

Systematic Theology session 30
Doctrine of Christ, Part 7

- The offices of Christ.
 - Official positions as coming with responsibility within a certain sphere, and official authority, power, and resources to carry out the responsibility.
 - The mediatorial kingdom of God as coming with Christ's offices as prophet, priest, and king.
 - The observation that Christ has these offices in the kingdom goes back at least as far as the beginning of the fourth century (with Eusebius), with Calvin expanding upon the observation.
 - The offices of Christ were foreshadowed in the Old Testament institutions of prophet, priest, and king.
 - Moses as foreshadowing Christ's greater office as prophet (Acts 3:22-24, Deuteronomy 18:15-19, Deuteronomy 34:10-12).
 - The Levitical priests as foreshadowing Christ's greater office as priest, as shown by the superiority of the priestly order of Melchizedek to the priestly order of Aaron (Hebrews 5:5-6).
 - David as foreshadowing Christ's greater office as king.
 - The greatness of Christ's office of king as prophesied in Zechariah 6:9-15, where it is shown that Christ would be both king and priest in a single person.
 - The symbolico-typical prophetic action of Zechariah in fashioning a royal crown and placing it on the head of the current high priest.
 - The offices of Christ as involving all three persons of the Trinity.
 - Christ, as the second person of the Trinity, did not simply seize these offices; He was appointed by the Father, and anointed by the Holy Spirit.
- The office of prophet.
 - Man cannot have knowledge of God or the things of God without divine revelation.
 - A prophet is a "forth-teller," speaking to man on behalf of God, as an act of special revelation.
 - Christ called Himself a prophet (Luke 13:33, Luke 4:23-24).
 - This does not diminish or limit Christ to being only a prophet, like the other prophets of Scripture.
 - Christ is the greatest holder of the prophetic office, and indeed, the Great Prophet, one who is the greatest messenger, but also the Son of God Himself who all other prophets pointed to (Matthew 21:34-39, John 6:14, Hebrews 1:1-2).
 - The moral culpability to hearing the gospel, then deliberately and finally rejecting it (Hebrews 10:26-31).
 - Christ's office of prophet as giving the true meaning of the law (Matthew 7:28-29).
 - Christ's office of prophet as shown in the preaching of the gospel, which is referred to as "the word of the Lord" (Acts 19:8-10).
 - Christ's office of prophet as shown in His foretelling of future events (Matthew 24:1-2).
 - The need for the greatest of prophets, since our faith must have an object; we need to be told who to go to for salvation (John 9:35-41, Romans 10:13-15).