

## HIS NAME IS WONDERFUL

## STUDY TWELVE

## We Have an Advocate

*1 John 2:1–2*

*Jesus Christ is qualified to enter the eternal throne room of God the Father and represent the child of God. In fact, He is seated in that throne room at the very right hand of the Father. When He paid the payment for sin, He paid the payment in full! Not for a few, but for the whole world.*

—Pastor Charles R. Swindoll

**L**ORD God. King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Messiah. Alpha and Omega. The mighty King. The lowly servant. The ideal man. Son of God. The true Vine. Good Shepherd. Lamb of God. The way, the truth, the life. Mediator. These titles only begin to capture the full image of the glory of Jesus Christ.

While each title reflects a unique element of Jesus' character and purpose, they all portray the simple truth that Jesus—and Jesus alone—is the savior of humankind who is worthy of praise. Each of these distinct portraits fits together to create a beautiful mosaic displaying Jesus' true identity.

This *Searching the Scriptures* series concludes with a study of a rare title for Jesus Christ. Yet it's one that remains among the most vivid and theologically significant. This title answers an all-important question: how can a holy God forgive unholy people?



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## We Have an Advocate

1 John 2:1–2



### PREPARE YOUR HEART

Before His crucifixion, Jesus told His disciples to use His name when they pray to the Father, “I tell you the truth, you will ask the Father directly, and he will grant your request because you use my name. You haven’t done this before. Ask, using my name, and you will receive, and you will have abundant joy” (*John 16:23–24*).

Jesus didn’t say He would fulfill every whim, but He does promise joy to those who pray in His name. As you conclude this series, offer your own prayer to the Father in Jesus’ name. Ask Him to continue to strengthen your relationship with Jesus, trusting that He will fill your soul with abundant joy.



### TURN TO THE SCRIPTURES

The drama of Scripture begins and ends with God giving names. The curtain rises in Genesis with God offering a unique name to each element of His creation—like day and night (*Genesis 1:5*) and sky, land, and sea (*1:8, 10*). He even involved humans in this task by having them name all the animals (*2:19–20*).

But humanity disobeyed God and welcomed the corruption of sin. The rest of Scripture traces God’s plan of redemption as He directs history to restore creation to its designed, perfect state.

The book of Revelation displays the grand finale to God’s plan when Christ makes all things new and gives new names. In *Revelation 2:17*, Jesus said, “To everyone who is victorious . . . I will give to each one a white stone, and on the stone will be engraved a new name.”

The new name Jesus will give each of His followers represents a new identity cleansed from the stain of sin and a new life free from the shackles of death. The only way Jesus is able to renew His people is by standing before the throne of God as their advocate.



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*1 John 2:1–2*



### Observation: An Advocate Who Pleads Our Case

The New Testament refers to Jesus as the advocate only once, and though this title is rare, it overflows with theological significance. Before you can understand the depth of this term's theological meaning, you first must consider what Scripture says about Jesus the advocate.<sup>1</sup> Read *1 John 2:1–2* carefully and slowly several times, and keep track of your key observations.

According to *2:1*, for what purpose did John write his letter?

Many who heed the warnings of John's letter will still yield to the sinful desires of their flesh from time to time. So John offered a note of good news for believers struggling with sin. "We have an advocate" (*1 John 2:1*). What does an advocate do? How does Jesus advocate for those who believe in Him?



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It is possible that the Father could hear the advocate's words and reject them, saying that each person's record simply is too stained by sin to receive the stamp of righteousness. Thankfully, He doesn't do this! According to [1 John 2:2a](#), why is Jesus' advocacy successful? In other words, how does Jesus handle the problem of humanity's sin?

According to [2:2b](#), whose sin does Jesus' advocacy address?

*Notice, He is our "Advocate with the Father." Our major concern in life is, "How will I be represented before the eternal God of heaven?" As a child of God, you can relax, we have an Advocate, even if we sin. —Pastor Chuck Swindoll*



### Interpretation: The Advocate and the Accuser

What does it mean that Jesus is our advocate? The Greek word translated "advocate" is *parakletos*. In the ancient Greek world, this term generally referred to someone who aided another. More specifically, though, this term was often used in a legal sense to describe a representative or a character witness. So another good translation for this term is "intercessor."



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Using the Greek dictionary available at [billmounce.com](http://billmounce.com), look up the term *parakletos*, and record any additional information you discover. In what ways does Jesus fulfill the roles of the *parakletos* for those who follow Him?

How does seeing Jesus as representing you before God, the holy and righteous judge, affect your understanding of the nature of your salvation, despite your sin?

Present in this scene of the heavenly courtroom is another party—the one who stands opposite the advocate and accuses the defendant of being unworthy to receive pardon. According to [Revelation 12:10–12](#), who is this accuser? How will the clash between the advocate and the accuser finally end? What does this reality mean for the human defendants?



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*Why is Jesus' advocacy so essential? First, we need an advocate because we continue to sin. Second, we need an advocate because we are weak, and we need extra strength to press on. Third, we need an advocate because we are continually being accused.*  
—Pastor Chuck Swindoll

How wonderful it is to know that Jesus has blessed His people by promising to advocate for them! Jesus shared these essential truths with His closest friends at the end of His earthly ministry. But He promised them something more: to send *another* advocate.



### Correlation: The Other Advocate

As the shadow of Jesus' coming crucifixion loomed over Him, His disciples began to worry. What would they do without their teacher, savior, and friend? Yet amid these dark fears, Jesus offered bright words of comfort: "But in fact, it is best for you that I go away, because if I don't, the Advocate won't come. If I do go away, then I will send him to you" (*John 16:7*).

What is the identity of this other advocate according to *John 14:16–17*?

According to *14:16–17, 26* and *15:26*, what roles would this other advocate have?

How is this different than Jesus' advocacy?



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Jesus sent the Holy Spirit as *another* advocate who would empower God's earthly people to carry on His heavenly mission. And though Jesus remains with the Father in heaven, the effects of His advocacy are very real on earth today.

### **Application: The Lasting Benefits of Christ's Advocacy**

Because Jesus offered His own spotless life, He stands in God's courtroom pleading the case for sinners and showing that His blood has erased their guilt. Pastor Chuck Swindoll states that, because we have an advocate, these lasting benefits remain true today:

1. We have been justified before God.
2. We claim forgiveness of our sins.
3. We gain strength amid our own weakness.
4. We live confidently despite the adversary's accusations.

The devil works in crafty ways. And his accusations against you often leave the stinging feelings of guilt, shame, or fear long after you've committed a sin. Yet the forgiveness the advocate provides not only erases the debt of sin. It eliminates the burden of sin as well.

Do you ever still feel accused even after you've asked God for forgiveness? What would it look like for you to embrace and to walk in His forgiveness?



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Have you ever felt alone or abandoned—as if no one in this world cares to look out for you or your needs? This sinful world is filled with people aching with these difficult feelings every day. What unmet needs do you face today? How can Jesus the advocate meet these deepest needs?

Without an advocate, sinners would remain guilty forever and never taste the glorious forgiveness Jesus Christ offers. Thankfully, He died and rose again and pleads on behalf of those who trust in Him as they find hope that God will declare them, “Not guilty,” and better yet . . .

“Righteous!”

As you conclude this series, praise your Savior for the hope you find in Him by using these words from Norman J. Clayton’s hymn, “My Hope Is in the Lord.”

*And now for me He stands,  
Before the Father’s throne.  
He shows His wounded hands,  
And names me as His own.<sup>2</sup>*



### A FINAL PRAYER

*Father, thank You for Your Son Jesus, whose name is above every other name. Thank You for His willingness to come to earth, to die on the cross, and to advocate for me so You might declare me righteous. Help me remember I have an advocate in Jesus Christ so I might live my life depending on the divine aid only He can provide. I pray In Jesus’ merciful name. Amen.*

#### ENDNOTES

1. To learn about Pastor Chuck Swindoll’s *Searching the Scriptures* method of Bible study, go to the web page, “[How to Study the Bible for Yourself](#).”
2. Norman J. Clayton, “My Hope Is in the Lord,” 1945, Hymnary.org, [https://hymnary.org/text/my\\_hope\\_is\\_in\\_the\\_lord\\_who\\_gave](https://hymnary.org/text/my_hope_is_in_the_lord_who_gave).

