

# *Christ Our Defender*

*1 John 2:1-2*

John wrote his epistle so that the believers will have assurance of their salvation (1 John 5:13). He also wrote for the purpose that they may not sin (1 John 2:1). Most of them are constantly living in guilt and they are asking, "If God has truly saved us, then why are we still sinning?" Like them, we also constantly question whether we are really or truly saved or not.

But there is great hope for a Christian who committed a sin, but is repenting and longing to be restored, because a true Christian who has trusted in Jesus Christ has been made right before God forever. God is no longer his Judge, but his Father, and he is his beloved child. John wants us to understand that because Jesus Christ died for our sins, we must constantly pray to Him and faithfully proclaim His gracious salvation to all the world.

**1. *Because Jesus Christ died to \_\_\_\_\_ us before the Father, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to Him***

Our Lord Jesus Christ is our Advocate - refers to someone who comes alongside to help (i.e. a defender/attorney). He belongs to us and He is for us (Rom. 8:31). Jesus, who is "in active fellowship with the Father," is God's gift to defend us. He is He is not a stranger to God, nor is he a stranger to us. Jesus, our heavenly Defender is the most powerful defense attorney in the whole universe. His defense is always successful and effectual because He is the Righteous One. He interceded for Peter while he was still on earth (Luke 22:32), for all His disciples (John 17:19ff.) and He intercedes for all believers today (Heb. 7:25; col. 2:13-14). Because of His intercession, no one is able to condemn us (Rom. 8:34), not even Satan the accuser (Zech. 3:1; Rev. 12:10). Since Christ died to represent us before the Father, we must therefore pray to Him.

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**2. *Because Jesus Christ died to \_\_\_\_\_ us from sin, we must \_\_\_\_\_ to our sin***

God cannot ignore or even compromise His justice or His righteousness. He has to punish sin (Num. 14:18, Prov. 11:21, Nahum 1:3). How could God remain righteous by not punishing guilty sinners? The wonder of God's saving gospel is that God shows His love, grace and mercy but He also shows His justice and righteousness. God's forgiveness is His act of justice. In other words, every sin will be punished (that's God's justice) and yet the sinner will be forgiven (that is God's mercy). How does this happen? With Jesus becoming our propitiation (1 John 2:2, cf. 2 Cor. 5:21, 1 Peter 2:24, Isaiah 53:6,10-11, 1 John 1:7). Jesus satisfies the demands of God's law, thereby removing any condemnation (Rom. 8:1,33-34; 1 Peter 3:18). Since Christ died to redeem you from your sin, you must stop sinning (Rom. 6:1,2).

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**3. *Because Jesus Christ died to \_\_\_\_\_ us from sin, we must \_\_\_\_\_ His salvation***

God's grace is far more extensive than we can imagine. Christ's sacrifice is not just for the enlightened few; it is not just for the Jews; it's for the entire world. Anyone, anywhere who trusts in Christ's sacrifice for his sin will be saved. Therefore, we must proclaim the free offer of the gospel to every person in every nation (Matt. 28:19ff.).

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