

## WHAT WE BELIEVE – God Intercedes

**Romans 8:31-39**

Have you ever played the role of an intercessor?

Have you ever needed an intercessor between you and someone else?

The role of an intercessor is an important one... especially when stakes are high!

- When a husband & wife step into a pastor's office, divorce papers in hand, & say "We are on our way to turn these in but stopped here first!"
- When a teenage daughter comes to her parents and says, "I'm pregnant..." and I want to keep the baby, but my boyfriend does not!"
- When a neighbor comes over and says, "I've been really struggling with thoughts of taking my own life... and for some reason I felt like I needed to tell someone... and here I am..."

What an opportunity for that pastor, for those parents, for that neighbor to intercede and save a marriage... a baby in the womb... a neighbor's life!

What would the outcome have been with that husband & wife, that teenage girl & her baby, that hurting neighbor if someone wasn't there to advocate for them at their exact time of need?

We can all probably recall situations in our lives when we played the role of intercessor, as well as when someone else interceded for us... but do we see the need, and the provision, of Jesus Christ as our chief intercessor?

No one else can intercede like He can/does in our greatest times of need!

What are these times of need? Where Jesus steps in & intercedes for us?

- In our battles with ourselves... We are our own worst enemy!  
**Romans 7:18-25a** – "*Who will deliver me from this body of death...*"
- In our battles with the devil... **1 Peter 5:8** – He looks to devour someone!  
**John 10:10** – "*The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy...*"
- In our battles with God... God is Holy & Just, and we are sinners!  
**Isaiah 59:2** – "*Your iniquities have made a separation between you & God...*"

**GOD INTERCEDES...** We believe our risen Savior (God in the flesh) ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of God. He is our advocate with the Father, interceding on behalf of all who belong to Him.

Jesus stands as the intercessor we all need in the battles we all face in life... For apart from Him we can't stand even for a moment! **John 15:5, Jude 1:24-25**

This month we celebrate Reformation Day... "*Salvation by faith alone*" was Luther's battle cry against the flesh, the devil & the misperception of God!

1<sup>st</sup> video clip – What did you see/hear?

- Luther was being tormented by the deception of the devil!
- Luther was battling against self-hatred!
- Luther was wrestling with God, and who he perceived God to be!

Who was the intercessor in this scene? Not only the priest... it was Christ!

2<sup>nd</sup> Video clip – What did you see/hear?

- The parents were in despair over not knowing their child's eternal fate!
- Luther was angry about the lies the devil tells and the death he brings!
- Luther opposed popular opinion b/c he'd come to know God differently!

Who was the intercessor in this scene? Not only Luther... it was Christ!

3<sup>rd</sup> Video clip – What did you see/hear?

- Luther battled with his understanding of God! What did he discover?
- The devil will throw our sins in our face & declares that we deserve death & hell... but will we say as Luther did... "*I admit I deserve death & hell... What of it...*" For I know one who has suffered & made satisfaction on my behalf. *His name is Jesus Christ, Son of God. Where He is... there I shall be also!*
- Luther was no longer conflicted, no longer believing the lies of the devil, no longer living in wrongful fear of a misunderstood God!

Who was the intercessor in this scene? Not only the church... it was Christ!

Who is the intercessor we need in the battle against ourselves, the devil, & even God? There is only one adequate answer... Jesus!

May we declare as Luther did, "*Where He (Christ) is, there I shall be also!*"

So when the voices in our own heads tell us we are worthless & not enough...  
So when the evil one tries to rob us of the truth & lead us towards destruction...  
So when we believe that God is angry & wants to punish us...

Remember this... Jesus Christ is our advocate & intercessor! & where He is, there we shall be also... with the Father, declared righteous, eternally alive!

Nothing and no one can separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus... We are more than conquerors through Him who has loved us!  
All authority... Every victory... belongs to Christ! He truly is for us, not against us!

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