

deeper

word faith life

Module 2

The Doctrine of Christ

Prophecy and the Birth of Christ

The Law and the Cross of Christ

The Doctrine of the Holy Spirit

The Baptism of the Holy Spirit

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Session 4 – The Doctrine of Christ or Christology

THE WORK OF CHRIST

We continue to look at the Work of Christ but we will now move our attention to the work that He is currently doing in relation to our security as believers and to the broader Kingdom of God. Jesus is fulfilling a role on our behalf even now in His resurrected and glorified state, seated at the right hand of the Father.

The Three Offices of Christ

In the Old Testament times during the kingdom era of Israel, there were three very important roles in society; the Prophet, the Priest and the King. We are going to examine how Jesus fulfils each of these roles perfectly and brings to completion the foreshadowing or types of these functions from the Old Testament. Everything written in the Old Testament in relation to the worship of God and the care and governance of God's people points ultimately to Christ.

_____ - Spoke the Word of God to the people. A prophet declared God's truth and revealed God's plans for the future. Some like Elijah and Elisha even performed miracles. Moses was considered the greatest prophet in Israel's history, he predicted that in time a prophet like himself would be raised up.

Deuteronomy 18:18 - "I will raise up for them a prophet like you from among their fellow Israelites, and I will put my words in his mouth. He will tell them everything I command him."

After Jesus miracle of feeding the crowd with the loaves and fish the people perceived that they were in the presence of someone special.

John 6:14 - "After the people saw the sign Jesus performed, they began to say, "Surely this is the Prophet who is to come into the world."

Peter also identifies Jesus as the prophet to come spoken of by Moses.

Acts 3:22,24 - "For Moses said, 'The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among your own people; you must listen to everything he tells you. "Indeed, beginning with Samuel, all the prophets who have spoken have foretold these days."

Jesus is far greater than all of the prophets of the Old Testament.

Hebrews 1:1-3 - "In the past God spoke to our ancestors through the prophets at many times and in various ways, but in these last days He has spoken to us by His Son, whom He appointed heir of all things, and through whom also He made the universe. The Son is the radiance of God's glory and the exact representation of His being, sustaining all things by his powerful word. After He had provided purification for sins, He sat down at the right hand of the Majesty in heaven."

Jesus is greater because He not only speaks the Word of God to the people, but He is the Word.

John 1:1,14 "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth."

He is the one whom the Old Testament prophets were speaking about, and He is also the one from whom they receive their inspiration and revelation. So, when Jesus spoke in the synagogue in Nazareth on the Sabbath in Luke 4:16-30, He read from Isaiah 61:1,2, this is what He read:

Luke 4:18-19 - "The Spirit of the Lord is on me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim freedom for the prisoners and recovery of sight for the blind, to set the oppressed free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour."

What He was in actual fact doing was repeating what He had already spoken through the prophet Isaiah more than seven hundred years before.

Jesus truly is the ultimate prophet who speaks the Word of God to us and who is also the Word of God in the flesh!



_____ - Served as a mediator between man and God. In the Old Testament the Levitical priest would offer sacrifices, prayers and praise to God on behalf of the people, thereby sanctifying them and making it possible for them to enter God's presence. This was a function that had to be repeated every year on the Day of Atonement. Jesus is our ultimate high priest who's priesthood is far superior to that of the Levitical priesthood of the Old Testament. The letter to the Hebrews carries this theme to a beautiful conclusion, particularly chapters four to ten.

Jesus is our perfect mediator

1 Timothy 2:5 - "For there is one God and one mediator between God and mankind, the man Christ Jesus."

Hebrews 4:14-16 - "Therefore, since we have a great high priest who has ascended into heaven, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold firmly to the faith we profess. For we do not have a high priest who is unable to empathise with our weaknesses, but we have one who has been tempted in every way, just as we are, yet He did not sin. 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."

Jesus offered a perfect sacrifice for our sin

It was not the blood of animals as the earthly priests were instructed to offer, but He offered Himself as the perfect sacrificial lamb without defect or blemish.

Hebrews 7:26-27 - "Such a high priest truly meets our need, one who is holy, blameless, pure, set apart from sinners, exalted above the heavens. Unlike the other high priests, He does not need to offer sacrifices day after day, first for His own sins, and then for the sins of the people. He sacrificed for their sins once for all when He offered Himself."

Hebrews 9:26 - "But He has appeared once for all at the culmination of the ages to do away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself."

Hebrews 10:1-4 - "The law is only a shadow of the good things that are coming, not the realities themselves. For this reason it can never, by the same sacrifices repeated endlessly year after year, make perfect those who draw near to worship. Otherwise, would they not have stopped being offered? For the worshipers would have been cleansed once for all, and would no longer have felt guilty for their sins. But those sacrifices are an annual reminder of sins. It is impossible for the blood of bulls and goats to take away sins."

Jesus' priesthood is eternal

God never meant for the Levitical priesthood to continue for ever, it was intended to foreshadow the ministry and work of Christ. Jesus' priesthood is eternal unlike the Levitical priesthood.

Hebrews 7:16-17 - "One who has become a priest not on the basis of a regulation as to His ancestry but on the basis of the power of an indestructible life. For it is declared: "You are a priest forever, in the order of Melchizedek."

Jesus draws us closer to God

Jesus continually leads us into God's presence. Because of Jesus, we have full access to the Father's presence, something no other people have ever had. The veil was torn from top to bottom and we now have an open way into God's presence with full confidence and assurance faith.

10:19-23 - "Therefore, brothers and sisters, since we have confidence to enter the Most Holy Place by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way opened for us through the curtain, that is, His body, and since we have a great priest over the house of God, let us draw near to God with a sincere heart and with the full assurance that faith brings, having our hearts sprinkled to cleanse us from a guilty conscience and having our bodies washed with pure water. Let us hold unswervingly to the hope we profess, for He who promised is faithful."



Jesus continually intercedes for us

Another aspect of the Old Testament priestly duty was to represent the people to God in prayer, praying for the needs of the nation. Jesus continues to pray and intercede for us.

Hebrews 7:24-25 - "But because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them."

Louis Berkhof in his Systematic Theology says this: "It is a consoling thought that Christ is praying for us, even when we are negligent in our prayer life; that He is presenting to the Father those spiritual needs which were not present to our minds and which we often neglect to include in our prayers; and that He prays for our protection against the dangers of which we are not even conscious, and against the enemies which threaten us, though we do not notice it. He is praying that our faith may not cease, and that we may come out victoriously in the end."

_____ - In the Old Testament, after God relented and allowed Israel to have a king, all authority to rule the nation was vested in this king. David was without a doubt Israel's most loved King. Even God called him a man after His own heart. (1 Samuel 13:14) God made a promise to David;

2 Samuel 7:16 - "Your house and your kingdom will endure forever before me; your throne will be established forever."

This promise was fulfilled in Jesus the Messiah who is also referred to as the "Son of David".

Luke 1:31-33 - "You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call Him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David, and He will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; His kingdom will never end."

Not only did Jesus qualify as an earthly king of David's line, but He is also the king of the heavenly kingdom. At His trial, He answered the Roman governor Pilate,

John 18:36 - "Jesus said, "My kingdom is not of this world. If it were, my servants would fight to prevent my arrest by the Jewish leaders. But now my kingdom is from another place."

After His death and resurrection God raised Him up to His rightful place of honour and glory.

Ephesians 1:20-23 - "...when He raised Christ from the dead and seated Him at His right hand in the heavenly realms, far above all rule and authority, power and dominion, and every name that is invoked, not only in the present age but also in the one to come. And God placed all things under His feet and appointed Him to be head over everything for the church, which is His body, the fullness of Him who fills everything in every way."

His rule, authority, power and dominion will be fully visible and recognisable to all the world when He returns in all of His splendour and majesty.

Jesus Will Return

We will deal with this subject under Eschatology in our future modules, but we do need to make short mention of it here. His return is something that will happen in the future in a most spectacular way. We don't know when this event will occur but Jesus is emphatic about it.

Matthew 24:44 - "So you also must be ready, because the Son of Man will come at an hour when you do not expect Him."

John 14:3 - "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am."

And after His ascension the angels spoke to His disciples;

Acts 1:11 - "Men of Galilee," they said, "why do you stand here looking into the sky? This same Jesus, who has been taken from you into heaven, will come back in the same way you have seen Him go into heaven."



Paul the apostle states the following:

1 Thessalonians 4:16 - "For the Lord himself will come down from heaven, with a loud command, with the voice of the archangel and with the trumpet call of God..."

The author of Hebrews says this:

Hebrews 9:28 - "so Christ was sacrificed once to take away the sins of many; and He will appear a second time, not to bear sin, but to bring salvation to those who are waiting for Him."

There are many more explicit references to Jesus' return for us to ignore or explain away. He will return in the flesh as a man to rule and reign. We must be ready!

At His First Coming He entered the world stage as a baby in a manger. He ended His earthly ministry by riding into Jerusalem on a donkey to be humiliated on a cross. His Second Coming is going to be quite the opposite.

Revelation 19:11-16 - "I saw heaven standing open and there before me was a white horse, whose rider is called Faithful and True. With justice He judges and wages war. His eyes are like blazing fire, and on His head are many crowns. He has a name written on Him that no one knows but He Himself. He is dressed in a robe dipped in blood, and His name is the Word of God. The armies of heaven were following Him, riding on white horses and dressed in fine linen, white and clean. Coming out of His mouth is a sharp sword with which to strike down the nations. "He will rule them with an iron sceptre." He treads the winepress of the fury of the wrath of God Almighty. On his robe and on his thigh he has this name written: King of kings and Lord of lords.

Let's live ready!

Memory Verse:

Hebrews 7:24-25

"But because Jesus lives forever, He has a permanent priesthood. Therefore He is able to save completely those who come to God through Him, because He always lives to intercede for them."

