

# We Have An Advocate

1 John 2:1-2



## Rock Hill Baptist Church

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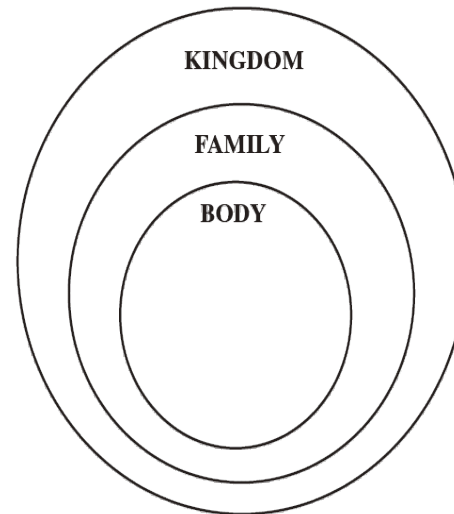
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**FOCAL** 1 John 2:1-6 (KJV) "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: {2} And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world. "

People have advanced a lot of reasons as to why they believe that 1 John was written. For instance, **J. Vernon McGee** wrote:

"**Paul wrote to the church; John wrote to the family.** The church is a body of believers in the position where we are blessed "with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ" (Ephesians 1:3). We are given that position when we believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. In the family we have a relationship which can be broken, but is restored when "we confess our sins." Then He "is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness" (1 John 1:9). The body of believers who constitute the church are in the family of God, though the family is larger than the church. The church and the family are both in the Kingdom of God but are not synonymous terms."



This is a novel idea that Dr. McGee illustrates this way. The *Church* or *Body of Christ* is a new development in the Plan of God. Jesus Christ said:

Matthew 16:18 (KJV) "... upon this rock I **will**

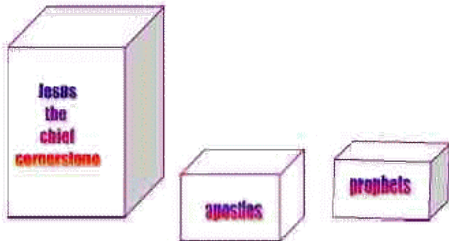
**build** my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it<sup>1</sup>."

When our Lord walked the earth the Church was yet *future tense* - it had not been built yet. The Church would be ...

" **built on the foundation** of the apostles and prophets, with Christ Jesus Himself as the cornerstone."<sup>2</sup> (Ephesians 2:20)

"I will build My church"

Matthew 16:18



The *Church* was *future*, and was not established until Christ died, rose again, ascended unto Heaven, and sent the Holy Spirit of God to live in us. However, God has *always* had a *family*, a body of believers *saved by faith in Him* even in the Old Testament era. Abraham, Noah, and many other Old Testament Saints were *saved by faith*:

Hebrews 11:7-8 (NIV)<sup>3</sup> "**By faith Noah**, when warned about things not yet seen, in holy fear built an ark to save his family. By his faith he condemned the world and became heir of the righteousness that comes by faith. **By faith Abraham**, when called

to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going.



though they *were not a part of the Church, but of Israel*. However they, as well as all who have been saved by faith, are *members of the Family of God*. Whether Israel or the Church, all of the saved by faith in

Christ are *members of the family of God*. It was the *family* - both saved Israel as well as the Church - that John addressed. What was John's reason for writing this letter?

**PPT - FOCAL** 1 John 2:1a (KJV) "**My little children**, these things write I unto you, that ye sin<sup>4</sup> not. "

The first three words of our text, "**My little children**", are *very important*. First is the word **my**, emphasizing *possession*. John is not writing to the *general public*, but he is writing under the inspiration of God the Holy Spirit to

"... all the flock, among whom the Holy Spirit has appointed [him] as overseer ... the church of God" (HCSB)<sup>1</sup>. (Acts 20:28)

1 image from <http://www.revivalministries.org.au>

2 Holman Christian Standard Bible

3 New International Version

4 Aorist Active Subjunctive hamartano {pronounced ham-ar-tan'-o}

John was writing to the *family of God*. These were *John's charge*, the children of the Kingdom of God that the Lord had given him oversight of. Further, John calls them **my little children**. They are

**"... the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus." Galatians 3:26 (KJV)**

*Children* are born into the family - they do not work themselves into that position. The *children of God* are so because they have believed on Jesus Christ. Because of this faith, they have become *born again* by the supernatural working of the Spirit of God. The Bible says:

**"The Spirit Himself testifies together with our spirit that we are God's children, and if children, also heirs ..." Romans 8:16-17 (HCSB)<sup>1</sup>**

Children of God are *born, not self made*. They enter the family of God by *supernatural birth*, and the Spirit of God comes and lives inside of each believer. This is what makes us **my little children**. Look further at our text:

**FOCAL** 1 John 2:1a (KJV) "My little children, these things **write I unto you, that ye sin<sup>5</sup> not.** "

John wrote to those in the family of God *in order that they would not sin*, that is, so that each believer would

understand his or her *potential* in Christ. **Dr. Thomas Constable<sup>6</sup>** says of this text:

**"May not sin" does not mean "may never ever sin again." Sinning is inevitable for sinners, even forgiven sinners, but in every instance of temptation there is always the possibility that we will not fall (1 Corinthians. 10:13). "If" introduces a condition assumed to take place for the sake of the argument (a third class condition in Greek)."**

John is *not* supposing that we who are in the family of God *never* sin. We have already studied in chapter 1 these words:

**1 John 1:8 (KJV) "If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us."**

The believer - even in the family of God - is *still a sinner*. Sin itself is *forensic*, that is, a part of our natural bodies. The Apostle Paul, one of the greatest men that Christianity has ever known outside of Jesus Christ our Lord said:

**" Here is a trustworthy saying that deserves full acceptance: Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners—of whom I am the worst. 1 Timothy 1:15 (NIV)**

Paul did not say *I was the worst of sinners* - no Beloved, he says *I am the worst of sinners*. Present tense - right now I am a terrible sinner. Does this mean that Paul was

<sup>5</sup> Aorist Active Subjunctive hamartano {pronounced ham-ar-tan'-o}

<sup>6</sup> see [soniclight.org](http://soniclight.org) for commentary

*actively* going out and committing adultery, murder, and other sins of the flesh? Absolutely not! But the fact is we *are* sinners, and *remain* sinners, because, as **Romans 7:17** says,

**"... [it is] sin that dwelleth in me."**

We are sinners, even after salvation - but as *members of the family of God* we are supposed to *avoid active sin*. We may have *forensic sin*, but this does not give us license to *chase after sin*. If we love Christ, and love our Father, we will *strive to avoid sin*. However, we do *sin*.

**FOCAL** 1 John 2:1 (KJV) "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And **if any man sin, we have an advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: "

Will we sin? Yes! Should we *want* to sin? No! The title *children of God* is found nine times in the Scripture. Children of God are said to be:

- a. The only ones who will be resurrected to be with God in Heaven (Luke 20:36)
- b. Those who will be *gathered together* by Christ at His coming (John 11:52)
- c. People who have the Spirit of God *living inside* of themselves (Romans 8:16)
- d. The only people who have *glorious liberty* because they are *free through Christ* and under His peace

(Matthew 5:9; Romans 8:21)

e. Finally, *children of God* are characterized by *obedience to Christ* (Romans 9:8; 1 John 3:10; 1 John 5:2)

Because the Christian is *indwelt* by the Spirit of God, we in our new nature *hate sin*. We do not revel in sin as others who are children of the devil do. We despise sin, we hate it, and yet we know that we are still susceptible to it. Brother **Charles Spurgeon** preached<sup>7</sup>

**"The Christian no longer loves sin. It is the object of his sternest horror. He no longer regards it as a mere trifle, plays with it, or talks of it with unconcern. He looks upon it as a deadly serpent whose very shadow is to be avoided. He would no more venture voluntarily to put its cup to his lip than a man would drink poison who had once almost lost his life through it. Sin is dejected in the Christian's heart, though it is not ejected. Sin may enter the heart and fight for dominion, but it cannot sit upon the throne. It haunts the town of Mansoul and lurks in dens and corners to do mischief, but it is no longer honored in the streets, nor pampered in the palace. The head and the hands of Dagon are broken, although the stump remains. The Christian never sins with that enormity of boasting of which the unregenerate are guilty. Others wallow in transgressions and make their shame their glory, but if the Believer falls he is very quiet, mournful and vexed. Sinners go to their sins as children to their own father's orchard, but Believers slink away like thieves when they have been stealing forbidden fruit. **Shame and sin are always in close company in a Christian. If****

<sup>7</sup> *The Sinner's Advocate*, sermon 515

**he is drunken with evil he will be ashamed of himself and go to his bed like a whipped cur. He cannot proclaim his transgressions as some do in the midst of a ribald crowd**, boasting of their exploits of evil. His heart is broken within him, and when he has sinned he goes with sore bones for many and many a day. Nor does he sin with the fullness of deliberation that belongs to other men. The sinner can sit down by the months together and think over the iniquity that he means to perpetrate, till he gets his plans well organized and has matured his project. But the Christian cannot do this. He may put the sin into his mouth and swallow it in a moment, but he cannot continue to roll it under his tongue."

I agree with Brother Spurgeon's assessment, and find it true within my own life. There have been many times when I have passed through the doors of Wal-Mart or some other store and overheard blasphemous cursing or vile filthy language from the unsaved. They sit in front of the store cackling at their crude jokes. Women who should be shamed in the midst of such sexually charged talk smile and add their own twist to the tale. The saved feel their ears burn and duck their heads in shame at these things, but children of Satan make great sport of the most demonic talk!

When the Christian sins we are not commanded to wallow in the sin, nor are we commanded to wallow in guilt or self condemnation. That which we are told is this:

**PPT - FOCAL** 1 John 2:1 (KJV) "... **if any man**

**sin, we have an advocate<sup>8</sup> with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: "**

We have an *advocate* who is *with the Father* - Jesus Christ our Lord. What a great comfort this is - and greater still when we study that word *parakletos*. The Greek word *parakletos* is used *exclusively* in John's writing. We see it in:

**John 14:16 (KJV) "And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter [parakletos], that he may abide with you for ever;"**

and again in

**John 14:26 (KJV) "But the Comforter, [parakletos] which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."**

and again in

**John 15:26 (KJV) "But when the Comforter [parakletos] is come, whom I will send unto you from the Father, even the Spirit of truth, which proceedeth from the Father, he shall testify of me:"**

and again in

**John 16:7 (KJV) "Nevertheless I tell you the truth; It**

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<sup>8</sup> parakletos {pronounced *par-ak'-lay-to*}, one who stands by another's side so as to help them

**is expedient for you that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter [parakletos] will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you."**

The message that Jesus gave His disciples was "the Paraclete, the Comforter, the One from God Who will stand beside you to help you will only come when I go. This Comforter or Paraclete will come and live inside of you." What would Jesus Christ do once the Comforter came? He Himself would go into the *very throne room of God* and stand up for the children of God when we sin.

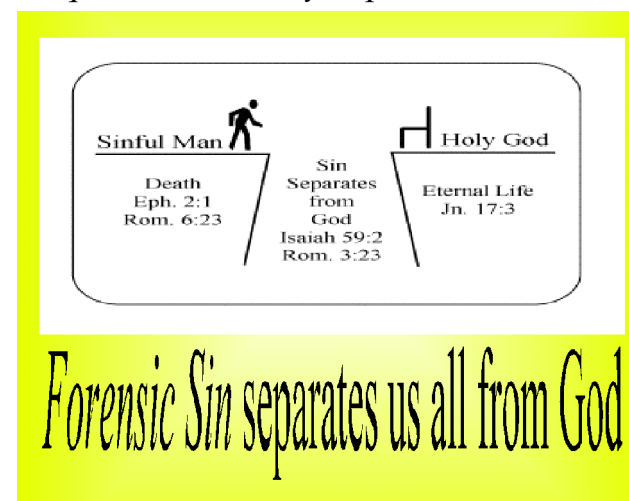
When we sin we have the *slanderer, that old Devil* coming to tell us that "God has left you, you evil child! He no longer cares for you - He has turned away from you because you turned away from Him". This lie has went like cancer through many denominations of Christianity. This lie was taught by James Arminius<sup>9</sup>, who believed that sin separated the child of God from the family of God. Yet John says in response to such heresy, **if any man sin, we have a Comforter with the Father, Jesus Christ.**

**FOCAL 1 John 2:1b-2 (KJV) "... we have an advocate [Comforter, Paraklete] with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: {2} And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."**

9 James Arminius (Jacob Harmenszoon) is undoubtedly the most famous theologian ever produced by the Dutch Reformed Church. His fame is a great irony since the Dutch Reformed Church historically was a bastion of strict Calvinism and Arminius has given his name to a movement very much in opposition to historic Calvinism. <http://members.aol.com/twarren20/arminius.html>

Here is the key to salvation - not works of righteousness which I have done, but the fact that **Jesus Christ the righteous has made satisfactory payment for my sins.** Because *He is righteous* and because *His righteousness is applied to my Heavenly account*, then I am wholly saved.

In contrast to Arminius' awful doctrine of *saved-lost-saved*, the ancient **Pastor John Bunyan<sup>pp1</sup>** drew the following map to describe the *truths of salvation by Grace*<sup>10</sup>. This document is *too complex* to reproduce here, so I will use the following graphics<sup>11</sup>. Since *sin is resident* in man because of Adam's transgression we are all *quite unnaturally* separated from God.

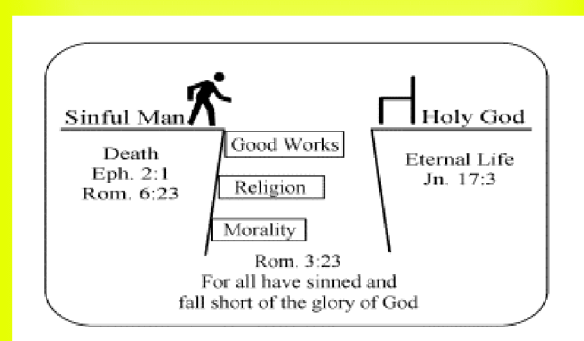


works, yet nothing works. Without God's intervention our goodness, our righteousness, our everything is *as filthy rags* before Him. This is where our Lord Jesus Christ comes in. The Bible says that He and He alone is the *propitiation* or the *satisfactory payment* for our sins.

10 see map at <http://www.johnbunyan.org/graphics/bun-map.gif>

11 from <http://www.sagercreek.com>

If He is the One Who stands up for us *at the moment of salvation*, doesn't it make sense that He would be the



**none good but God –  
Matthew 19:17; Mark 10:18**

**you; never will I forsake you."**

and also,

**John 10:28-30 (KJV) "And I give unto them eternal life; and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand. My Father, which gave them me, is greater than all; and no man is able to pluck them out of my Father's hand. I and my Father are one."**

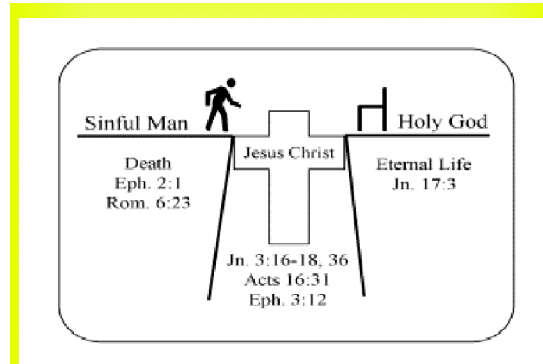
How can Jesus make such a promise, knowing our frailties, knowing our sinful estate? Because salvation *does not rely on us*, but on His payment, on His faithfulness. Forensic sin guaranteed my damnation, but the Blood of Christ *voided that guarantee* and set me free!

**FOCAL** 1 John 2:1b-2 (KJV) "... we have an

One Who *continues to represent us* before the Father when we sin?

Jesus promised us that:

**Hebrews 13:5 (NIV) "... Never will I leave**



**He is THE Propitiation  
(satisfactory payment) for our sins**

**advocate** [Comforter, Paraklete] **with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: {2} And he is the propitiation for our sins: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world."**

The *satisfactory payment* of Christ on that Cross *covered all who will come to Him by faith.*

1 John 2:2 answers the false doctrine of *limited atonement*. His Blood paid for the sins of any who will believe, any who will come, any who will trust in Him. The payment is there - but the payment must be accepted if it is to be any good.

**Illustrate** I could give you a gift certificate to a fantastic meal at a local restaurant. This gift certificate could pay *all* of the meal if you but take it to the owner of the store and redeem it. But if you put that certificate in a drawer somewhere and refuse to redeem it, or if you look at it and *merely think about redeeming it*, then you will never see the reward of its redemption. There are many who hear the Gospel message week after week and, on hearing it, go to their homes and merely think on it. They refuse to *redeem* that payment that our Paraclete Jesus Christ made. If these die today they will die in their sins, unredeemed, cursed, children of Hell rather than children of God. **J. Vernon McGee** wrote:

"There has always been the question as to the possibility of a person stepping over a line—that is, sinking so low in sin that the grace of God cannot reach him. While I do not believe that you could ever get to a place where God by His grace could not save you, I do believe that if you persist in rejecting God's grace and mercy, the day will come when you will step over that line. This does not mean the grace of God cannot reach you, but it does mean that there will be nothing in you that the grace of God can lay hold of. Let me illustrate this with the story of a man I met when I first came to California as a pastor in 1940. His wife wanted me to visit him in his home because he was sick and dying. She asked me to present the gospel to him, and I did. He was a very polite man, and he listened to me.

Then he said to me, "I would say, 'Yes, I will accept Christ as my Savior'—in fact, I am going to do it. But I want to tell you this: I have played and trifled with God all my life. I have been down to an altar twenty-five times. I have made promises to Him and then turned from Him, and I have never been sincere. Honestly, I cannot tell you right now whether I am sincere or not." All I could do at his funeral as I looked down at him was to say under my breath, "Oh, God, I hope he was sincere. I hope he really meant it. I hope Your grace reached down and touched him." You can trifle with God too long."<sup>12</sup>

### **Jesus Christ The Righteous: The Necessity and Doctrine of Propitiation**

**FOCAL** 1 John 2:2 (KJV) "And **he is the propitiation** for our sins: and **not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world.**"

If you were to ask me what the *greatest idol* in America is today, I would have to say that our greatest idol is *human good*, or our idea that we are *inherently good*  
<sup>12</sup> from *Pulpit Helps* magazine, July 2005 pg 9



*enough* to get into God's Heaven on our own. **Good** in America has become a god as powerful in the minds of our people as was the false god Dagon that the Philistines worshiped<sup>13</sup> in Sampson's day. Dagon rears his ugly, demonic head once more in King David's day when we read:

**1 Samuel 5:2-4 (KJV) "When the Philistines took the ark of God, they brought it into the house of Dagon, and set it by Dagon. {3} And when they of Ashdod arose early on the morrow, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the earth before the ark of the LORD. And they took Dagon, and set him in his place again. {4} And when they arose early on the morrow morning, behold, Dagon was fallen upon his face to the ground before the ark of the LORD; and the head of Dagon and both the palms of his hands were cut off upon the threshold; only the stump of Dagon was left to him."**

Just as the True God *cut off the hands* of the false god Dagon, the Biblical doctrine of *propitiation* cuts off the liberal hands of *alleged human goodness*, showing all who will listen that **Jesus Christ is the only Way to God** (John 14:6). Why is this? Why isn't our *goodness* good enough to get us into God's Heaven? The Bible teaches us in **Isaiah 57:15**:

"For this is what the high and lofty One says— he who lives forever, **whose name is holy**: "I live in a high and holy place, but also with him who is contrite and lowly in spirit, to revive the spirit of the lowly and to revive the heart of the contrite." (NIV)

God is so holy, so pure, so *without sin* that His *very name is Holy*.<sup>14</sup> One commentary<sup>15</sup> defines the holiness of God this way:

**"Negatively, holiness is that perfection in the being of God which totally separates Him from all that is evil and defiling. As we call gold pure when it is free from any dross or other metals, so the nature and actions of God are 100% free from any impurity or evil of any kind. Light is a symbol of God's holiness and so John wrote, "God is light and in Him is no (none whatsoever) darkness at all" (1 John 1:5). Positively, holiness stands for the absolute integrity and purity of the being and nature of God. It means God must always think and act in a way that is consistent with His perfect righteousness and justice, what we might call the executive and judicial branches of God's pure holiness."**

Because God is *absolute and perfect righteousness* He *cannot* associate with anything or anyone who is *less than perfectly free from sin or error*. The Bible says:

**"But your iniquities have built barriers between you and your God, and your sins have made Him hide**

<sup>14</sup> see also Ex. 15:11; Ps. 30:4; 47:8; 48:1; 89:35; Lev. 11:44-45; 19:2; Isa. 5:16; Rev. 15:4; 1 Pet. 1:15-16

<sup>15</sup> see bible.org, *propitiation*, Soteriology - The Doctrine of Salvation by: J. Hampton Keathley, III, Th.M.

**[His] face from you so that He does not listen."**  
(Isaiah 59:2 - HCSB)

God is *offended* by our sins, and by our very existence. There is no good thing naturally in us - we are *dead in our trespasses and sins* (**Ephesians 2:1**). We are creatures who *deserve eternal damnation*. There is no good thing in us. We are but sinners in the hands of an Angry God, as that old time preacher **Jonathan Edwards** preached:

**"You probably are not sensible of this; you find you are kept out of hell, but do not see the hand of God in it; but look at other things, as the good state of your bodily constitution, your care of your own life, and the means you use for your own preservation. But indeed these things are nothing; if God should withdraw his hand, they would avail no more to keep you from falling, than the thin air to hold up a person that is suspended in it.**

Your wickedness makes you as it were heavy as lead, and to tend downwards with great weight and pressure towards hell; and if God should let you go, you would immediately sink and swiftly descend and plunge into the bottomless gulf, and your healthy constitution, and your own care and prudence, and best contrivance, and all your righteousness, would have no more influence to uphold you and keep you out of hell, than a spider's web would have to stop a falling rock. Were it not for the sovereign pleasure of God, the earth would not bear you one moment; for you are a burden to it; the creation groans with you; the creature is made subject to the bondage of your corruption, not willingly; the sun does not willingly shine upon you to give you light to serve sin and Satan; the earth does not willingly yield her increase to satisfy your lusts; nor is it willingly a stage for your wickedness to be acted upon; the air does not willingly serve you for breath to maintain the flame of life in your vitals, while you spend your life in the service of

God's enemies. God's creatures are good, and were made for men to serve God with, and do not willingly subserve to any other purpose, and groan when they are abused to purposes so directly contrary to their nature and end. And the world would spew you out, were it not for the sovereign hand of him who hath subjected it in hope. There are the black clouds of God's wrath now hanging directly over your heads, full of the dreadful storm, and big with thunder; and were it not for the restraining hand of God, it would immediately burst forth upon you. The sovereign pleasure of God, for the present, stays his rough wind; otherwise it would come with fury, and your destruction would come like a whirlwind, and you would be like the chaff on the summer threshing floor."

We - one and all - deserve eternal punishment, but God through **Christ the Righteous** has opened the door of salvation. Again, quoting the *Doctrine of Salvation by J. Hampton Keathley* we read:

**"God's righteousness is satisfied by the person of Christ and His life.** Jesus perfectly fulfilled the law. He was without sin and lived in perfect righteousness and harmony with the will of God. At His baptism, the Father said, "this is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased." Here God the Father verified the sinlessness of Jesus and showed that He was qualified by His person and life to begin His ministry. By the miraculous events surrounding the cross, the darkness, the shaking of the earth, the rending of the veil, and the resurrection of Christ, the Father further showed that Christ was not only qualified to be our sin bearer, but that He had successfully satisfied the holiness of God and had dealt with man's sin (1 John 2:1-2; Heb. 2:17; 1 Pet. 1:18).

God's justice, which requires judgment for sin, is likewise satisfied by the death of Christ as the substitutionary payment for our sin (Rom. 3:25-26). Christ's death redeemed and expiated man from sin and its penalty by His judicial

substitutionary death—the innocent for the guilty. As our substitute He bore our penalty. This satisfied the requirements of God's justice.

**God is now free to bestow His love and grace on the unworthy sinner and still act in harmony with His holiness because Jesus Christ satisfied the demands of God's holy character (Rom. 3:25-26).** The cross is much more than the display of God's love; it is also the supreme display of God's absolute holiness. It shows that God could by no means still be just and accept the sinner apart from the person, life, and death of Christ."

Because Jesus paid the penalty, all who believe on Him are *saved eternally*. We are not saved by our goodness. No, let the Ark of God's Grace stand, but let Dagon fall with his hands cut off, to the ground. Human good, Dagon, will be the thing which brings *eternal damnation* before the Great White Throne of God. We read in Revelation that it is *human good works* that bring an eternity of suffering:

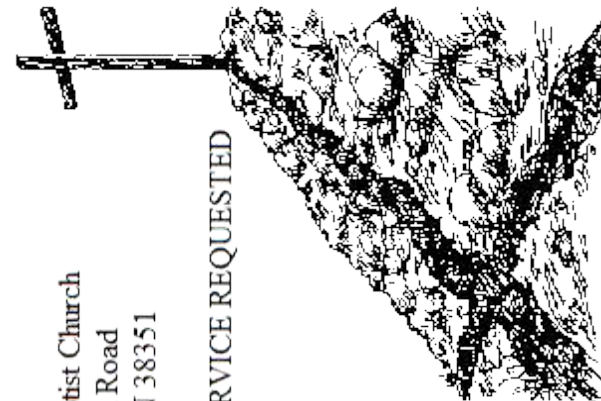
**Revelation 20:12-13 (HCSB) "I also saw the dead, the great and the small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. Another book was opened, which is the book of life, and the **dead were judged according to their works** by what was written in the books. Then the sea gave up its dead, and Death and Hades gave up their dead; all were **judged according to their works.**"**

Those who believe that God will *weigh goodness* and

then allow the *good* into Heaven have paid *absolutely no attention* to John's vision! Of these who are judged before that terrible Great White Throne, there are *none reported* to have been pulled from the stream of fire. Every person who stands in this judgment stands before an Angry God Who caused His own Son's suffering and death for the sake of the *whole world*. These who stand before Him have said by their very lives that they *reject Christ's work* and would rather have God judge *their own works*. Is it no wonder that hell hath no end? Is it no wonder that the rich man cannot have even one drop of water to cool his lips, or a moment to escape to earth to warn others? The last works these fools shall hear before they enter that Lake is **according to your works!** Oh Beloved, escape this Flame of Fury!

**Revelation 20:15 (KJV) "And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire."**

Unless your name is written in the Book of Life, written in the red Blood of Christ, written with the nail scarred Hand of Calvary, then you have no hope. I pray that God will touch your hearts with this truth, that God is *not satisfied* with anything we do apart from Jesus Christ the Righteous.



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