

## WE HAVE AN ADVOCATE: JESUS CHRIST

1 John 2:1-14 (Key Verse: 1b)

*“But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.”*

In today's passage we are going to continue to learn what attitude we should have as Christian believers. From the key verse we are granted assurance, that if any of us sins we have an advocate with the Father-Jesus Christ, the Righteous one. Therefore, through today's passage we are going to learn what attitude we should have towards our sins, we are going to learn why we need an advocate, and what kind of advocate do we have in Jesus Christ. Lastly, we will learn what is the result when we sincerely accept Jesus Christ as our advocate. I pray that God may have mercy on us all today, to receive one word and be transformed by the message of Jesus Christ our advocate.

The passage today begins with Apostle John demonstrating a very deep affection and plea towards believers, he said in **verse 1a**: *“My dear children, I write this to you so that you will not sin.”* This plea was filled with deep concern for the Christian believers, deep concern for us too today. The concern was that we may not sin. Why was this important, that Apostle John introduced the passage with it and with such deep affection? Firstly, it was important because sin, is a very serious matter. It is a serious matter because God hates sin, He is holy and righteous. Also, sin is a serious matter because it drives us away from God, when we are sin, we wonder around and run away from God. The will of God is that we may have fellowship with him, to depend on him and live for him. But the misery of sin is that we become separated from him and become filled with so much meaninglessness to a point where we even hate God. To help us, Apostle John started this letter with deep affection and concern, encouraging us not to sin.

However, as we all know, as human beings, we are not perfect, somehow, we will fall into sin. Apostle John knows all this, and God knows all these, and hence Apostle John does not leave everything at that, but rather he continues to reveal to us the mercy of God concerning our misery of sin. Let us look at **verse 1b** to see this mercy that God has granted us: *“But if anybody does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ, the Righteous One.* In Jesus Christ we have an advocate, to speak on our behalf before God. Because of our sins we cannot come before God because he is holy, so we need an Advocate who can come before God on our behalf. And Jesus who was without sin, who came into the world, lived among all kinds of sinners, and died on the cross for the sins of all mankind is our advocate. Jesus is the perfect advocate because he died for all sins. In **verse 2** it says: *“He is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours but also for the sins of the whole world.”*

Naturally we were supposed to die an eternal death because of our sins, but because of Jesus the perfect sacrifice, the lamb without blemish, our sins are washed away. Before, sin had power over us and left us in misery, wondering around without meaning and purpose. In fact, today many people are still tormented by the power of sin and death, many young people are filled with emptiness and to fill this void they suck themselves into more and more sin, living without God, living without faith and trust for God, Sexual immorality, substance abuse, anger, hatred, and many others. All this leaves our society broken, broken families, marriages, relationships, no direction and many others. Our societies are left like this because sin, because people think death is the end. But glory to God, for even though God is holy, righteous and hates sin, he is merciful and to save us he has sent us Jesus our advocate to make us pure and grant us freedom from the power of sin and death.

All we need to do is to come to Jesus Christ, the Righteous one with repentance. All we need to do is surrender our lives to Jesus and allow Jesus to rule in our hearts. And our lives will be changed, no

longer will we wonder around without meaning and purpose, no longer will our hearts be filled with unending hatred and anger, no longer will we stumble. But instead, we will live in the light. We will live in the light because our lives will be changed. Let us look at **verse 3-6** to understand how exactly our lives will be changed:

*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 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.*

When we truly accept Jesus as our advocate, and surrender to him as our Lord, we will not help it but obey his commands, we will not help it but obey his word. We will not help it but imitate Jesus's life. That is the power of the forgiveness of our sins, when we sincerely accept Jesus our advocate, we will be restored into our original image. We will be restored to live for the glory of God, we will be restored to live according to God's will and purpose. But if we do not sincerely accept Jesus in our hearts, we will not be changed we can fool others and perhaps ourselves but inwardly we will still suffer from the power of sin and death, we will not know the truth, we will stumble and our service to the Lord will be burdensome, obedience to God's commands and word will be burdensome and we will fall short. That is why Apostle John says: "*Whoever says, "I know him," but does not do what he commands is a liar, and the truth is not in that person.*" To truly live a genuine Christian life and obey God's command we need to come to Jesus our advocate and sincerely repent and surrender our lives unto him. When we accept Jesus as our advocate, we will obey his word and commands, and the love of God will be made complete in us. And through us the world will be blessed too, our co-workers in ministry will be blessed, our classmates on campus, our spouse, our Bible students, our families, and all people around us will be blessed.

As we continue with the passage, Apostle John said in **verse 7-8**: "*Dear friends, I am not writing you a new command but an old one, which you have had since the beginning. This old command is the message you have heard. / Yet I am writing you a new command; its truth is seen in him and in you, because the darkness is passing and the true light is already shining.*" Here Apostle John highlighted the command that God gave to his people in **Leviticus 19:18** which says: "*You shall not take vengeance, nor bear any grudge against the sons of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself; I am the Lord.*" From here we can learn that indeed, it is God's desire that we love one another, that we love our neighbor as ourselves. However, because of sin, mankind was never able to truly love one another, we did not even know how to love one another. And as a result, we came short in fulfilling God's command. We fell short because on our own we are not capable of loving one another, our own form of love is influenced by many things, possessions, looks, feelings, and moods. But glory to God who sent an advocate Jesus Christ, the Righteous one, who is able to make us truly love one another.

In **John 13:38** Jesus said: "*A new command I give you: Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another.*" In Jesus the original command is made new, for we can learn from Jesus who fulfilled it, we can imitate him and fulfill the command. In Jesus our advocate we have been forgiven our sins, made pure before God, and set free from the power of sin. In Jesus we have been blessed with a gift to genuinely love our brothers and sisters. Let us look at **verse 10-11**: "*Anyone who loves their brother and sister[c] lives in the light, and there is nothing in them to make them stumble. / But anyone who hates a brother or sister is in the darkness and walks around in the darkness. They do not know where they are going, because the darkness has blinded them.*" When we love one another, we

will live in the light, and we will not stumble. Glory to Jesus our advocate, whom when we come to him and surrender our lives to him, is able and willing to open our eyes from the darkness and lead us to his light. Jesus has brought us the light by enabling us to obey his word and commands, imitating him by sincerely loving our brothers and sisters.

Over many years God has blessed our ministry (UBF) to raise campus students, mainly through 1 to 1 Bible studies and testimony writing and sharin. God blessed this ministry so much, by raising many sincere campus students as disciples of Jesus and sending them out into the world as lay missionaries. Doing this, was not and is not about some technique or skill, or knowledge of campus students' behavior. But rather, it is all Jesus, everything depends on our advocate Jesus Christ. When we know our advocate and sincerely surrender to him, obey his word and commands, we will be able to genuinely love our Bible students and raise them as precious disciples of Jesus. When we know Jesus our advocate deeply, we will sincerely love our co-workers, just as Jesus loved us and we will be blessed with genuine Christian fellowship with one another.

When I first came to UBF, I was quite amazed by the kind of love I received from my Shepherds and members, it was very special, and I believe it is because they imitated the love of Jesus. Because of their obedience and love I could be encouraged to have fellowship with them an come to Jesus.

### **Conclusion**

Through today's passage we have learnt that sin is a serious matter, a dangerous thing that drives us away from God. We also have been given the assurance that our sins are forgiven in Jesus our Advocate with the Father, the Righteous one. We have learnt that when we accept Jesus Christ as our advocate, we will know him and obey him, and our lives will be transformed. Unlike fellowships in the world, which depends on people status and position, we will have genuine fellowship with Jesus and with one another. We will have genuine fellowship by loving one another with Jesus' love, unconditional love. When Jesus came into the world, he loved all people, he loved sinners, the demon possessed, the sick, lame, lazy, the proud, even the Pharisees who considered him their enemy, Jesus loved them and died on the cross for their sin. Jesus showed us true love. And today through God's word we are assured that when we sincerely accept Jesus as our Advocate, we will be blessed with the gift of obedience towards his word and commands. We will be blessed to be like Jesus and live in the light by loving one another.

This year we are praying that God may use each one of us to invite students and raise them as disciples of Jesus. Let us therefore go back to the fundamentals, let focus on Jesus our advocate, surrender our lives to him and obey his word and commands, be transformed to be like him so that just as he loved us through his death on the cross, we too can invite and raise campus students with Jesus' love.