



"I shall now consider this discourse that follows, which lays open the heart of Christ, as now he is in heaven, sitting at God's right hand and interceding for us; how it is affected and graciously disposed towards sinners on earth that do come to him; how willing to receive them; how ready to entertain them; how tender to pity them in all their infirmities, both sins and miseries.

"The scope and use whereof will be this, to hearten and encourage believers to come more boldly unto the throne of grace, unto such a Saviour and High Priest, when they shall know how sweetly and tenderly his heart, though he is now in his glory, is inclined towards them.

"And so to remove that great stone of stumbling which we meet with in the thoughts of men in the way to faith, that Christ being now absent, and withal exalted to so high and infinite a distance of glory, as to 'sit at God's right hand,' they therefore cannot tell how to come to treat with him about their salvation so freely, and that hopefulness to obtain, as those poor sinners did, who were here on earth with him."

Continuing Engagements that Show Christ's Merciful Heart

1. Greater by comparison

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"Paul warbles out in all these strains of affections but the soundings of Christ's bowels in heaven, in a lower key. They are natural to Christ, they all and infinitely more are eminent in him" (201).

1. Greater by comparison

Christ's heart is greater than the greatest Christian's.

2. Proven in earthly suffering

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Christ's love did not faint in the days of greatest adversity.

3. Qualified to be High Priest

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"[I]f Christ will have and keep the greatest place in heaven, the highest preferment that heaven itself can bestow upon him, it engages him unto grace and mercy" (222).

3. Qualified to be High Priest

Christ's character perfectly fits His office.

4. Personally invested

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"[T]he human nature of Christ in heaven has a double capacity of glory, happiness and delight" (224).

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Christ's compassion flows from perfect personal motivation.

"Christ's manhood had all his largeness of mercy from the Deity" (230).

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"And he may as soon cease to be either [God or man] as to [not] be ready to show mercy" (231).

Christ's incarnation is everlasting.

Romans 8:34–35, 39

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Christ's love is always in the present tense.