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Section: Doctrine of Christ (Christology)

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September 18, 2024

**HANDOUT NOTES**

**Q75. How is Christ our Priest?**

Christ is our Priest because He gave Himself as a sacrifice in our place to satisfy the wrath of God, and He is in continual intercession to God the Father on our behalf.

* **Introduction**

**Hebrews 9:11–14** But when Christ appeared as a high priest of the good things that have come, then through the greater and more perfect tent (not made with hands, that is, not of this creation) he entered once for all into the holy places, not by means of the blood of goats and calves but by means of his own blood, thus securing an eternal redemption. For if the blood of goats and bulls, and the sprinkling of defiled persons with the ashes of a heifer, sanctify for the purification of the flesh, how much more will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without blemish to God, purify our conscience from dead works to serve the living God.

**Genesis 3:15** “I will put enmity between you and the woman … he shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise his heel.”

**Pastor Richard Barcellos**: “The gospel is the good news of a Mediator ordained by God who takes care of our sin problem, which includes our guilt (i.e., liability to punishment) and lack of righteousness (i.e., lack of obedience to the law of God) unto eternal life. It was shadowed or typified by the sacrificial system and other ceremonies in the Old Testament. And finally, it was accomplished by our Lord.”

**1689 Confession of Faith**: “This covenant is revealed in the gospel; first of all to Adam in the promise of salvation by the seed of the woman, and afterwards by farther steps, until the full discovery thereof was completed in the New Testament.”

* **The Order of Melchizedek Points to the Truer and Better Priest/King**

**Hebrews 7:1-3** For this Melchizedek, king of Salem, priest of the Most High God, met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings and blessed him, and to him Abraham apportioned a tenth part of everything. He is first, by translation of his name, king of righteousness, and then he is also king of Salem, that is, king of peace. He is without father or mother or genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but resembling the Son of God he continues a priest forever.

**Hebrews 7:13-19** For the one of whom these things are spoken [Melchizadek] belonged to another tribe, from which no one has ever served at the altar. For it is evident that our Lord was descended from Judah, and in connection with that tribe Moses said nothing about priests. This becomes even more evident when another priest [Jesus] arises in the likeness of Melchizedek, who has become a priest, not on the basis of a legal requirement concerning bodily descent, but by the power of an indestructible life. For it is witnessed of him, “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek” [quoting Psalm 110:4]. For on the one hand, a former commandment is set aside because of its weakness and uselessness (for the law made nothing perfect) …

**John Gill**: “No man; neither any of the priests that offered sacrifices, nor any of the people for whom they were offered: it could not perfectly make atonement for sin; nor make men perfectly holy or righteous; it could neither justify nor sanctify; neither bring in a perfect righteousness, nor bring men to perfect holiness, and so to eternal life and salvation.”

**Hebrews 7:22** This makes Jesus the guarantor of a better covenant.

**Hebrews 7:23-24** The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but [Jesus] holds his priesthood permanently, because he continues forever.

* **Why Do We Need a Truer and Better Priest?**

**Hebrews 7:25**Consequently, [Jesus] is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through him, since he always lives to make intercession for them.

**Romans 8:34** … Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

**1 John 2:1** My little children, I am writing these things to you so that you may not sin. But if anyone does sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.

**Hebrews 7:26**For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens.

**Hebrews 7:27**He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself. 

* **Why We Don’t Need Other Priests to Mediate**

**Hebrews 2:17** (BSB) For this reason, he [Jesus] had to be made like his brothers in every way …

God the Son took on a human nature to identify with us—to be the *right kind* of sacrifice.

**Hebrews 2:17** (NIV) … In order that he might become a merciful and faithful high priest in service to God, and that he might make atonement for the sins of his people.

**Matthew 23:9** (NIV) “... do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven.”

**1 Timothy 2:5** … there is one God, and there is one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus,

**Hebrews 9:15** (NIV) For this reason Christ is the mediator of a new covenant, that those who are called may receive the promised eternal inheritance—now that he has died as a ransom to set them free from the sins committed under the first covenant.

**Hebrews 5:9** … he [Christ] became the source of eternal salvation to all who obey him,

* **Christ Is Our All-Sufficient, Eternal Mediator**

Christ is our all-sufficient, eternal mediator because of His *dignity* as the Son of God, His *eternity* in the priestly order of Melchizedek, and His *purity* in the crucible of suffering.

* **Christ is our all-sufficient, eternal mediator because of His dignity**

**Hebrews 5:4**And no one takes this honor for himself, but only when called by God, just as Aaron was.

**Hebrews 5:5**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”;

* **Christ is our all-sufficient, eternal mediator because of His eternity**

**Hebrews 5:6** … “You are a priest forever, after the order of Melchizedek.”

**John 1:1a** In the beginning was the Word

**John 17:5** "And now, Father, glorify me in your own presence with the glory that I had with you before the world existed.”

**Colossians 1:17a** And he is before all things

**Hebrews 13:8** Jesus Christ is the same yesterday and today and forever.

* **Christ is our all-sufficient, eternal mediator** **because of His purity**

**Hebrews 5:7** In the days of His flesh …

* **The Sympathy of the High Priest Jesus Christ**

**Hebrews 4:15**For we do not have a high priest who is unable to sympathize with our weaknesses, but one who in every respect has been tempted as we are, yet without sin.

**Hebrews 4:16**Let us then with confidence draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need.

**Hebrews 4:14** Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God …

* **What Difference Will It Make If Jesus Is Your High Priest?**

**Exodus 28:1-4**