The Priesthood and Advocacy of Christ

1 John 1:3–2:2

Brethren writer Bruce Anstey explains the difference between Christ's priestly ministry and His advocacy ministry:

• 1) His Priesthood is to *keep the believer from failing* (Heb. 7:25); His Advocacy is to *restore the believer* if he fails (Luke 22:61).

• 2) His Priesthood is for *a time of need*-our temptations and infirmities (Heb. 4:15-16); His Advocacy is for *a time of failure and sin* (1 John 2:1-2).

• 3) His intercession as a Priest is that we might *behave well* (Luke 22:32); His intercession as an Advocate begins when the believer does *not behave well* (1 John 2:1-2).

• 4) He is a Priest with God (Heb. 2:17; 7:25); He is an Advocate with the Father. If sin enters the life of the believer his relation to God is still as "Father." The believer does not lose his *link of relationship* with the Father as one of His children, but the smallest sin allows breaks in the believer's *link of communion* with the Father (1 John 2:1-2).

• 5) As a Priest He *sympathizes* with our weakness and infirmities (Heb. 2:17-18; 4:15-16); as an Advocate He *does not sympathize* with our sin–He grieves over it (Luke 22:61).

• 6) As a Priest it is *His life* on High that saves the believer from falling into sin (Rom. 5:10; Heb. 7:25); as an Advocate it is *His death* that He pleads on behalf of the failing believer on the grounds that propitiation has been made once and forever (1 John 2:1-2).

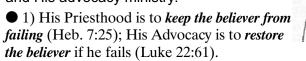
● 7) In connection with His Priesthood, His service is called *"faithful and merciful"* (Heb. 2:17); in regard to His Advocacy He is *"faithful and just"* (1 John 1:9).

• 8) His work as High Priest interceding for us is *continuous* (Heb. 7:25); His work as an Advocate is *intermittent*: it begins when the believer sins, God working to bring about repentance and confession (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2).

~George Zeller: www.middletownbiblechurch.org

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