

## **Heb. 7:23-25 (BCF 26) “Always Interceding”**

**For the Children:** Have you ever had anyone “put in a good word” for you? Perhaps it was to clear your name of some false accusation. Perhaps it was someone offering to help you complete some task you should have done, but were unable to complete. The Lord Jesus “puts in a good word” for His children. He does so all the time, He answers the devil’s accusations against us. He explains that He has already done everything God requires of us – and paid for all our sins. Not that the Father is unaware of these things, or needs to be talked around. The Father appointed His Son to do this “interceding” on our behalf – for our salvation and our re-assurance. **Questions:** What does it mean to “intercede”? Why do we still need the Lord Jesus to intercede for us? Why is the Lord Jesus the best Intercessor we could ever have?

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### **Introduction:**

#### **First Point: What Makes Jesus the Greatest Intercessor**

- 1) Intercessor, Mediator and Advocate: V. 25 uses the term “intercession,” meaning pleading for someone. The BCF (like the Bible) also uses the terms “Mediator” (a “Go-Between”) and “Advocate” (a defense counsel or friend who pleads for someone at court), as parallel truths.
- 2) A Permanent Priesthood: The OT priesthood involved many priests, continually replaced, because they died. The one Great High Priest, Jesus Christ, rose from the dead and lives to continue His intercession permanently – a Priest like Melchizedek, according to God’s oath.
- 3) Greater Power: The Lord Jesus is superior to the OT priests because He is God as well as perfect man; the Great King, given all authority in heaven and on earth, with infinitely greater power and majesty. He alone is seated at the right hand of God.
- 4) The Most Listened-To: There is no one God listens to more than His Son. The Lord Jesus represents God to us and us to God, as Mediator. Therefore, God will grant us whatever we ask in His Name (Jn. 15:16, 16:23).
- 5) Greater Love: BCF 26 also adds that no one loves us more than the Lord Jesus. The extent of that love is seen in His suffering and death for us (Jn. 15:13).
- 6) A Matter of Trust: We should therefore trust no other more than the Lord Jesus for mediation, help and intercession.

#### **Second Point: What His Intercession Involves**

- 1) Able to Save Forever: Jesus’ once-for-all death cannot be repeated. It leads to God’s declaration that we are right with Him. In what sense does He “save forever” by His interceding from heaven (v. 25)? Not by a new work to obtain more merit. Rather, to apply that once-for-all work daily, as we daily commit fresh offences against God. In the same way, He answers the devil’s ongoing accusations against us (Rev. 12:10). This also gives us daily re-assurance, despite our ongoing sins. This is also part of the way God preserves us as His people and helps us to resist temptation (Heb. 2:17f). The Holy Spirit helps and comforts us on earth (Jn. 14:16, 26, 16:7) while Jesus helps and comforts us from heaven.
- 2) Able to Give Access: The Lord Jesus is the only “Way” of access to God’s Presence – into the “Most Holy Place.” When we drift, He brings us back again, so we draw near to the throne of grace – through prayer and worship. Jesus taught us how to pray and His intercession makes our prayers acceptable to God. He also sent His Spirit to help us pray.
- 3) Able to Make Offerings Acceptable: None of our “good works” would be accepted by God as “good,” apart from the Lord Jesus applying His work to us by His intercession. He applies His life to make our lives acceptable offerings to God.