

## A study of Jesus Christ

In our study of the glorification of Christ, his sitting at the right hand of the Father, we studied the three offices of Christ, which are his priestly office, his prophetic office and his regal office. Last week we determined that Christ is our Head, the head of the church and that we are its members. We also established that the link between the Head and his members cause us to strive to become more like our Head, not only personally, but corporately, as His body.

Our Christianity, therefore, rests firmly on our being members of Christ which we are in three respects:

1. Because, by faith and the Holy Spirit we are joined to him, and, also, united among ourselves just as the members of our bodies are connected with the head and with each other. The joining together of the members of Christ with each other and among themselves, is no less necessary for the safety of the church, than the conjunction of the whole body with Christ the head. If you separate the hand from the arm, you thereby separate it also from the body, so that it can no longer have any life.

**Eph 3:17: So that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith.**

2. Because we are quickened and governed by Christ, and draw from him, as the fountain, all good things, so that unless we continue in him we have no life in us, as the members cut off from the body can retain no life in themselves.

**John 15:6 If anyone does not remain in me, he is like a branch that is thrown away and withers; such branches are picked up, thrown into the fire and burned.**

3. Because, as in the body, there are different powers and functions belonging to the members, so there are different gifts and offices pertaining to the members of the church of Christ; and as all the actions of the different parts of the body contribute to its preservation, so all the members of Christ ought to refer whatever they do to the preservation and benefit of the church, which is the body of Christ.

**Rom 12:4-8 Just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, So in Christ**

## A study of Jesus Christ

we who are many form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; If it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully.

1Cor 12:7 – 14 Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. To one there is given through the Spirit the message of wisdom, to another the message of knowledge by means of the same Spirit, To another faith by the same Spirit, to another gifts of healing by that one Spirit, To another miraculous powers, to another prophecy, to another distinguishing between spirits, to another speaking in different kinds of tongues, and to still another the interpretation of tongues. All these are the work of one and the same Spirit, and he gives them to each one, just as he determines. The body is a unit, though it is made up of many parts; and though all its parts are many, they form one body. So it is with Christ. For we were all baptized by one Spirit into one body--whether Jews or Greeks, slave or free--and we were all given the one Spirit to drink. Now the body is not made up of one part but of many.

This is what it is to be a member of Christ, and in the foregoing we explained in what manner we are his members. But, we are not members of Christ by accident or invention; we are partakers of the anointing of Christ.

Anointing signifies a communion of the gifts and office of Christ; or it is a participation in all the gifts of Christ, and consists in the participation of his three offices: regal, sacerdotal or priestly office, and His prophetic office. To be partaker of the anointing of Christ is, therefore...

4. To be a partaker of the Holy Ghost and of his gifts, for the Spirit of Christ is not idle or inactive in us, but works the same in us that He does in Christ, except that Christ alone has more gifts than all of us and in a greater and higher degree.

## A study of Jesus Christ

5. That Christ communicates his prophetic, priestly, and kingly office unto us.

The prophetic dignity which is in Christians is an understanding, acknowledgment and confession of the true doctrine of God necessary for our salvation. Or, our prophetic office is...

1. Rightly to know God and his will
2. That every one in his place and degree profess the same, being correctly understood, faithfully, boldly, and constantly, that God may thereby be celebrated, and his truth revealed in its living force and power.

**Matt 10:32** Whoever acknowledges me before men, I will also acknowledge him before my Father in heaven.

The office of priest is to teach, to intercede, and to offer sacrifice. Our priesthood, therefore, is...

1. To teach others. That is, to show and communicate to them the knowledge of the true God.

**Luke 22:32** But I have prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not fail. And when you have turned back, strengthen your brothers.

2. To call upon God, having a correct knowledge of him
3. To render proper gratitude, worship and obedience to God, being sanctified by the sacrifice of Christ, which includes
  - a) That we offer ourselves by mortifying our old man, and giving our members as instruments of righteousness unto God.
  - b) Our prayers. **Heb 13:15** Through Jesus, therefore, let us continually offer to God a sacrifice of praise--the fruit of lips that confess his name.
  - c) Our alms. **Acts 10:4** Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.
  - d) Confession of the gospel. **Rom 15:16** To be a minister of Christ Jesus to the Gentiles with the priestly duty of proclaiming the

## A study of Jesus Christ

gospel of God, so that the Gentiles might become an offering acceptable to God, sanctified by the Holy Spirit.

e) Cheerful and patient endurance of the cross, and all the various calamities which God sends upon us.

Phil 2: 17 But even if I am being poured out like a drink offering on the sacrifice and service coming from your faith, I am glad and rejoice with all of you.

2 Tim 4: 6, 7 For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith.

Furthermore, Christ communicates his priestly office unto us...

1. by accomplishing and bringing to pass that we offer the above named sacrifices of thanksgiving.
2. by causing them to be acceptable and pleasing to God.

The sacrifice of Christ, therefore, differs from ours in the same way in which it differs from the sacrifices of the priests of old, namely,

1. Christ offered up a sacrifice of thanksgiving and propitiation, at the same time, we offer only sacrifices of thanksgiving. The priests of old also offered up sacrifices of thanksgiving, because these belong to the whole church, even from the beginning to the end of the world. The sacrifices, moreover, which they offered, were only typical, which is no longer the case, since all types and shadows have been done away with by Christ, who offered, not a typical sacrifice, but one that was real – the one which was signified by all the sacrifices of the Old Testament. This he did, because he was not a typical priest, but the true and great High Priest of the church, to whom all the others looked.
2. The sacrifice of Christ was perfect, ours is imperfect and defiled with many sins.
3. The sacrifice of Christ is meritorious in itself, and avails before God on account of itself. Our sacrifices mean nothing, and are pleasing to God only for the sake of the sacrifice of Christ.

## A study of Jesus Christ

The kingly office of Christians is...

1. To oppose and overcome, through faith, the devil, the world, and all enemies.
2. Having subdued all our enemies, to obtain at length through the same faith, eternal life and glory.

Matt 25:34 Then the King will say to those on his right, 'Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world.'

We are therefore, kings...

1. Because we are lords over all creatures in Christ; for, says the apostle, 1Cor 3:21 All things are yours.
2. Because we conquer all our enemies through faith in Christ "But thanks be to God! He gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ." (1Cor 15:57) "For everyone born of God overcomes the world. This is the victory that has overcome the world, even our faith. Who is it that overcomes the world? Only he who believes that Jesus is the Son of God." (John 5:4, 5)

The kingship of Christ, however, differs from that of Christians, in the following...

1. The kingdom of Christ is hereditary, for he is the natural Son of God, while we are the sons of God by adoption.  
Heb 1:2 But in these last days he has spoken to us by his Son, whom he appointed heir of all things, and through whom he made the universe.  
Heb 3:6 But Christ is faithful as a son over God's house. And we are his house, if we hold on to our courage and the hope of which we boast.
2. He alone is king over all creatures, and especially over the church; but we are kings and lords, not of angels and the church, but only of other creatures. Heaven, earth, and therefore all things shall serve us, for we shall be crowned with glory, majesty and the greatest excellency of gifts, so that we shall condemn devils and

## A study of Jesus Christ

wicked men, by cheerfully submitting and yielding to the judgment of God in passing sentence of condemnation upon them.

3. Hence we are kings, not over the church, but over all remaining creatures; but Christ rules with full right, not only over the whole church, but also over all creatures.

Matt 19:28 Jesus said to them, I tell you the truth, at the renewal of all things, when the Son of Man sits on his glorious throne, you who have followed me will also sit on twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

1Cor 6:2 Do you not know that the saints will judge the world? And if you are to judge the world, are you not competent to judge trivial cases?

4. Christ conquers his enemies by his own power, but we overcome our foes in and through him – by his grace and assistance.

John 16:33 I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.

5. Christ rules the world by the scepter of his word and Spirit, swaying our hearts and restoring in us his image which was lost. This is specific to Christ alone; for we are unable to give the Holy Spirit, being nothing more than ministers and administrators of the outward word and rites, as John the Baptist said

Matt 3:11 I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I, whose sandals I am not fit to carry. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire.

1Cor 3:5 What, after all, is Apollos? And what is Paul? Only servants, through whom you came to believe--as the Lord has assigned to each his task.

The use and importance of this doctrine is great...

1. For consolation, because we are through faith engrafted into Christ as members to the head, that we may be continually sustained, governed, and quickened by him; and because he makes us

## A study of Jesus Christ

prophets, priests, and kings unto God, his Father, by making us partakers of his anointing. This is truly an unspeakable dignity conferred upon Christians.

2. For admonition and exhortation. Since we are all prophets of God, we ought continually to celebrate and praise him. Since we are priests, we ought to offer ourselves wholly to God, as living sacrifices of praise and thanksgiving. Since we are kings it becomes us to fight bravely against sin, the world, and the devil, that we may reign with Christ.