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The Doctrine of Christ: The Current Interceding Work of Christ

1. The Biblical Testimony to Christ's Intercession

God Foreshadowed Christ's Intercession

The Promise of the Suffering Servant – Isaiah 53:12

Christ As Our High Priest – The Entire Book of Hebrews

Hebrews 1:1-4 – “Long ago, at many times and in many ways, God spoke to our fathers by the prophets, but in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed the heir of all things, through whom, also he created the world. He is the radiance of the glory of God and the exact imprint of his nature, and he upholds the universe by the word of his power. After making purification for sins, *he sat down at the right hand of the Majesty on high*, having become as much superior to angels as the name he has inherited is more excellent than theirs.”

Hebrews 7:25 – “Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.”

Romans 8:33-34 – “Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died – more than that, who was raised – who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.”

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2. What is Christ's Intercession?

The Westminster Larger Catechism (Q. 55) says, "Christ makes intercession, by appearing in our nature continually before the Father in heaven, in the merit of his obedience and sacrifice on earth, declaring his will to have it applied to all believers; answering all accusations against them, and procuring with boldness to the throne of grace, and acceptance of their persons and services."

- Christ's priestly intercession is holy (Hebrews 4:15; 7:26)
- Christ's priestly intercession is eternal (Hebrews 7:16-17, 23-24)
- Christ's priestly intercession is protective (Rev. 12:10-11)

Steven Charnock (1628-1680) – "As he was a priest upon the cross to make an expiation for us, so he is our priest in the court of heaven, to plead this atonement, both before the tribunal of justice and the throne of mercy, against the curses of the law, the accusations of Satan, and indictments of sin, and to keep off the punishment which our guilt had merited."

- Christ's priestly intercession is personal (Hebrews 9:24)
- Christ's priestly intercession is effectual (Romans 8:33-35; Hebrews 7:25)
- Christ's priestly intercession is particular (Romans 8:33-35; John 17:9; Rev. 13:8)
- Christ's priestly intercession is comprehensive (John 17; Hebrews 2:17-18)
 - Spiritual preservation (John 17:11-16)
 - Sanctification (John 17:17-19)
 - Unity (John 17:20-23)
 - Glorification (John 17:24)
 - Helps the Tempted (Hebrews 2:17-18)

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3. The Blessing of Christ's Intercession

OT Example: Melchizedek Blessed Abraham (Genesis 14:18-20)

OT Example: Aaronic Priests Blessed Israel (Numbers 6:22-26; 2 Chron. 30:27)

Christ Blesses Before The Ascension (Compare Luke 24:50-51 with Lev. 9:22)

The Blessing of Christ's Intercessory Work Goes Back Abraham (Gal. 3:8, 14)

4. Concluding Thoughts On Christ's Intercession

- We can have constant reliance on the exalted Christ (Hebrews 12:1-2)
- We can find strong comfort and hope (Hebrews 6:17-20)
- We can have confidence in our salvation (Hebrews 9:24)
- We can confess our sins without fear (1 John 1:9; 2:1-2)
- We can be more expectant to receive comfort in prayer (Hebrews 4:15-16)

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Reflection For The Week:

- Read through the book of Hebrews and journal/reflect on what it means for Christ to be the Great High Priest and how this gives us assurance of our salvation.

Preparation For Next Week:

https://www.thegospelcoalition.org/new-city-catechism/what-do-we-believe-about-the-holy-spirit/?childrens_mode=false

Resources For Going Further:

1. John Bunyan, *Christ A Complete Saviour: Or, The Intercession of Christ, And Who Are Privileged In It*
2. Robert Letham, *The Work of Christ*
3. Patrick Schreiner, *The Ascension of Christ: Recovering a Neglected Doctrine*