

“What it Means to be Reformed”; Session #74 , Solus Christus - “The Intercession of Christ”, Prepared by Pastor Paul Rendall for the Adult Sunday School Class on May 1st, 2016.

Romans 8: 31-34 – “What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? He who did not spare His own Son, but delivered Him up for us all, how shall He not with Him also freely give us all things? Who shall bring a charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies.” “Who shall bring a charge against God's elect?” “It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.”

Our Lord Jesus Christ is the only Person who makes Intercession for God's saints. This is because neither the Virgin Mary, nor any of the saints, nor any other person's sufferings or obedience will merit favor with God so that they will be heard and we delivered from the guilt and power of our sinful weaknesses.

Christ Interceded for us in His obedience and Sufferings for us.

Hebrews 5: 1-10a – “For every high priest taken from among men is appointed for men in things pertaining to God, that he may offer both gifts and sacrifices for sins.” “He can have compassion on those who are ignorant and going astray, since he himself is also subject to weakness.” “Because of this he is required as for the people, so also for himself to offer sacrifices for sins.” “And no man takes this honor to himself, but he who is called by God, just as Aaron was.” “So also Christ did not glorify Himself to become high Priest, but it was He who said to Him: ‘You are My Son, today I have begotten You.’” “As He also says in another place: ‘You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek; who in the days of His flesh, when He had offered up prayers and supplications, with vehement cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and was heard because of His godly fear, though He was a Son, yet He learned obedience by the things which He suffered.’” “And having been perfected, He became the author of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, called by God as High Priest according to the order of Melchizedek.”

In these verses Christ is spoken of as appointed by God to His office as High Priest even as men like Aaron and his sons were appointed to their priestly office. They offered gifts and sacrifices for the sins of the people, but only in a typical fashion. These offerings had no efficacy of their own to atone for sins. But even though they were only typical, if a person believed, looking forward to the greater sacrifice of Christ, they would be saved; not by the ceremony but by faith in the coming Christ, the One who was anointed by God to be the High Priest of all of His people, both Old Testament and New. God's anointing of Christ was His appointing of Christ: “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” Jesus was acting in the capacity of being our great High Priest when He offered up prayers and supplications to God so that He would continue to have the holy resolution to endure all of the sufferings necessary to purchase our salvation. And in the process He learned obedience through the things that He suffered. This He did on our behalf. He was perfected in this way so that He would become the author of eternal salvation to all who will obey Him by believing in Him and learning to do what He says.

Listen to William Burkitt in his commentary on this: “As Christ's eminent dignity, so his exemplary obedience; he learned obedience; not by personal speculation, but by real experience;

he experimentally understood what obedience was. Note here, That there are two ways of learning obedience. 1. By the comprehension of the mind. 2. By the experience of sense. Christ as God was perfect in knowledge, nothing could be added to him, but when he became man, then he came to understand and learn by sufferings, which was a new method and way of knowing. And the obedience which Christ learned, was free and voluntary, universal and complete, sincere and pure, persevering and constant. Christ learned this lesson of obedience, not barely to know it, but to do it; to learn to obey, is to obey by the things which he suffered; he did perfectly learn, and experimentally understand, what obedience was. Blessed Jesus! As didst thou, so may we learn practical obedience by the things which we suffer.”