

Sin and Our Advocate, Jesus Christ

1 John 1:8-2:2

(8) If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us.

(9) If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

(10) If we say that we have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us.

(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.

Types of Sin

- The Bible is full of different ways to sin:
 - Things that we do that are against God's law – unbelief, jealousy, selfishness, pride, unthankfulness, lying, gossiping, backbiting, malice, envy, drunkenness, sex outside of marriage...
 - James 4:17 – “to him that knoweth to do good and doeth it not, to him it is sin.”
 - False teaching – you will be held accountable for what you teach and preach about God's Word and you don't get out of that responsibility by never teaching.

Who sins? Everybody Sins

I don't have time to list every type of sin in the Bible, but the Bible is abundantly clear that everybody sins:

Romans 3:23 For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;

Romans 5:12 Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned:

Ecclesiastes 7:20 For *there is not* a just man upon earth, that doeth good, and sinneth not.

- In our passage it says, “if we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves and the truth is not in us” and later in verse 10 it says, “if we say that we have not sinned we make him a liar and his word is not in us.”
 - Everybody sins, you can deny it, but you are lying to yourself, you are deceiving yourself and most importantly verse 10 says that you are calling Jesus Christ a liar when you say that you have not sinned!
 - The greatest sin is to think that you have no sins!
 - Jesus can't help you and he won't hear your prayers until you admit to him that you are guilty, a sinner before God, transgressed God's law...

Christians Should Not Sin

(2:1) My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not

- There are many ways to sin and we know that everybody sins, but to a Christian person, John is writing “my little children these things write I unto you, that ye sin not.”

- Anyone who teaches that Christians can reach a point of sanctification in their life that they stop sinning is a liar, that is false teaching and they are deceived.
- However, that does not give an excuse or a license of us to sin continually.
- **Romans 6:1-2** What shall we say then? Shall we continue in sin, that grace may abound?
(2) **God forbid.** How shall we, that are dead to sin, live any longer therein?
 - John is telling us what we should do, we should strive to sin not, abstain from it.
 - Temptations will come (which is not a sin), but you and I know how to not encourage temptations, put ourselves in situations that are tougher to resist.
 - We should strive to live a life of holiness.
 - Jesus expects us to honor him with our lives in the church and wherever we go.

Why do we need an advocate? Because we sin! “If any man sin...”

Revelation 12:10 And I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, Now is come salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of his Christ: for the accuser of our brethren is cast down, which accused them before our God day and night.

- We need an advocate because Satan is accusing us before God day and night.
 - Satan tempts us to sin, he lies to us that it won't hurt anyone, just a little bit, nobody will know...
 - Then, once we sin, he tells God what we have done: “I told you he was filthy, corrupt, she doesn't love you, look what she did...
 - He lies to us but he tells God the truth about what we have done, accusing us and if we were standing there, we would have no excuse, standing before a holy God in our filthy rags.
- We need an advocate because we are sinners and God demands righteousness and holiness, our righteousness is as filthy rags, we need someone to intervene or we are destined for hell.

Who is the Advocate?

- Jesus Christ, the advocate knows the judge, he is the son of the judge and the judge knows the advocate, he loves him and he is well pleased by him.
 - Jesus Christ is righteous both in heaven and when he was on this earth and he has a desire to see the law honored, he isn't trying to find loopholes or technicalities to get you off, like our lawyers try to do.
 - Jesus Christ has never lost a case: David (the adulterer and murderer), Peter (the denier), Noah (the drunk), Sampson (the fornicator), John Mark (the quitter), Thomas (the doubter)...you and me, case after case won!
 - He knows our situation, or shortcomings and our sins, but he still takes our case.
- Jesus is the propitiation for our sins, which means removing the guilt and removing the wrath of our sins.

- Jesus isn't pleading that we will be better next time, never do it again, he isn't pleading our good character or our balance of good deeds versus bad deeds...if it were based on us, we would mess up, fall short, fail again, repeat the sin.
 - He isn't pleading us, he is pleading himself and his blood, his argument is based on his righteousness!
- No other arguments, no other evidence, no other witnesses are admissible in that court!

Do you want to stand before God by yourself or have Satan accuse without anyone on your side or do you want an advocate, Jesus Christ, the righteous?

What does the advocate do?

Zechariah had a vision at the beginning of chapter 3 about the restoration of Israel...

Zechariah 3:1-3 And he shewed me Joshua the high priest standing before the angel of the LORD, and Satan standing at his right hand to resist him. (2) And the LORD said unto Satan, The LORD rebuke thee, O Satan; even the LORD that hath chosen Jerusalem rebuke thee: *is* not this a brand plucked out of the fire? (3) Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and stood before the angel.

- Joshua is clothed in filthy garments standing before the Lord and there is Satan making accusations against Joshua. Those filthy garments show that Joshua had no righteousness on his own and there is Satan parading his faults and failures before the Lord.
 - In verse 2, we see something else happen, whenever the great accuser begins to bring up our unrighteousness to God, Jesus Christ, the righteous, rebukes him.
 - I don't know if Jesus says anything, or if he simply raises his nail scarred hand or if he points to the mercy seat with his blood on it...Jesus rebukes Satan!
 - This vision will be true for Israel one day and it will be true for Christians today as well.

Zechariah 3:4-5 And he answered and spake unto those that stood before him, saying, Take away the filthy garments from him. And unto him he said, Behold, I have caused thine iniquity to pass from thee, and I will clothe thee with change of raiment. (5) And I said, Let them set a fair mitre upon his head. So they set a fair mitre upon his head, and clothed him with garments. And the angel of the LORD stood by.

Altar Call

Do you have an advocate today? Do you have a personal relationship with Jesus Christ?

1 John 1:9 If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

If you are a Christian, do you have unconfessed sin in your life, are you struggling with a continual sin, you should come up here and pray to Jesus Christ.

- In this book of 1 John, it talks about the assurance of salvation and the forgiveness of sins and the entire purpose of assurance and forgiveness is found in verse 4, “and these things write we unto you, that you joy may be full.”
 - If you have doubts today of your salvation or if you have unconfessed sin, why don't you cry out to Jesus today, he is our advocate, he will forgive and he will save your soul today if you are lost.
 - He wants you to be forgiven, clean and have a new life full of joy!