



Advanced Bible Correspondence Course Lesson 12: God the Son

LORD'S DAY 12

Q.31. WHY IS HE CALLED *CHRIST*, THAT IS, ANOINTED?

ANSWER: BECAUSE HE IS ORDAINED BY GOD THE FATHER, AND ANOINTED WITH THE HOLY GHOST (A), TO BE OUR CHIEF PROPHET AND TEACHER (B), WHO HAS FULLY REVEALED TO US THE SECRET COUNSEL AND WILL OF GOD CONCERNING OUR REDEMPTION (C); AND TO BE OUR ONLY HIGH PRIEST (D), WHO BY THE ONE SACRIFICE OF HIS BODY, HAS REDEEMED US (E), AND MAKES CONTINUAL INTERCESSION WITH THE FATHER FOR US (F); AND ALSO TO BE OUR ETERNAL KING, WHO GOVERNS US BY HIS WORD AND SPIRIT, AND WHO DEFENDS AND PRESERVES US IN (THE ENJOYMENT OF) THAT SALVATION, HE HAS PURCHASED FOR US (G).

(A)PSALM 45:7; HEBREWS 1:9; ISAIAH 61:1; LUKE 4:18; (B)DEUT. 18:15; ACTS 3:22, 7:37; ISAIAH 55:4; (C)JOHN 1:18, 15:15; (D)PSALM 110:4; (E)HEBREWS 10:12 & 14, 9:12, 14 & 28; (F)ROMANS 8:34; HEBREWS 9:24; I JOHN 2:1; ROMANS 5:9 & 10; (G)PSALM 2:6; ZECHARIAH 9:9; MATTHEW 21:5; LUKE 1:33; MATTHEW 28:18; JOHN 10:28; REVELATION 12:10 & 11.

The Name Christ

The apostle Paul wrote in I Timothy 2:5, "*There is one Mediator between God and men, the Man Christ Jesus.*" So the Lord Jesus has more names. The preceding Lord's Day was about the name "Jesus", that is, Saviour. We could say that this is His personal name. However, a person who holds an office also has an official name. Just think of a president, a king, or a judge.

It is the same with Christ. In addition to "Jesus", His personal name, He has an official name, "Christ". That is a Greek name, which we find in the New Testament. In the Old Testament, we find the Hebrew name "Messiah". Both names, "Christ" and "Messiah", signify "Anointed". We read in the Bible that people were anointed with oil when they received an office. Just think of Aaron the high priest, David the king, and Elisha the prophet. The oil portrayed the gifts of the Holy Ghost, with which He qualified the office bearer for his office.

Of Christ we also read that He was anointed. God says in Psalm 2:6, "*Yet have I set My King upon My holy hill of Zion*". The Father ordained the Saviour for this official work, which means He was chosen and appointed. And the Lord Jesus accepted that office. The Lord Jesus was not anointed with oil, but with the Holy Ghost Himself. Christ received all the gifts of the Holy Ghost in order to perform His official work. He received three offices. He is Prophet, Priest, and King.

The three offices of Christ

In the Old Testament times a prophet proclaimed the Word of God and explained it to the people. Christ makes the way of salvation known and also makes certain that the message is understood in the heart. Then the heart is opened and renewed.

The priest in the Old Testament had a threefold task. He *offered* a lamb or some other clean animal, and then he made intercessory *prayer* for the people. After that, he *blessed* the people. The catechism calls Christ the only High Priest. Many priests served in Israel during the Old Testament times, all under the guidance of a high priest. Still here Christ is called the *only* High Priest. Why is that? The priests were sinful men. They always had to make sacrifice for themselves first. Afterwards they could do it for the people. They were never finished sacrificing, because the blood of animals could not atone for one single sin. But Christ is Priest and sacrificial Lamb at the same time. After His offering at the cross no more animals had to be offered. The prayers of the priests were faulty and were not always answered. The intercessory prayers of Christ are always answered. Therefore we should always ask for the intercessory prayers of Christ in each prayer, ending with “in Jesus’ name”. When the priest blessed the people, he could not give them the substance of the blessing. However, when Christ blesses, the blessing is received indeed.

Israel was ruled by kings. They issued laws, governed the country, and protected it from all the enemies. The catechism calls Christ the eternal King. All the kings on earth have died or will die. Christ is and remains King for ever.

It is a privilege for a king or queen to have the hearts of the people. King Jesus conquers people’s hearts through His love and governs them by His Word and Spirit. The Word of Christ is a law of love for His people. Then obedience cannot be lacking. This King also teaches how His subjects are to obey.

God’s children have three mortal enemies: Satan, the world, and their own sinful hearts. King Jesus protects His people from these enemies. He guarantees their safety till they are in their eternal home.

Q.32. BUT WHY ART THOU CALLED A CHRISTIAN (A)?

ANSWER: BECAUSE I AM A MEMBER OF CHRIST BY FAITH (B), AND THUS AM PARTAKER OF HIS ANOINTING (C); THAT SO I MAY CONFESS HIS NAME (D), AND PRESENT MYSELF A LIVING SACRIFICE OF THANKFULNESS TO HIM (E); AND ALSO THAT WITH A FREE AND GOOD CONSCIENCE I MAY FIGHT AGAINST SIN AND SATAN IN THIS LIFE (F), AND AFTERWARDS REIGN WITH HIM ETERNALLY, OVER ALL CREATURES (G).

(A) ACTS 11:26; (B) I CORINTHIANS 6:15; (C) I JOHN 2:27; ACTS 2:17;
(D) MATTHEW 10:32; ROMANS 10:10; (E) ROMANS 12:1; I PETER 2:5 & 9;
REVELATION 1:6, 5:8 & 10; (F) I PETER 2:11; ROMANS 6:12 & 13;
GALATIANS 5:16 & 17; EPHESIANS 6:11; I TIMOTHY 1:18 & 19;
(G) 2 TIMOTHY 2:12; MATTHEW 25:34

Christian

We read in Acts 11:26, “*And it came to pass...that the disciples were called Christians first in Antioch*”. The people in Antioch had found out that those people were different from the Jews and those who had adopted the Jewish religion.

Because Christ was the central figure in their lives and conversations, they were named after Him. This name was accepted as a name of honour, and it still is today. Is it not a privilege and an honour to be a Christian, but then in the most profound and true sense of the word? This is what this question is all about.

The name “Christian” points to a bond with Christ. He who boasts of himself to be a Christian ought to examine himself to see whether there is a bond with Christ. A person is a true Christian only when he is united to Christ through faith and is a partaker of His anointing. The latter implies that the Holy Spirit dwells in his heart and that he experiences the Spirit’s guidance in his life.

The three offices of a Christian

A Christian is an office-bearer: prophet, priest and king.

A Christian is a prophet. Being a prophet shows itself in the confessing of the name of Christ. This means to confess Him, to give testimony, to bear witness, to exhort others, and to point out the way. One does not have to be a missionary, preacher, or elder to do so.

A Christian is a priest. This implies that his life is a sacrifice. He does not live for himself, but for God and his neighbour. He has a tender life of prayer, also for his fellow man. He seeks to be a blessing in his surroundings. This he does out of thankfulness for what he has received from God.

A Christian is a king. His kingship becomes clear in his conscientious conduct. In the strength of Christ he strives against sin and devil and gains victories. And one day he will sit with Christ in His throne and be king with Him over all creation for ever. What a blessed future!

Questions:

1. *What does the name “Christ” mean?*

2. *What is the Hebrew name in the Old Testament?*

3. *Why do we say “for Jesus’ sake” at the end of each prayer?*

4. *What does it mean to be a Christian?*

5. *How does that show in daily life?*

6. *What must a Christian fight all his life?*

Evaluator: _____

Meditation: “To Christ”

Messiah, prince of life and peace,
Our ransom and our righteousness;
The Father’s everlasting Son!
Our God and sacrifice in one!
Thou dost (Thy Father’s image) shine
In all the attributes divine.

Rejoicing now in glorious hope
That Thou at last will take us up;
With daily triumph we proclaim,
And bless and magnify Thy name;
And wait Thy greatness to adore,
When time and death shall be no more.

Taken from “Contemplations” by A. M. Toplady