

**“What it Means to be Reformed”; Session #78, Solus Christus - Christ’s
Intercession and the Intercession of the Spirit”, prepared by
Pastor Paul Rendall for the Adult Sunday School Class
on June 5th, 2016.**

1st – Christ’s Intercession Consists – “In His presenting His people’s prayers and petitions unto God and pleading that they may be accepted and granted for His sake.”

Psalm 25: 6-12 – “Remember, O Lord, Your tender mercies and Your lovingkindnesses, for they are from of old.” “Do not remember the sins of my youth, nor my transgression; according to Your mercy remember me, for Your goodness’ sake, O Lord.” “Good and upright is the Lord; therefore He teaches sinners in the way.” “The humble He guides in justice, and the humble He teaches His way.” “All the paths of the Lord are mercy and truth, to such as keep His covenant and His testimonies.” “For Your names’ sake, O Lord, pardon my iniquity, for it is great.” “Who is the man that fears the Lord?” “Him shall He teach in the way He chooses.”

You see here the prayer of David, asking for the Lord to remember His tender mercies and His lovingkindnesses; that God would not remember the sins of his youth, nor his transgressions. Instead, he asks, that God would remember him according to His mercy, for His goodness’ sake. Why should the Lord answer such a prayer, whether it is coming from David, or whether it is coming from us? Because it is His purpose, through Christ, not only to forgive sinners who apply for grace through Jesus Christ, but also teach them the good and right way, the way that He chooses, so that forgiven sinners will truly be changed and helped to be more righteous and holy people through the intercession of Christ.

Thomas Boston says: “Their prayers and religious performances are both impure and imperfect; but His precious merit, applied by His powerful intercession, purifies and perfects them.” “The skillful Advocate puts them into form and language suited to the methods of the court of heaven, and by His great interest there procures them a speedy hearing.”

Romans 8: 26-28 – “Likewise the Spirit also helps in our weaknesses.” “For we do not know what we should pray for as we ought, but the Spirit Himself makes intercession for us with groaning which cannot be uttered.” “Now He who searches the hearts knows what the mind of the Spirit is, because He makes intercession for the saints according to the will of God.” “And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose.”

Charles Simeon says on this: “The office of an Advocate is to appear for his client in a court of justice, and to plead his cause. Now this office also the Lord Jesus Christ executes in behalf of His people: He is gone up to the court of heaven, where “He appears in the presence of God for us.” The Holy Spirit also is our Advocate: but there is a very wide difference between the Advocacy of Christ, and of the Holy Spirit: the Spirit intercedes in us at the throne of grace; Christ intercedes for us at the throne of glory; the Spirit assists us to pray according to the will of God; Christ presents those prayers unto the Father, and renders them acceptable in his sight

2nd – “In His answering all the bills of indictment which are brought in against them.” Thomas Boston says: “Many times a believer is brought in as an arraigned criminal

before the divine tribunal, where Satan appears as the accuser, brings in the charge of sin, pleads the righteousness of the law, solicits for judgment upon his accusations, and for the execution of the curse due to the crime." "The justice of God calls for vengeance, and conscience thunders out nothing but hell and wrath." "Now while the believer is in these dismal circumstances, Christ steps in and answers the charge." "He pleads the efficacy of His merit against the greatness of the believing sinner's crimes, and His satisfaction to justice by the death of the cross against all the demands and challenges of the law." "And thus the sentence of condemnation due unto the sinner for his sin is averted, and a sentence of absolution (a freeing from blame or guilt; release from consequences, obligations, or penalties) is pronounced, upon the merit and plea of this powerful intercessor."

Zechariah 3: 1-9 – "Then he showed me Joshua the high priest standing before the Angel of the Lord, and Satan standing at his right hand to oppose him. And the Lord said to Satan, "The Lord rebuke you, Satan! The Lord who has chosen Jerusalem rebuke you! Is this not a brand plucked from the fire? Now Joshua was clothed with filthy garments, and was standing before the Angel. Then He answered and spoke to those who stood before Him, saying, "Take away the filthy garments from him." And to him He said, "See, I have removed your iniquity from you, and I will clothe you with rich robes." And I said, "Let them put a clean turban on his head." So they put a clean turban on his head, and they put the clothes on him. And the Angel of the Lord stood by. Then the Angel of the Lord admonished Joshua, saying, "Thus says the Lord of hosts: "If you will walk in My ways, and if you will keep My command, then you shall also judge My house, and likewise have charge of My courts; I will give you places to walk among these who stand here. Hear, O Joshua, the high priest, you and your companions who sit before you, for they are a wondrous sign; for behold, I am bringing forth My Servant the BRANCH. For behold, the stone that I have laid before Joshua: upon the stone are seven eyes. Behold, I will engrave its inscription, says the Lord of hosts, and I will remove the iniquity of that land in one day."

3rd – Christ's Intercession applies to having communion and helping His dear Church through all of her generations, in all of her trials and difficulties.

Hebrews 7: 24 – "But He, because He continues forever, has an unchangeable priesthood."

John Owen says on Hebrews 7: 24: "**Obs. 4.** The perpetuity of the priesthood of Christ, as unchangeably exercised in His own person, is a principal part of the glory of that office. — His discharge of this office for the church in His own person, throughout all generations, is the glory of it.

1. Hereon depends the church's *preservation and stability*. There is neither a ceasing nor any the least intermission of that care and providence, of that interposition with God on its behalf which are required thereunto. Our high priest is continually ready to appear and put in for us on all occasions. And his abiding forever manifests the continuance of the same care and love for us that he ever had. The same love wherewith, as our high priest, he laid down his life for us, doth still continue in him. And every one may with the same confidence go unto him with all their concerns, as poor, diseased, and distempered persons went unto him when he was upon earth; when he never showed greater displeasure than unto those who forbade any to come unto him, whatever their pretenses were.

2. Hereon depend the *union and communion of the church* with itself in all successive generations. For whereas he is their head and high priest, in whom they all center as unto their union and communion, and hath all their graces and duties in his hand, to present them unto God, they have a relation unto each other, and a concernment in one another. We that are alive

in this generation have communion with all those that died in the faith before us; as shall be declared, if God will, on Hebrews 12: 22-24. And they were concerned in us, as we are also in the generations that are to come. For all the prayers of the church from first to last are lodged in the hand of the same high priest, who abides forever; and he returns the prayers of one generation unto another. We enjoy the fruits of the prayers, obedience, and blood of those that went before us; and if we are faithful in our generation, serving the will of God, those shall enjoy the fruits of ours who shall come after us. Our joint interest in this our abiding priest gives a line of communication unto all believers, in all generations. And,

3. The *Consolation of the Church* also depends hereon. Do we meet with troubles, trials, difficulties, temptations, and distresses? hath not the church done so in former ages? What do we think of those days wherein prisons, tortures, swords, and flames, were the portion of the church all the world over? But did any of them miscarry? was any one true believer lost forever? and did not the whole church prove victorious in the end? Did not Satan rage and the world gnash their teeth to see themselves conquered and their power broken, by the faith, patience, and suffering, of them whom they hated and despised? And was it by their own wisdom and courage that they were so preserved? did they overcome merely by their own blood? Or were they delivered by their own power? No; but all their preservation and success, their deliverance and eternal salvation, depended merely on the care and power of their merciful high priest. It was through his blood, “the blood of the Lamb,” or the efficacy of his sacrifice, that they “overcame” their adversaries, Revelation 12: 11. By the same blood were “their robes washed, and made white,” Revelation 7: 14. From thence had they their righteousness in all their sufferings. And by Him had the church its triumphant issue out of all its trials. Now, is He not the same that He ever was, vested with the same office? And hath He not the same qualifications of love, compassion, care, and power, for the discharge of it, as He always had? Whence, then, can any just cause of despondence in any trials or temptations arise? We have the same high priest to take care of us, to assist and help us, as they had, who were all of them finally victorious.”