

Good evening. We're continuing our study of the Baptist Catechism.

- Tonight we come to Question 27.
- And our Question is: **“What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?”**

Our Question today follows logically from Questions 24-26.

- All of these Questions speak about our Lord Jesus.
- In Q.24, we learned that God chose, from all eternity, to save His Elect by entering into a Covenant of Grace, bringing them out of the state of sin and misery and into a state of salvation, BY A REDEEMER.
- Q.25 delved into the identity and natures of the Redeemer.
- And then in Q. 26 we were taught how the Redeemer, the Son of God, became a man in order to save us.

So now, having established the necessity, identity, natures, and incarnation of our Redeemer, the Catechism asks us, **“WHAT OFFICES does Christ execute AS OUR REDEEMER?”**

- The Redeemer has to do something if He is to be the Redeemer. That is, HE MUST REDEEM. And that's work.
- So then, what did and does He do in order to bring redemption to God's Elect?
- Our Lord had to execute particular offices, particular responsibilities, in order to accomplish our salvation.
- So what were they? What did He do?

This evening, we'll broadly consider the work of

Christ.

- And, as we'll see in a moment, He executed three offices for our redemption: That of Prophet, Priest, and King of God's People.

- Questions 28-30 will deal with each of these offices specifically.

- So tonight we'll be considering each of them briefly.

My aim in this sermon is to show you that our Lord is the Anointed One of God.

- That He is God's chosen One, who in every regard accomplishes all the OT pointed to and promised.

- And that in His offices, He gives us everything we need as weak, ignorant, and needy sinners.

- So I hope we all leave here with hearts full of joy and the praises of God in our mouths, saying, "Jesus is the Christ. Jesus is all I need."

- May God bless the preaching of His Word.

At this time I'll pray. And then we'll get into our Question for this evening.

(PRAY)

Our Gracious God,

- Thank you for another opportunity to gather on your holy day, to sit under the ministry of your holy Word, and to bless your holy Name.*

- We long to see Christ. So, by your Spirit working through the Word and minister, open our eyes.*

- Cause us to see what we, by nature, cannot see.*

- Show us Christ. Make us glad in Him.*

- *Show us how you have met our every need in Him.*
- *Show us that Christ is all. And cause our hearts to worship with all godly sincerity and devotion.*
- *Work in us now for the glory of your Name.*
- *We ask these things in Jesus' Name and for His sake.*
- *Amen.*

Our Question for this evening. I ask that you read the Answer with me.

• **Q.** What offices does Christ execute as our Redeemer?

• **A.** Christ as our Redeemer executes the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in His state of humiliation and exaltation.

• *(Let's do that again.)*

1.) Since our focus this evening is on Jesus Christ in His OFFICES, we need to first consider the concept of "Christ."

• I don't mean that in a mystic way. "Christ" is a title. It's an OT concept.

• "Christ" is the Greek translation of the Hebrew word that we render "Messiah." And "messiah" means "anointed one."

In the OT, there were many "anointed ones."

• Really, three major groups/classes of men were anointed before the LORD.

• And to "anoint" means to cover, pour, or smear with oil

in a ceremonial way, according to the command of God.

- It was a symbolic/ceremonial thing, that God commanded to be done to certain men. We'll get to the meaning of anointing in a moment.

But first, I want to show you the three classes of men who were anointed before the Lord:

1. First, OT prophets were anointed.

- We have once instance of a prophet being literally anointed in the OT.

- In 1 Kings 19:16, God says to the prophet Elijah , "... and Elisha the son of Shaphat of Abel-meholah you shall ANOINT to be PROPHET in your place."

- Elijah was to anoint Elisha as prophet.

But there are other references to prophets being anointed in a metaphorical sense.

- In Psalm 105:15, God says, "Touch not my anointed ones, do my prophets no harm!"

- God's "anointed ones" is parallel to "my prophets."

- Prophets are the "anointed ones" of God.

2. Second, OT priests were anointed.

- Exodus 30:30 says, "You shall ANOINT Aaron and his sons, and consecrate them, that they may serve me as PRIESTS."

- Every single priest in Israel was anointed before the LORD before they could enter into His service as priests.

3. Third, OT kings were anointed.

- In 1 Samuel 19:16, God, spoke to Samuel about the future king, Saul, saying, “Tomorrow about this time I will send to you a man from the land of Benjamin, and you shall ANOINT him to be PRINCE OVER MY PEOPLE Israel...”

- The same thing happened to King David in 1 Samuel 16:13: “Then Samuel took the horn of oil and ANOINTED him in the midst of his brothers. And the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon David from that day forward...”

And there are tons of references in the Psalms to “God’s anointed” that are about God’s chosen King.

- Psalm 2 is probably the most famous: “The kings of the earth set themselves, and the rulers take counsel together against the LORD and against HIS ANOINTED...”

So prophets, priests, and kings were all anointed before the LORD.

- Now, what’s the significance of anointing?
- Anointing was a sign that the one anointed was chosen and appointed by God to do a particular work.
- The one anointed had been set apart by God to do something important.

It was also a sign that the Holy Spirit rested upon/ was at work in the one anointed to empower him to do the work had assigned.

- We just read that when King David was anointed, the Spirit of the LORD rushed upon him from that day on.
- We read again in Isaiah 61:1, “The Spirit of the Lord

GOD is upon me, because the LORD has ANOINTED me to bring good news to the poor..."

- Being anointed was a sign that the Holy Spirit was with and empowering the man to do what God had called him to do.

Now, what's really awesome is that God had promised a future coming of an Anointed One.

- In Deuteronomy 18:15 God promised that a great Prophet would come. And that All must listen to Him.

- Psalm 110 tells of a great Priest after the order of Melchizedek who was to come.

- And 2 Samuel 7 speaks of a descendant of David who would reign over God's People as eternal King.

I don't know if anyone could've ever saw it coming, but these promises of a Prophet, Priest, and King were to all be fulfilled in ONE PERSON.

- All of these offices were to be combined in one Man: Our Lord Jesus Christ.

See this: Jesus is the THE Anointed One.

- "Christ" is NOT His last name.

- "Christ" is His TITLE.

- Jesus Christ is really Jesus THE Christ. Jesus the Messiah. Jesus the Anointed One.

- In Matthew 16:16 Peter makes the good confession, **"You are THE CHRIST, the Son of the living God."**

He was anointed by the Holy Spirit at His baptism.

- Matthew 3:16-17 says, **"And when Jesus was baptized, immediately He went up from the water, and**

behold, the heavens were opened to him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and coming to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, 'This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.'"

- What was once symbolized in anointing with oil finds its total fulfillment in our Lord Jesus Christ.

- And that signals to us that He is THE ONE!
- His baptism was His FORMAL installation into His offices as the Messiah.

Consider these glorious things about our Lord:

- He was appointed to His work from all eternity.
- God had chosen His only begotten Son to be the Redeemer of the Elect.
- In His human nature, He was given authority by God to do His work. As He said in John 6:27, "For on Him God the Father has set His seal."
- He was qualified and able to do His work, having the Holy Spirit without measure, as He said in John 3:34: "For He whom God has sent utters the words of God, for gives the Spirit without measure."
- He was publicly declared to be approved by God to do His work at His baptism, as God spoke from heaven.
- And He actually accomplished all of His work, as He declares in John 17:4: "I glorified you on earth, having accomplished the work that you gave me to do."

Jesus is the Anointed One to the highest degree.

- He is what all OT prophets, priests, and kings pointed to: God's chosen Redeemer.

2.) Now, our Answer speaks of Christ executing His

offices “both in His state of humiliation and exaltation.”

- But what does that mean?

Christ’s “state of humiliation” refers to his time of humility and suffering.

•This is His earthly ministry where He dwelled in the weakness of unglorified human nature, alongside many who rejected Him, disrespected Him, and harmed Him in many ways.

His “state of exaltation” refers to the exact opposite of that.

- His state of exaltation began at His Resurrection.
- It’s the time from that point to eternity, where He is glorified, high above all, never to suffer again.
- Where He reigns as King of kings and Lord of lords, exercising dominion over all things in unveiled glory in both natures.
- This is His state now and forevermore. Exalted high above all.

Our Lord executed His offices in one respect while on earth.

- And He continues to execute them now that He glorified and seated at the right hand of the Father in Heaven, but in a different way.
- So, as I walk through each of His offices in a moment, I’ll address how He executes them in each state.

3.) First, let’s consider how Christ executes His office of PROPHET.

- Well, what does a prophet do?

- A prophet speaks the Word of God to men. He takes what God has said and, without altering it in any way, delivers it to men.

- A prophet reveals the way of salvation through faith in God's promises and warns of damnation to those who resist and refuse the Lord.

- He instructs sinners in what they are to believe, do, say, and think, issuing commandments on behalf of God.

- He tells of what pleases and displeases the Lord.

- He sets the Word of God before men in order to remove their blindness and ignorance that they might walk in the light of God.

Jesus Christ is the Great Prophet.

- In Acts 3:22-26, the Apostle Peter preached, saying,

- “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. And it shall be that every soul who does not listen to that prophet shall be destroyed from the people. And all the prophets who have spoken, from Samuel and those who came after him, also proclaimed these days. You are the sons of the prophets and of the covenant that God made with your fathers, saying to Abraham, ‘And in your offspring shall the families of the earth be blessed.’ God, having raised up His servant, sent Him to you first, to bless you by turning every one of you from your wickedness.”

- God has revealed the Prophet Moses predicted, by raising Him from the dead.

- He is our Lord Jesus.

- God sent Him to prophesy. And all who do not listen to

and obey His Word will be destroyed. For His Word is the Word of God.

In His state of humiliation, our Lord exercised this office.

- He preached. He preached everywhere.
- Yes, He did miracles. But His primary ministry was to declare the Word of God to men.
- He even moved from one town where He did many miracles, saying, “Let us go on to the next towns, that I may preach there also, FOR THAT IS WHY I CAME OUT.” (Mark 1:38)

He preached in synagogues, on mountainsides, in villages, everywhere.

- He preached the Gospel. That the time had finally come where God would establish His Kingdom, save His People, reign over the whole world through His Messiah.
- He preached that sinners must believe in Him or perish.
- And He preached and clarified God’s moral will for mankind, taking away all the traditions of men and leaving only the undefiled Word of God.
- Jesus was a preacher. He was the Prophet foretold.

And even in His exaltation, He continues to speak.

- Even now He preaches from heaven, by the power of the Holy Spirit, through His Word and ministers.
- Hebrews 12:25 says, “See that you do not refuse Him who is speaking. For if they did not escape when they refused him who warned them on earth, much less will

we escape if we reject Him who warns from Heaven.”

- The Apostle was speaking there of Christ.
- And he said that Christ was speaking even through the written Word. That, as the letter was read, Christ was, warning from Heaven that sinners must repent and believe on Him.

And again, the Apostle Paul says in 2 Corinthians 13:3, “since you seek proof that Christ is speaking IN ME...”

- Paul claimed that Christ was speaking through him when he spoke as an Apostle.
- That means that Christ supernaturally preaches through His ministers.
- And again, Romans 10:14 says of preaching, “And how are they to believe HIM whom they have never heard.”
- When the Word of God is rightly preached, it is JESUS CHRIST who is speaking through the mouth of the minister, by His Holy Spirit, to the hearts of men.

Hear that: When the Word of God is read or rightly preached, Christ is the One speaking.

- He’s exercising His office of Prophet, even as He reigns from Heaven and is absent from Earth.
- How? Because it is HIS WORD that is being read and preached.
- It is, as Romans 10:17 calls it, “the Word of Christ.”
- Jesus Christ is God. So His Word is the Word of God.
- And when the Word speaks, Christ speaks.
- Christ was and is our Prophet.

2. Second, Christ exercises His office of PRIEST.

- A priest offers sacrifices to God on behalf of God's sinful People.
- He mediates, he stands in for, acts as a go-between, for God's People.
- He stands in the gap between sinful men and the holy God, making peace between them, as God commands and instructs him to do.
- A priest secures the blessings of God for God's weak and sinful People by fulfilling for them what God requires for blessing and forgiveness. And by his work, it is given to the People.
- And a priest intercedes on behalf of God's People. He prays for them. He offers their praise and worship to God on their behalf. He secures their acceptance with God and makes all they do in faith acceptable in God's sight.

Jesus Christ is the Great High Priest of His People.

•Hebrews 5:5-10 says, "So also Christ did not exalt Himself to be made a high priest, but was appointed by Him who said to Him, 'You are my Son, today I have begotten you'; as He says also in another place, 'You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.' In the days of His flesh, Jesus offered up prayers and supplications with loud cries and tears to Him who was able to save Him from death, and He was heard because of His reverence. Although He was a son, He learned obedience through what suffered. And being made perfect, He became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey Him, being designated by God a high priest after the order of Melchizedek."

- And again in 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.”

- Christ is the eternal, undying priest, after the order of Melchizedek.

- He is the source of our salvation. For He offered the sacrifice that takes away our sin.

- And He alone lives forever to make intercession for those who draw near to God through Him.

- Jesus is the Great High Priest of the New Covenant.

As we all know very well, He exercised this office in His state of humiliation.

- Acting as Priest, He offered Himself as the sacrifice that takes away our sin.

- As the sin offering under the Old Covenant received the ceremonial laying on of hands, symbolizing the transfer of sin from the sinner to the sacrifice, our Lord took our sins upon Himself.

- And as the old sacrifice was slaughtered and its blood was poured out on the altar, our Lord was nailed to a cross, offering His blood and life in our place for our sins.

- The wages of sin is death. And Christ gave Himself up to death that we, the guilty, might live in Him.

- “Behold, the Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!” (John 1:29)

- As both the sacrifice and the Priest, our Lord offered Himself up to God, suffering God’s wrath in our place, and thereby purchased our reconciliation to the God we’ve sinned against.

- And in His death, He interceded for us. He stood in the gap. He made atonement for our sins.

But not only in His death. Even in His life, He interceded for us.

- In John 17, the High Priestly Prayer, Jesus prayed for us.

- He said, “I am not praying for the world but for those whom you have given me, for they are yours.” (V9)

- And again, “I do not ask that you take them out of the world, but that you keep them from the evil one.” (V15)

- And, “Sanctify them in the truth; your Word is truth.” (V17)

- And again, “I do not ask for these only, but also for those who will believe in me through their word...” (v21)

- And, “Father, I desire that they also, whom you have given me, may be with me where I am, to see my glory that you have given me because you loved me before the foundation of the world.” (V24)

- He prayed for us. That God would bless us, save us, sanctify us, preserve us, and bring us to His side.

And even now, He continues to be our High Priest.

- He doesn't offer Himself as a sacrifice anymore. “For by a single offering He has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified.” (Hebrews 10:14)

- But He continues as Priest, mediating the blessings that He purchased for us in His sacrifice.

- He sends His Spirit upon us to grant us new hearts, faith, and new wills to believe in Him.

- He grants us repentance and increased desires for holiness.

- He gives us perseverance and preservation, that none for whom He died will ever be lost.

- He has purchased our redemption. And He gives it to us.

And He prays for us. Even now, He prays for us.

- He prays alongside us, appealing to His Father to forgive us for His sake. To bless us and strengthen us for His sake. To keep us for His sake.

- He sets His wounds before the face of God day and night, always interceding, saying, “For my sake, because of my sacrifice, because of the Covenant that I mediate, be God to them!”

- And, for His sake, we are blessed and kept and saved.

- Christ was and is our Great High Priest.

3. Third, Christ exercises His office of KING.

- What does a king do? (A good king, that is.)

- A king subdues his people. He brings them in line under his rule.

- He reigns over them, enforcing law and order in his domain.

- He protects his people from all enemies. He ensures that they’re provided for and cared for well.

- And He conquers any who would attempt to harm them.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is King of His People.

- In Psalm 2:6, which is fulfilled in Christ, God says, “As for me, I have set my King on Zion, my holy hill.”

- Daniel 7:14: “And to Him was given dominion and

glory and a kingdom, that all peoples, nations, and languages should serve Him...”

•And in Matthew 28:18 Jesus says, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me.”

•Christ is King!

He was King even during His time of humiliation.

•He established His Kingdom when He came. He proclaimed that the Kingdom of God was at hand.

•And He inaugurated His Kingdom by His death and resurrection.

•During His earthly ministry, He drew Elect sinners to Himself. He subdued His subjects.

•He gave law in His preaching as He clarified and cleared away the abuses of God’s Word.

•He appointed men to positions of authority, as a kind of governors, Apostles, to administer, in an earthly and instrumental way, His covenant.

•In His death, He saved His People from the enemy called sin.

•And by His resurrection, He conquered Satan and death, defeating in principle every earthly power that would hold sway over His subjects.

And in His exaltation, He reigns as King.

•By His Holy Spirit, through the preaching of His Word, He subdues His People and brings them to Himself.

•He reigns over His Church by His Word and Spirit, as its Head, through His commands and discipline.

•He protects us by preserving our souls from the attacks of Satan and the flesh.

•He even protects our lives until God’s appointed time

for our deaths.

- He provides for us as He governs all things by His divine Providence, giving us what we need when we need it, both spiritually and materially.

- He conquers our enemies of sin and Satan in this life as we grow in holiness, by His grace.

- And one Day, He will conquer EVERY ENEMY when He returns **“in glory and in judgment.”**

- He is our precious King!

4.) And He executes all of these offices “as our Redeemer.”

- Friends, I hope you know very well that our salvation, to the glory of God, was the purpose of Christ’s work.

- That’s why He did what He did and does what He does. It’s for us!

- What grace! What kindness!

- Who are we that we should be so served by God?

In Christ, every need is met:

- We’re ignorant, foolish, and darkened in our understanding by nature.

- And He is our Prophet who teaches us the Word and will of God.

We’re sinful and damnable and liable to God’s judgment for our sin.

- And He is our Priest who has offered the sacrifice that takes away our sins and saves us from the wrath to come.

We’re rebellious by nature, weak even after

conversion, and have many enemies in this world.

- And He is our King who subdues us, protects us, sanctifies us, and conquers every enemy in time.

Brothers and sisters, Christ is yours in all of these offices!

- So you can rely on Him in every way.
- Look to Him as your Prophet.
- Trust in Him as your Priest.
- Rest in Him as your King.

Christ really is our redemption in every way.

- 1 Corinthians 1:30 says, “And because of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became to us wisdom from God, righteousness and sanctification and redemption...”

- He is our Wisdom (Prophet), righteousness (Priest), and sanctification (King).

- That is, He is our redemption! He is our Redeemer!

So may every one of us, from the depths of our hearts, say, “Bless the Lord! The Christ has done it!”

- Amen.