

Lords Day 12

31. Q. Why is he called Christ, that is, Anointed?

A. Because he has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit, to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; our only High Priest, who by the one sacrifice of his body has redeemed us, and who continually intercedes for us before the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by his Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us

- The word “Christ”
 - In the Greek – “Christos”
 - Meaning:
 - The Deliverer
 - The Anointed One
 - The Messiah
 - When we say “Jesus Christ,” we are saying “Jesus the Messiah”
 - “Christ” – is not Jesus’s last name
 - It is a title – meaning “the Messiah”
 - **1 John 5:1** - *Everyone who believes that **Jesus is the Christ** has been born of God*
 - **Daniel 9:26** - *After those sixty-two weeks **the Anointed One** will be cut off*
 - Here we see a prophecy of the Messiah being executed by the death penalty over 500 years before He even existed on earth
- We see the work of the Trinity in full display
 - Christ was **anointed** by God the Father
 - **Psalm 45:7** - *Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companion*
 - We also see this verse quoted in reference to Jesus:
 - **Hebrews 1:9** - *Therefore God, your God, has anointed you with the oil of gladness beyond your companions*
 - Christ was **anointed** by the Holy Spirit
 - **Isaiah 61:1** - *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me*
 - We also see this verse quoted by Jesus Himself, referring to Himself
 - **Luke 4:18** - *The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me*
 - We see this anointing taking place in the chapter before
 - **Luke 3:21-22** - ²¹ *Now when all the people were baptized, and when Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, the heavens were opened, ²² and the Holy Spirit descended on him in bodily form, like a dove; and a voice came from heaven, “You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased*

- Jesus is our **Prophet**
 - **Deuteronomy 18:15** - *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen*
 - Muslims claim this verse refers to Muhammad himself
 - This cannot be the case:
 - The apostle Peter confirms that this is Jesus
 - **Acts 3:18** - ¹⁸ *But what God foretold by the mouth of all the prophets, that his **Christ** would suffer, he thus fulfilled*
 - **Acts 3:22-23** - ²² *Moses said, ‘The Lord God will raise up for you a prophet like me from your brothers. You shall listen to him in whatever he tells you. ²³ And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people.’*
 - The twofold ministry of Jesus as prophet:
 - 1 – To demonstrate God’s character and will to us in human form
 - 2 – To illuminate the mind and open the heart to receive and embrace the Gospel
 - The problem with many Christians
 - The tendency to start with the New Testament
 - The Gospel is the entire Bible
 - Not just the New Testament
 - Not just our favorite verses that are familiar to us
 - Jesus was prophesied in Genesis 3:15
 - He is prophesied all throughout the Old Testament
 - The New Testament is the fulfillment of what was already told to us
 - The Gospel is the entire Bible
 - We have 4,000 years of recorded inspired history at our disposal
 - We have a full detailed metanarrative about life and reality
- Jesus our **High Priest**
 - **Psalm 110:1**- *The Lord says to my Lord: “Sit at my right hand, until I make your enemies your footstool.*
 - The Father exalts Jesus our Messiah higher than any other name
 - This is the exaltation Jesus received after His incarnation, death, and resurrection
 - He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father
 - **Psalm 110:4** - *The Lord has sworn and will not change his mind, “You are a **priest** forever after the order of Melchizedek.*
 - Here the Davidic king serves as God’s priest “in the order of Melchizedek.”
 - Melchizedek was a priest-king over Jerusalem (Gen 14:18), who worshiped the one true God as supreme
 - Melchizedek appears at only three places in the Bible.
 - We first see him Genesis 14 as part of the story of Abraham.

- And then after one thousand years he is suddenly referenced in Psalm 110:4
- Then again after another thousand years he is seen as a key figure in the book of Hebrews, being mentioned 8 times
- Outside of Genesis 14, we have no idea who Melchizedek is
 - Some thought he was an angel
 - Others thought he was a preincarnate appearance of Christ
 - But none of these have biblical warrant
- He can be viewed as a “type” of Christ in the Old Testament
 - He was prince of Salem – which means “prince of peace”
- In Psalm 110:4 Melchizedek is seen as a type of the Messiah
- This would have been a unique title for Christ
 - Since kingly and priestly functions in Israel were never united as one
- The book of Hebrews tells us the priesthood of Jesus is better than the Levitical priesthood in 3 ways:
 - 1 – It established a better covenant
 - The covenant brought by Jesus did what the Old Covenant could not do
 - It changes the heart
 - 2 – It made real atonement
 - The Old Covenant sacrifices pointed to Christ
 - They were a type of what was to come
 - But they could not take away the sins of the people
 - Jesus made actual atonement for our sins by His blood
 - 3 – It did not need to be repeated
 - It was done once for all
 - We know His work was complete because after this He sat down at the right hand of God the Father
- Jesus Himself is both the sacrifice and the one who offers the sacrifice
 - Jesus willingly offered Himself for our sins
- So how does Jesus function as High Priest today?
 - 1 – Offering continual intercession for us
 - **Hebrews 7:25** – *Consequently, he is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make **intercession** for them*
 - Just as the High Priest on the Day of Atonement went into the Holy of Holies with the sacrifice to present to God
 - So Christ entered the heavenly Holy Place with His complete, perfect, and sufficient sacrifice
 - Just as the High Priest entered into the presence of God in the Holy Place

- So did Christ at His ascension as He is seated at the right hand of God
 - As the High Priest was a representative of his people before God
 - So is Christ a representative of His people before God
 - **Exodus 30:7-8** - ⁷ *And Aaron shall burn fragrant incense on it. **Every morning** when he dresses the lamps he shall burn it, ⁸ and when Aaron sets up the lamps at twilight, he shall burn it, a regular incense offering before the Lord throughout your generations.*
 - The incense rose up to the heavens
 - It was a symbol of Israel's prayers
 - It was also a symbol of the prayer of the High Priest
 - These prayers were connected with the application of the blood for their sins
 - The blood was applied to the horns of the golden altar, it symbolized blood atonement
 - Blood and intercession go hand-in-hand
 - Without the blood there is no intercession
 - After the blood, intercession continues
 - In the temple – burning the incense was a daily activity
 - It symbolized ministry intercession of the High Priest and God
 - The high point being the Day of Atonement where the High Priest went beyond the veil into the Holy of Holies to apply the blood
 - Today – Christ continues to make intercessory prayer for His own
 - The atonement has been made
 - The prayers of incense continue
- 2 – Being our Advocate for us
 - **1 John 2:1** - *My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an **advocate** with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous*
 - Advocacy is something that is done for us when we ask
 - It is for specific cases of sin
 - Christ as advocate pleads for us when we transgress God's law
 - Our sins are felt much more after we become believers than before
 - Sometimes we really mess up

- Because Christ is our advocate we are to never give up
 - Not because of our willpower and determination
 - But because of the grace Christ extends to us as our advocate
 - Jesus is not only the One who conquers the sin in your life
 - He is the one who walks with you in the midst of your sin
 - John Bunyan's quote:
 - Christ gave us:
 - His blood for redemption
 - Victory over death and the grave
 - Continual intercession
 - An advocate for when we still sin
- Christ our eternal King
 - **2 Sam 7:12-14** - *¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish his kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son. When he commits iniquity, I will discipline him with the rod of men, with the stripes of the sons of men*
 - **Zech 9:9** - *Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout aloud, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your king is coming to you; righteous and having salvation is he, humble and mounted on a donkey, on a colt, the foal of a donkey*
 - This verse was fulfilled during the triumphal entry of Jesus in Matthew 21
 - What we refer to as “Palm Sunday”
 - The Sunday before the crucifixion
 - **Luke 1:32-33** - *³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”*
 - Christ as King means:
 - The kingship of Christ is also a current spiritual activity
 - The kingdom of God has its effects up to this very present moment
 - Jesus is ruling on the throne right now
 - Christ is the King – the head of the church
 - The kingdom is not the church
 - The kingdom is not delayed until the future 2nd coming of Christ
 - Rather – Christ is the king and the head of the church right now
 - According to WSC #26 – Christ rules as king in three ways:
 - First - Christ as kings subdues us to Himself
 - Every Christian started out in Satan's kingdom
 - **Colossians 1:13** - *He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son*

- **Romans 5:8** - *but God shows his love for us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us*
- Second - He rules and defends us
- We now cast ourselves at His feet out of reverence and humility
 - **Psalm 18:2** – *The LORD is my rock and my fortress and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold*
 - **1 Peter 1:5** - *who by God's power are being guarded through faith for a salvation ready to be revealed in the last time*
- Third - He restrains and conquers His enemies
- Christ sets the boundaries to their power so that they cannot do what they want against his plan and interests
 - **1 John 3:8** - *Whoever makes a practice of sinning is of the devil, for the devil has been sinning from the beginning. The reason the Son of God appeared was to **destroy the works of the devil***
 - **Hebrews 2:14** - *Since therefore the children share in flesh and blood, he himself likewise partook of the same things, that through death he might destroy the one who has the power of death, that is, the devil*
 - **Revelation 17:17** - *for God has put it into their hearts to carry out his purpose by being of one mind and handing over their royal power to the beast, until the words of God are fulfilled*
 - **Philippians 2:10-11** - *¹⁰ so that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father.*

32. Q. Why are you called a Christian?

A. Because I am a member of Christ by faith and thus share in his anointing, so that I may as prophet confess his name, as priest present myself a living sacrifice of thankfulness to him, and as king fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and hereafter reign with him eternally over all creatures.

- Christians today do not function as the prophets did on the Old and New Testament
 - We no longer receive direct communication from God
 - We have His completed Word
- What we still continue to do today is revealing the will of God to everyone
 - Through his completed Word
 - We have what is sufficient
 - We have what is necessary

- Today we also have false prophets like they did in the Old Testament times
 - They come in the form of
 - Celebrities / politicians / news media / college professors / scientists
- Today's false prophets are easy to spot because they speak and live contrary to God's revealed Word
 - Atheist – evolution – Marxism – lies – propaganda – mockery -anti-supernatural
 - This is the fight we face today
 - The battle is really with Satan and his kingdom
 - The people who represent him are just the pawns
- How do Christians reign as kings today?
 - We fight with a free and good conscience against sin and the devil in this life
 - We do this with joy in our hearts
 - We do this out of meekness and humility
 - We do this with excitement that we have the opportunity to face persecution for remaining faithful to Him
 - We do this out of love, not to win the argument
 - We do this without fear of what others may think of us
 - We do this without fear of what others may do to us
 - We do this out of faith
 - We do not allow the opposition to force us into playing by their rules
 - Where God speaks – He is clear
 - Where God doesn't speak – we walk by faith
 - God does not give us exhaustive knowledge
 - Do not let the skeptic force you into answering their objections as they attempt to put God on the defense stand and demand an explanation
 - We do this anticipating the absolute expectation of the coming good
 - Our hope in spending eternity with Christ