

Lesson 11 - The Redeemer, Part 2: The Offices of the Redeemer, WCF 8, WLC 41-45

1. Because of our sin and misery, we cannot glorify and enjoy God in the way that we were meant to. How do we get back to the glorification and enjoyment of God? The answer: through Christ. Christ restores and redeems us to our original position.
2. The word Christ is a little complicated. Christ is the Greek word that translates a Hebrew word. The Hebrew word is meshiach. From this Hebrew word, we get our word "Messiah." Most people don't know that the Hebrew word from which Messiah is derived and the Greek word from which Christ is derived are the exact same. In English, they have a different meaning. In the original languages, they mean the same thing. Both mean "anointed one." The term "anointed one" indicates that the person is anointed to serve a particular function. For example, God sent Samuel to anoint David to serve as king in 1 Samuel 16.
3. So, there are many christs or messiahs (using the sense of the original). There are many anointed ones. There are prophets, priests, and kings in the Bible. So, for example, when David said, you don't kill the Lord's anointed one (Saul), he was saying, don't kill the Lord's christos (how it is translated in the Greek). This opens up the Old Testament. The anointed prophets, priests, and kings of the Old Testament teach us something about Jesus, the ultimate Christ.
4. So, Christ is a title not a last name. It would probably be better to translate the Greek as Christ Jesus rather than Jesus Christ, like we say President Washington or King David, not Washington President or David King. It gives the wrong impression.
5. So, there is a real richness here. In the Old Testament, there were three offices: prophet, priest, and king. We can learn a lot about them by studying the Old Testament. This long line of prophets, priests, and kings was God's way of teaching us about who Jesus is. Jesus becomes THE Christ and is anointed to serve as prophet, priest, and king.
6. We are finite, and we need an infinite reference point. God Himself provides that. Our temptation is always to pretend our knowledge is more extensive than it is. When it comes to the way of salvation, we do not know it at all unless God reveals it. Jesus is the one who bridges the gap. He shows us the ultimate meaning of our lives and the way to attain it. Think of John 3. He sets forth the way of salvation so clearly to Nicodemus that even a child can understand it. WLC 43 How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet? A. Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in his revealing to the church, in all ages, by his Spirit and word, and in divers ways of administration, the whole will of God, in all things concerning their edification and salvation.
7. We are required to answer for what we have made of ourselves. There will always be something lacking. Guilt is at the root of much of our self-conception, for we have done wrong. We are anxious about whether people will accept us or oppose us. God provides the perfect covering so that we can stand before God righteous. This is the work of Jesus Christ as a priest. "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God . . . let us then approach God's throne of grace with confidence, so that we may receive mercy

and find grace to help us in our time of need” (Heb. 4:14, 16).

8. Jesus offered Himself as substitutionary sacrifice for sin, and He makes intercession for us. “WLC 44 How doth Christ execute the office of a priest? A. Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering himself a sacrifice without spot to God, to be a reconciliation for the sins of his people; and in making continual intercession for them.” Hebrews 10:14: “For by one sacrifice he has made perfect forever those who are being made holy.” His intercession describes the fact that He not only has made the sacrifice but continually pleads its efficacy on behalf of His people before the throne: “Therefore he is able to save completely those who come to God through him, because he always lives to intercede for them” (Heb. 7:25).
9. We need leaders. Often the difference between success and failure is leadership. Where can we find the leader we need? Where can we find security and strength in an uncertain world? It is in our great King, Jesus Christ. A fulsome explanation of this is found in WLC 45: “How doth Christ execute the office of a king? A. Christ executeth the office of a king, in calling out of the world a people to himself, and giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them; in bestowing saving grace upon his elect, rewarding their obedience, and correcting them for their sins, preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings, restraining and overcoming all their enemies, and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory, and their good; and also in taking vengeance on the rest, who know not God, and obey not the gospel.” We should see ourselves as a people with a King!
10. One more point here. We are anointed ones as well. Hence, we are called Christians. This is from Heidelberg Catechism Q&A 32: “Q. But why are you called a Christian? A. Because by faith I am a member of Christ and so I share in his anointing. I am anointed to confess his name, to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks, to strive with a free conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for eternity.”