paga*] on him, the punishment of us all.” (Isa. 53:6 YLT)
    - “And He bore the sin of many, and made intercession [*paga*] for the transgressors [*pasa*].” (Isa. 53:12 NKJV)
- OT Intercession: Types
  - Principle: God states, “Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?” (Job 40:2)
  - “Even if Moses and Samuel stood before me pleading for these people, I would not feel pity for them! Get them away from me [*paniym*]!” (Jer. 15:1 NET)
  - “For the law was given through Moses, but grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.” (Jn. 1:17 NKJV)
- NT Intercession: *entynchano*
  - Pertaining to Christ:
  - Heb. 7:25:
    - Completely saves those who come to God through Christ
  - Rom. 8:26\* (*huperentynchano*)
    - Helps us when we are speechless in our weakness
  - Rom. 8:27

- Our hearts are searched; intercession aligned with God's will
  - Rom. 8:34
    - Helping us from God's right hand
- Christ's intercession enables sinners to "hit the mark"
- Heb. 7:25
  - Context = Psalm 110
    - Christ at God's right hand
    - Priest after the order of Melchizedek
      - Guarantee of a better covenant (Heb. 8:10-12; 10:16-17)
  - Intercession is for those who come to God through Christ
    - *panteles* ("complete, perfect, total, to the end") salvation through Christ's on-going work
- Three Personal Impacts from Heb. 7:25
  - "I will put My laws in their mind and write them on their hearts"
    - "that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith" (Eph. 3:14-21)
  - "their sins and their lawless deeds I will remember no more"
    - "forgetting those things which are behind" (Phil. 3:13-14)
  - "He always lives to make intercession"
    - "the same yesterday, today, and forever" (Heb. 13:8)
- Romans 8:26
  - "Likewise" = our relationship with God as His children (v. 15-17)
  - "Likewise" = God's children know that the present world means suffering that creates faith and perseverance (v. 18-25)
  - "Likewise" = help for us now
  - "helps" = "to take hold of with someone" (Mounce)
    - Only other occ. is Mary and Martha (Lk. 10:40)
- Being Helped: Paul's Example
  - "I can do all things through the one who strengthens me." (Phil. 4:13 Mounce)
  - "I continually thank him who strengthened me, Christ Jesus our Lord..." (1 Tim. 1:12 Mounce)
  - "But the Lord stood at my side and gave me strength, so that through me the message might be fully proclaimed and all the Gentiles might hear it." (2 Tim. 4:17 NIV)
- Romans 8:26
  - "our weakness" = *astheneia* = Paul's thorn in the flesh
    - Heb. 4:15
- We don't know what to do or say
- Groanings [*stenagmos*] are the result of slavery (Acts 7:34)
  - Christ's intercession through the power of God liberates us: "Now the Lord is the Spirit; and where the Spirit of the Lord is, there is liberty." (2 Cor. 3:17 NJV)

- "...you did not receive the spirit of bondage again to fear, but you received the Spirit of adoption by whom we cry out, 'Abba, Father.'" (Rom. 8:15 NKJV)
- Christ Helps Us Through the Power of God
  - "Christ making intercession for us (Romans 8:34) is the Spirit making intercession for us. The Spirit reflects to heaven our unuttered feelings and desires, and Christ in heaven, who is conscious and cognizant of all things by the Spirit, takes note of them and makes them the subject of intercession with the Father – the fountain of all Spirit and life." (Bro. C.C. Walker, The Christadelphian, 1898)
  - Romans 8:27
    - searches [*eraunao*] the hearts
    - "God has revealed them to us through His Spirit. For the Spirit searches [*eraunao*] all things, yes, the deep things of God" (1 Cor. 2:10)
  - Intercession is according to God
    - Christ's intercession helps us accept God's intent for us, to accept God's will, to align our lives with God's will
- Gethsemane
  - Heb. 5:7 (cries, tears, learned)
  - Problem: the flesh is *asthenés* (Rom. 8:26/Matt. 26:41)
  - Power of God helping by providing strength (e.g., angel, Lk. 22:43)
  - Abba (Rom. 8:15; Mk. 15:36)
  - "...not My will, but Yours, be done"
- tribulation, distress, persecution, famine, nakedness, peril, sword, death, life, angels, principalities, powers, things present, things to come, height, depth, any other created thing
  - "For just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so also does the encouragement [*paraklésis*] we receive through Christ overflow." (2 Cor. 1:5 Mounce)
- Through Him We Are "More Than Conquerors" (Rom. 8:37)
  - *hupernikaó* (only time in NT)
  - *nikao* ("victory", whence nike)
    - 28 times in NT
    - Frequently appears in John's writings:
      - "in us" 1 Jn. 4:4 (compare Rom. 8:10)
      - Faith, belief that Jesus is the Son of God (1 Jn. 5:4-5)
    - Christ's promise to the ecclesias (Rev. 2:7; 2:11; 2:17; 2:26; 3:5; 3:12)
    - Christ's exhortation: victory in the face of "tribulation" (Jn. 16:33)
- Paul Addresses Tribulation
  - In Rom. 8:36, Paul quotes Psalm 44:22: "For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter."
    - "for thy sake" (heneka, Matt. 5:11; 10:18, 39; 16:25; 19:29)

- “For I will show him how many things he must suffer for My name’s sake” (Acts 9:16)
- “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort [*paraklésis*], who comforts [*parakaleo*] us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort [*parakaleo*] those who are in any trouble, with the comfort [*paraklésis*] with which we ourselves are comforted [*parakaleo*] by God.” (2 Cor. 1:3-4 NKJV)
- Intercession and Inseparability
  - “It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us. Who shall separate us from the love of Christ?” (Rom. 8:34-35 NKJV)
- Nothing “will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (Rom. 8:39 NKJV)
  - “I do not pray for these alone, but also for those who will believe in Me through their word; that they all may be one, as You, Father, are in Me, and I in You; that they also may be one in Us, that the world may believe that You sent Me. And the glory which You gave Me I have given them, that they may be one just as We are one: I in them, and You in Me; that they may be made perfect in one, and that the world may know that You have sent Me, and have loved them as You have loved Me.” (Jn. 17:20-23 NKJV)

## Appendix

(Bro. Alfred Norris, *The Person of the Lord Jesus Christ*)

List of references regarding prayer in NT

Invocations of grace and peace from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ:

Romans 1:7; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 2 Corinthians 1:2; 13:14; Galatians 1:3; Ephesians 1:2; 6:23; Philippians 1:2; Colossians 1:2 KJV; 1 Thessalonians 1:1 KJV; 3:11; 2 Thessalonians 1:2; 2:16; 1 Timothy 1:2; 2 Timothy 1:2; Titus 1:4; 2 Peter 1:2; 2 John 3; Revelation 1:4; 5:9-14; 7:10-12

Thanksgiving and petition to the Father, the Son not mentioned: Romans 6:17; 10:1;

11:1; 14:6; 15:13,30,33; 1 Corinthians 1:3; 14:18,25; 2 Corinthians 8:16; 9:11,15; Galatians 1:5; Ephesians 3:14-21 RV; Philippians 4:20; Colossians 1:12; 1 Thessalonians 1:2; 5:23; 2 Thessalonians 1:3,11; 2:13; 1 Timothy 1:16; 6:15,16; James 1:5; 1 Peter 1:17; 4:19; 5:10,11; Revelation 11:17; 15:3,4.

The same to the Father, specifically through the Son: Romans 1:8; 5:11; 7:25; 15:6;

16:25-27; 1 Corinthians 15:57; Ephesians 5:19,20; Philippians 1:10,11; 4:6,7; Colossians 3:17; Hebrews 4:14-16; 13:15,20,21; 1 John 2:1; 5:13-17; Jude 24,25 RV; Ephesians 2:18; 3:12

Prayer and praise to the God and Father of Jesus Christ: 2 Corinthians 1:3; Ephesians 1:3,17; Colossians 1:3; 1 Peter 1:3; Revelation 22:21