

CHRIST THE INTERCESSOR

Scripture Reading: Romans 8:34 and the context

His voice was stilled in death last summer—my father who often interceded in my behalf, mentioning my name before the Throne of Grace. How blessed! More wonderful and beyond compare is another Voice, unstilled in the glories above, that has sounded His intercession for saints before our Heavenly Father for over 2000 years. *How amazing that he mentions your name there!* His voice cannot be stilled. Nothing can deter His love and faithfulness. Hallelujah.

Realization and appreciation of Christ's present ministry in our behalf should never cease to permeate our hearts with spiritual thrill and thanksgiving. Many Christians miss the Holy Spirit's intent as given in Romans 8:28 by failing to consult the context. One of the greatest factors among the "All things" that "work together for good" is Christ's present amazing ministry—He literally lives to *make intercession for us*. Poor Job had his hedge that edged Satan out—the members of the Body of Christ have a victorious and living Intercessor in the Glories in confrontation with our arch enemy—Satan.

Mystery of mysteries is that Satan, "The accuser of the brethren" brazenly approaches God's Throne. Ephesians six makes plain why we need Christ's perfect and unfalterable representation as Satan wars against the saints with slander.

How wonderful to know the Grace of God in this sophisticated space age. Praise God for the Son of God—the Son of Man in highest glory.

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Notes:

GLAD SERVICE THEN

Scripture Reading: Psalms 100

The Psalms are spiritually fabulous! Through hoary centuries they have been a fountain of comfort and refreshing to millions of saints. While the Psalms are a "must" for OUR devotional life, we err seriously when this is all we read.

No doubt this is one of the Psalms designed as a processional in conjunction with Israel's worship, and in it we find a joyous participation as the choirs without and within the Temple raised their voices in sweetest song.

Dispensationally this grand Psalm will be literally and gloriously fulfilled during the 1,000 year reign of Christ. This is attested in a previous Psalm where we read "THE LORD REIGNETH . . ." and "THE LORD IS GREAT IN ZION (Jerusalem)." Today, however, Christ is in rejection and Israel is scattered while Satan is designated as the "god of this age" (II Corinthians 4:4) and his blinding ministry accounts for what Isaiah predicted: "DARKNESS SHALL COVER THE EARTH, AND GROSS DARKNESS THE PEOPLE Isaiah 60:2." According to Romans 11 the miracle of Israel's national conversion will take place ere they sing this song again. THEN Satan will be bound and the curse lifted. Now creation groans with unspeakable travail and pain. THEN this sad world will rest in peace and delight, Psalms 72. Praise God. My God's wondrous purposes concerning Israel and the nations thrill our souls for the wonder of it all.

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FULLNESS IN CHRIST

Scripture Reading: Colossians 2:9-10

"Ye are complete in Him . . ." says Paul, proceeding with a commentary of how marvelously complete the Members of Christ's Body are in Him.

A miracle of God's Grace unfolds as the Gentiles come into spiritual perspective. For centuries the Jews had held them in lowly contempt: "Wherefore remember that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh who are called uncircumcision by that which is called the circumcision of the flesh made by hands" (Ephesians 2:11). "Having no hope and without God in the world" (verse 12). Now, praise God, these formerly hopeless Gentiles become the recipients of the real antitypical circumcision of Calvary!

Denial of truth occasioned the Holy Spirit to give a loftier mountain peak of revelation, overlaid with the gold of Christ's Deity, accenting our Lord in His all-sufficiency and supremacy as Head of "the Church which is His Body." Stand in awe and wonderment before Him.

The entire universe bears the marks of God's perfection, and in the spiritual realm our Glorified Lord excels in what He has done for every saint through the finished work of Calvary. "Complete in Him"-what fullness and infinite perfection for the man of faith. Why steal Israel's promises, refusing their curses? We are eternally blessed and rich in Him. Lord, open our eyes where others have been blinded to Thy amazing provisions.

Beware of imbalance. Our standing is glorious and our destination certain. We pray and plead for greater correspondency between our standing and state. In genuine dedication and total commitment, crown Him Lord of all.

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RISEN IN CHRIST

Scripture Reading: I Thessalonians 4:16

Resurrection is only for the body. The only ones who will take part in the raising of these select dead are those who have already been placed in Christ by the baptism of the Spirit of God. To be IN CHRIST is to immediately partake of the Life of God: that is eternal life. The body may become dust before God's program is ready for the spirit and soul to be re-united.

At this resurrection, the spirit of those who experienced what Paul spoke of—"absent from the body, present with the Lord"—(No soul sleep there!) will return to earth to see that pile of dust be raised so they can now be once again in the body now made new and be present with the Lord, in their new body.

Resurrection for the members of the Body of Christ has already happened-IN CHRIST! Because He lives, we too shall live! Those who are born once will die twice. Those who are born twice will die once. Eternal life is experienced in the Spirit, at the moment of salvation. Eternal life will be experienced by the mortal body either at this special resurrection, or at the moment of translation. We shall not all sleep, and perhaps this generation will be the one to see this glorious thing happen. Not death, but translation!

IN CHRIST, we have died, we have been buried, and we have been raised from the dead. Our whole life is now on the resurrection side of the grave. Eternal life is not only quantitative, it is qualitative. Resurrection is just one more benefit of being IN CHRIST.

Harold Steinbron

Notes:

SPEAKING IN CHRIST

Scripture Reading: II Corinthians 2:17

"The natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolish unto him: neither can he know them because they are spiritually discerned...**BUT WE HAVE THE MIND OF CHRIST**" (I Corinthians 2:14, 16). We are thereby enabled to "speak in Christ". It then becomes our own personal responsibility to faithfully expound the truth as emissaries "in the sight of God". As His spokesmen, we speak the words "which the Holy Ghost teacheth comparing spiritual things with spiritual" (I Corinthians 2:13).

Our apostle consistently "boasts" of his ministry to the glory of Christ. He then, just as consistently, displays deep humility in the flesh. As members of the Church which is Christ's Body we have inherited this mantle of accountability. We too must unflinchingly stand for the truth, while simultaneously claiming no personal tribute.

Paul warned his son in the faith Titus, "There are many unruly and vain talkers and deceivers...whose mouths must be stopped, who subvert whole houses, teaching things which they ought not...**BUT SPEAK THOU THE THINGS WHICH BECOME SOUND DOCTRINE**" (Titus 1:10,11; 2:1). And he charged Pastor Timothy, "**HOLD FAST THE FORM OF SOUND WORDS**, which thou hast heard of me, in faith and love which is in Christ Jesus. That good thing which was committed unto thee keep by the Holy Ghost which dwelleth in us" (II Timothy 1:13, 14). "Though I preach the gospel, I have nothing to glory of...woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel" (I Corinthians 9:16).

Robert E. Hanna

Notes:

THE BELIEVER'S CONFLICT

Scripture Reading: Ephesians 6:10-12

Finally, or from here on out, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of His might. Before this time believers might have lacked some measure of God's fully revealed will. Why? Because it had not been revealed in its total. And the "whole armour of God" had not been so fully detailed. With God's revelation now completed through Paul, the man of God could be complete, thoroughly fitted for every good work and for every conflict as well. Paul can now say in fulness, "We are not ignorant of his [Satan's] devices." We are therefore fully armed and aware of the enemy's tactics. With this armour on, we will be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

Though we do not wrestle against flesh and blood as such, the opposition backed by the wicked spirits in heavenly places is usually in human form. Religious preachers and teachers are the ones most opposed to God's message of grace. Whether dedicated to ritualism or rationalism these forces unite to oppose God's message and good news for today. And taking their tactics from their leader who had the brass to quote Scriptures to Christ tempting Him in the wilderness, we must in like manner follow our Leader and handle it correctly as the occasions demand. This is our armour, the Word of God! Right handling of it requires "rightly dividing the Word of Truth." This is the only way we will be able to stand and also to withstand in this evil day. Our conflict is day by day. We must have the Word day by day in order to meet the challenge. The victory has been won and is ours to claim and to proclaim!

Ivan L. Burgener

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