

Jesus Christ the Righteous

Words: Andy Gleiser

Music: Matt Taylor

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***"And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous..."
(1 John 2:1)***

The apostle John often refers to himself as the disciple whom Jesus loved, so it is no surprise that he opens his first letter with a description of the One he loves. My hymn is a recasting and meditation upon the opening verses of 1 John with special emphasis upon the perfect righteousness Christ has given His people.

Stanza One: 1 John 1:1-4

"Jesus Christ the righteous is the eternal God manifest in the flesh"

Jesus is from the beginning because He has no beginning, yet He glorified Himself in greater measure by humbling Himself to become like us to save us. I have seen, heard, and believed in Him. Thus, my heart rejoices in Him.

Stanza Two: 1 John 1:5-7

"Jesus Christ the righteous is the light and truth in which I walk"

Although He is perfect and free from sin, Jesus exchanged my sinful nature with His sinless one. I am now justified in His sight. I no longer walk in the darkness but in the light entirely because of Him.

Stanza Three: 1 John 1:8-2:2

"Jesus Christ the righteous is the advocate and propitiation for my sins"

My heart grieves when I sin against God, but in confession I find that Jesus is my advocate before the Father, pleading His blood on my behalf. The Father is just and faithful to forgive me because Christ has already been punished for my sin.

*You are Jesus Christ, the righteous!
Hallelujah for the blood!
For Your death and resurrection
Makes me fully right with God!*

Writing this song was first suggested to me by my beloved friend and sister in Christ, Alicia Estes. Indeed, she was the one who supplied the title and often encouraged me to compose a hymn on its theme. Therefore, it was a special joy to present the completed project to Ryan & Alicia in celebration of their 21st wedding anniversary. Bryn and I love this couple with all our hearts and the righteous Lord on whom they have built their marriage.