



Growth Group Questions

January 11, 2026

“Our Advocate”

CONTEXT

John begins this section with a more personal address of “my children.” Last week John made it clear that our sin needs to be dealt with. If we could be sinless on our own then God would be a liar because God says the only way to fellowship, and life, is through Jesus. The good news is that our confession of sin is met with forgiveness because Jesus is our advocate.

John uses the Greek word “paraclete” to talk about Jesus as our advocate. This word has to do with the idea of “coming alongside.” The only other time it is used in the New Testament is in John 14 when Jesus talks about the advocate he will send when he returns to be with God. Jesus is referring to the Holy Spirit whom he says will be our advocate and will teach us all things and will remind us of everything Jesus said. (John 14:26).

The advocacy of Jesus which John talks about is grounded in who Jesus is and what he has accomplished. He is the Christ (God’s anointed king) and he is the righteous one. He is the atoning sacrifice for sin. This atonement removes our sin and defilement and turns away God’s wrath which makes fellowship possible. As we trust in Christ’s advocacy and atonement we are assured of God’s love for us.

John continues by calling people into a life of obedience. It is not some great insight or secret knowledge that is the key to knowing God. God reveals Himself to the world. What matters is living in obedience and keeping God’s commandments. Obedience is not what we do to earn God’s favor, but instead it is the evidence that God is at work in our lives. Obedience is the fruit of a relationship with Jesus.

SCRIPTURE

1 John 2:1-6

¹My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin. But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One. ²He is the atoning sacrifice for

our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world. ³ We know that we have come to know him if we keep his commands. ⁴ Whoever says, “I know him,” but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person. ⁵ But if anyone obeys his word, love for God^[a] is truly made complete in them. This is how we know we are in him: ⁶ Whoever claims to live in him must live as Jesus did.

Romans 8:33-34

³³ Who will bring any charge against those whom God has chosen? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who then is the one who condemns? No one. Christ Jesus who died—more than that, who was raised to life—is at the right hand of God and is also interceding for us.

Zechariah 3:3-5

³ Now Joshua was dressed in filthy clothes as he stood before the angel. ⁴ The angel said to those who were standing before him, “Take off his filthy clothes.” Then he said to Joshua, “See, I have taken away your sin, and I will put fine garments on you.” ⁵ Then I said, “Put a clean turban on his head.” So they put a clean turban on his head and clothed him, while the angel of the LORD stood by.

Zechariah 3:8

⁸ “Listen, High Priest Joshua, you and your associates seated before you, who are men symbolic of things to come: I am going to bring my servant, the Branch.

Hebrews 8:3-6

³ Every high priest is appointed to offer both gifts and sacrifices, and so it was necessary for this one also to have something to offer. ⁴ If he were on earth, he would not be a priest, for there are already priests who offer the gifts prescribed by the law. ⁵ They serve at a sanctuary that is a copy and shadow of what is in heaven. This is why Moses was warned when he was about to build the tabernacle: “See to it that you make everything according to the pattern shown you on the mountain.”^[a] ⁶ But in fact the ministry Jesus has received is as superior to theirs as the covenant of which he is mediator is superior to the old one, since the new covenant is established on better promises.

Hebrews 9:24-28

²⁴ For Christ did not enter a sanctuary made with human hands that was only a copy of the true one; he entered heaven itself, now to appear for us in God’s presence. ²⁵ Nor did he enter heaven to offer himself again and again, the way the high priest enters the Most Holy Place every year with blood that is not his own. ²⁶ Otherwise Christ would have had to suffer many times since the creation of the world. But he has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of himself. ²⁷ Just as people are destined to die once, and after that to face judgment, ²⁸ so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and he will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for him.

QUESTIONS

1. In 1 John 2:1-2, the Apostle John describes Jesus in three ways. The first is as our “Advocate.” What is an advocate?
2. What does it mean that Jesus is our Advocate?
3. Why is it personally meaningful to know that Jesus is not just your Savior, but also your Advocate?
4. Secondly, John refers to Jesus as “the Righteous One.” What does that mean?
5. Finally, in 1 John 2:2, John says that Jesus is “the atoning sacrifice for our sins.” What does that mean to you?
6. The writer of Hebrews further describes Jesus as the “mediator of the new covenant.” What is this “new covenant” and how does Jesus fulfill the role of mediator?
7. When we sin, why is it significant that Jesus is our “Advocate,” “the Righteous One,” the “atoning sacrifice,” and “the mediator of the new covenant”?
8. In this sermon series, we are reading one chapter a week in 1, 2, and 3 John. This week we read 1 John 2, with the sermon focused primarily on 1 John 2:1-2. Are there other parts of 1 John 2 that resonated with you or spoke to you this week?

PASTOR PAUL’S SERMON QUESTIONS

1. How does the image of Jesus as “your Advocate” impact the way you live out your faith?
2. Is there an area of your life where you feel like you need to experience the true healing and cleansing of Jesus?