



# A Ready Advocate

*My little children, I am writing you these things so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one. He himself is the atoning sacrifice for our sins, and not only for ours, but also for those of the whole world. ~ 1 John 2:1-2*


## Discover the Context

### 1 John 2

 The rest of 1 John 2 focuses on Jesus Christ—how we follow him, how we're changed by him, and why we wait for his return. It's such good stuff that we're going to spend the rest of this week working our way through this rich chapter of Scripture.

 “If we cannot claim to live sinless lives, then the only thing that can keep us from despairing before a holy God is that we have an advocate in heaven, and he pleads our case not on the basis of our perfection but of his propitiation.”

~ John Piper  
[www.desiringgod.org](http://www.desiringgod.org)

 Prayer is the way you plead your case with your advocate. Go to him daily confessing your sins and receiving his comfort.

Every time you buy a new piece of electronics or download a new app, you have to read and sign the user agreement. Well, at the very least you have to click a box at the bottom of the page saying that you've read and agree to all of it. You know it's all true and legit, but you also know there's probably only one piece of info at the very bottom that you need to remember.

Salvation is sort of like a user agreement in which God sets the terms, and we either agree or disagree. That's how 1 John 2 opens up. We know the first sentence is true and legit—the whole goal of Christianity is to make a better version of ourselves so we can be more pleasing to God. When we sign up to follow Jesus, we want to be perfect like him. We know that we're not supposed to sin. As followers of Christ, our desire is that we would sin less and less each day. Every time we do sin, we are frustrated with ourselves, and we know that we displease our Father in heaven.

But we also know we're going to fail. What we really, really, really need to remember is what comes next. John says, “If anyone does sin,” but he could have just said *when*, not *if*.

Here's the critical piece of info in the user agreement that we must remember and cling to. When we do sin, we have an advocate with the Father—Jesus Christ the righteous one. It's not up to us trying harder or making ourselves better. It's all about putting our faith in Jesus Christ who has done it perfectly for us in our place.

He is our advocate. He is our atoning sacrifice. And he is ready to plead for you and forgive you. And not just you, but anyone here at camp in your relational network and all around the world.

It's a given. You are going to sin. The question is, are you trusting Jesus to be your advocate? (JCR)