

CHRIST AS INTERCESSOR



*Wherefore he is able also to save them
to the uttermost that come unto God by him,
seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.*

—Hebrews 7:25

When God had said in Isaiah that He wondered that there was no intercessor, there followed these words: *"Therefore his arm brought salvation unto him....the Redeemer shall come to Zion"* (Isa. 59:16, 20). God Himself would provide the true Intercessor, in Christ His Son, of whom it had already been said, *"he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors"* (Isa. 53:12).

In His life on earth, Christ began His work as Intercessor. Think of His high-priestly prayer on behalf of His disciples and all who would through them believe in His name. Think of His words to Peter: *"I have prayed for thee, that thy faith fail not"* (Luke 22:32)—a proof of how intensely personal His intercession is. And on the cross He spoke as Intercessor: *"Father, forgive them"* (Luke 23:34).

Now that He is seated at God's right hand, He continues, as our great High Priest, the work of intercession without ceasing. But He does so with this difference: He gives His people power to take part in it. Seven times in His Farewell Discourse (see John 15-17) He repeated the assurance that what they asked He would do.

The power of heaven was to be at their disposal. The grace and power of God waited for man's asking. Through the leading of the Holy Spirit, they would know what the will of God was. They would learn in faith to pray in His name. He would present their petition to the Father, and through His and their united intercession, the church would be clothed with the power of the Spirit.

Blessed Redeemer, what wonderful grace it is that You call us to share in Your intercession! Arouse in Your redeemed people an awareness of the glory of this calling, and of all the rich blessings that Your church in its powerlessness can, through its intercession in Your name, bring down upon this earth. May Your Holy Spirit work in Your people a deep conviction of the sin of prayerlessness, of the sloth and unbelief and selfishness that are the cause of it, and of Your loving desire to pour out the Spirit of prayer in answer to their petitions, for Your name's sake. Amen.