

## \*JESUS CHRIST, OUR ADVOCATE\*

“... these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. AND IF ANYONE SINS, WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE WITH THE FATHER, JESUS CHRIST THE RIGHTEOUS. And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.” 1 John 2:1-2.

God, in His infinite mercy and immeasurable love for mankind, does not want anyone to perish, and in the light of this, He made provision for man to be saved from His imminent wrath upon all sinners. He knows our nature that we are dust, and that there is no just man on earth who does good and does not sin. Psalm 103:14. Ecclesiastes 7:20. The above Scripture says, “And if anyone sins, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.” That is God's provision for us. This provision is not a licence to sin. It is never God's will that we make a habit of sin but He is being realistic that, sometimes, we may fall into sin. Therefore, if anyone sins, he has a place, Calvary, and a person, Jesus, the divinely appointed ADVOCATE, to run to. Note that the Scripture does not say that if anyone sins, he should offer a sacrifice, pay a fine, fast, visit a 'holy' land or observe a religious rite such as burning of incense, bathing in a stream and applying a prescribed oil. The Scripture simply points all sinners to an Advocate – JESUS.

Who needs an advocate? Everyone. All men, with no exception, need an advocate. Why? Because we have all at one time or another sinned against God. We have offended Him; we have grieved His heart. Romans 3:23. And we have all by the reason of our sins become candidates for God's wrath. Job 21:30. Can't someone else aside Jesus, maybe a religious or political leader, a Prophet, an Imam or a high rank lawyer stand for us before God to plead our cause? No. That is not acceptable. No human is qualified to stand before God's throne of judgment to plead for another because all have sinned. Psalm 49:6-8. In fact, no angelic being is qualified to intercede or plead for man before the Almighty God.

Jesus Christ is the only One who is qualified to stand before God to plead for us. Romans 8:34. Hebrews 7:25. Why? What gave Jesus the legal right to be our Advocate? First, He is the only person who passed through the planet earth and was sinless. He is the only righteous and blameless person. 1 Peter 2:22-24 says, “Who committed no sin, nor was deceit found in His mouth; who, when He was reviled, did not revile in return; when He suffered, He did not threaten, but committed Himself to Him who judges righteously; who Himself bore our sins in His own body on the tree, that we, having died to sins, might live for righteousness ...” Also, 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, “For He made Him who knew no sin to be sin for us, that we might become the righteousness of God in Him.” Jesus' immaculate conception through a virgin makes Him pure and without blemish from birth. Luke 1:26-35. He lived a sinless and blameless life. No one has ever convicted him of sin. John 14:30; 8:46. Pilate and Herod investigated Him and found Him blameless. Luke 23:4,14,15,22. John 18:38; 19:4,6. One of the criminals with whom He was crucified on the cross also testified to His being without sin. Luke 23:39-43.

Secondly, He was the propitiation for our sins. 1 John 2:2. He was the One who submitted Himself to die an agonising and a shameful death on the cross at Calvary as an offering for the

sins of humanity. He was offered as a sacrifice for sin; He died as a substitute for sinners and His blood was offered to appease the divine wrath which was upon humanity for their sins. If Christ did not bear the wrath of God that we deserved as sinners, that wrath would still be reserved for us. Revelations 6:12-17; 20:11-15. Because He was the only One who is righteous and the propitiation for our sins; the only one who paid the penalty for our sins therefore, He is the only One who has the legal right to stand before the Holy God as our Advocate to plead our cause. Romans 8:33,34. And whoever He pleads for shall be justified and shall not be condemned. Romans 8:1,3. However, anyone who Christ does not plead for stands condemned before God and will suffer eternal damnation in hell fire. And whenever the accuser, the devil, brings any accusations against such a person, he/she will be on his/her own without an advocate and he/she stands condemned. Revelation 12:10.

Will Christ therefore indiscriminately plead for all? No. The Bible says only God's elect and those who are in Christ will not be condemned. Romans 8:1,33. How then can someone become God's elect or what can someone do to become one of those whom Christ will plead for? Is it by our charitable deeds, giving of alms to the poor, payment of tithes and offerings or through observance of religions rites, piety and keeping of laws or through regular prayers and fasting or through visiting 'holy' land that one becomes one of those whom Christ will plead for? No. If it is to be through any or all of these, no one will be qualified because no one will be able to measure up to God's expectations.

The Bible says, "But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name" and "He who believes in the Son has everlasting life; and he who does not believe the Son shall not see life, but the wrath of God abides on him." John 1:12; 3:36. The Lord Jesus also said, "Most assuredly, I say to you, he who hears My word and believes in Him who sent Me has everlasting life, and shall not come into judgment, but has passed from death into life." John 5:24. Therefore, to qualify to have Jesus as your Advocate and, by extension, escape the wrath of God you have to:

- (1) accept that you are a sinner, that Christ died in your place on the cross as an offering for your sins. Luke 23:39-43.
- (2) confess your sins and forsake them.
- (3) believe Jesus is the Son of God and accept Him as your Saviour, Lord and Advocate.

If after reading this tract, you desire to have Christ as your Advocate, and, by extension, escape from God's eternal wrath in hell fire, please, take the following steps:

1. Repent of and confess your sins to God in prayer. Acts 3:19.
2. Turn away from these sins; be converted. Acts 17:30.
3. Believe and accept Jesus as the Son of God, your Saviour and Lord. Acts 16:30-31.
4. Confess Him publicly and hold fast to your confession. Romans 10: 9. Hebrews 10: 23.
5. Pray always to God in the name of Jesus Christ. 1 Thessalonians 5:17. John 16:22-24.
6. Read your Bible every day. Joshua 1:8.
7. Join a church that believes and honours the Bible as the complete word of God. Hebrews 10:25.

- Paul Kilanko

For further information and counselling, write to:

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God will richly bless you as you do so in Jesus' Mighty Name. Amen.