

CHRIST: OUR EXAMPLE IN INTERCESSION



*He shall divide the spoil with the strong;
because...he bare the sin of many,
and made intercession for the transgressors.
—Isaiah 53:12*

Christ "*made intercession for the transgressors.*" What did that mean to Him? Think of what it cost Him to pray that prayer effectively. He had to pour out His soul as an offering for sin, and He had to cry at Gethsemane, "Father, Your holy will of love be done."

Think of what moved Him thus to sacrifice Himself to the very uttermost! It was His love for the Father, so that His holiness might be manifested, and His love for souls, so that they might be partakers of His holiness.

Think of the reward He won! As Conqueror of every enemy, He is seated at the right hand of God with the power of unlimited and assured intercession. And He desires to "*see His seed*" (Isa. 53:10), a generation of those who have the same mind as Himself, whom He can train to share in His great work of intercession.

And what does this mean for us, when we seek to pray for the transgressors? That we, too, yield ourselves wholly to the glory of the holiness and the love of the Father; that we, too, say, "God's will be done, no matter what it may cost"; that we, too, sacrifice ourselves, even to pouring out our souls unto death.

The Lord Jesus has taken us up into a partnership with Himself in carrying out the great work of intercession. He in heaven and we on earth must have one mind, one aim in life: that we, out of love for the Father and for the lost, consecrate our lives to intercession for God's blessing. The burning desire of Father and Son for the salvation of souls must be the burning desire of our hearts, too.

What an honor! What blessedness! And what a power for us to do the work because He lives and because, by His Spirit, He pours forth His love into our hearts! (See Romans 5:5)

Everlasting God of love, open our eyes to the vision of the glory of Your Son, who always lives to pray. (See Hebrews 7:25.) Open our eyes to the glory of the grace that enables us to live in His likeness so that we may pray for the transgressors. For Jesus' sake. Amen.