

BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: CHRIST, GOD'S PROPHET

Intro: - Previously we have seen that the name "Christ" means anointed. In eternity God chose his Son to be his worker, his servant.
 -The Spirit of God came upon Jesus at his baptism qualifying him for his work. At his ascension he is anointed with the oil of gladness.

I. THE ANOINTED ONE: HIS FUNCTION AS OUR PROPHET.

- A. He is given by God.
1. We could look at Christ as Prophet from viewpoint of Adam's creation as prophet, friend-servant and the fall.
 2. But in Deuteronomy 18, we see this gift of the light of prophecy arising out of the request and need of God's people.
 3. God is infinitely holy and God's people are sinful, afraid to stand in the presence of this terrifying God.
 4. In Deut. 5:32ff the people request that Moses stand in the presence of God and hear him, and bring that Word to them.
 5. Moses and the whole line of prophets are types of our Lord Jesus who brings God's Word to us so that we may fear him.
 6. The idea of this function is that God reveals himself and his secrets to his friends. **THE MEDIATOR OF REVELATION**
 7. God gives the prophet a word to speak, on his behalf, to the people
- B. Raised up from among your own brethren.
1. The point here is in contrast to the foreign diviners and sorcerers, God raises up from his people his mediators.
 2. Always the question is: Did God appoint that man to speak on his behalf?
 3. At times God is even pleased to speak through wicked men: OT –Balaam, NT –Caiaphas (John 11: 49-52).
 4. The Mediator of God's revelation while from God, is one of us (Hebr. 1:1,2). Christ is superior to Moses (Hebr. 3:1-8)
 5. He was appointed to this work, and is qualified to carry out that work!
- C. Who is this prophet?
1. Over against the practices through which the nations seek to gain knowledge (Deut. 18:14, see also Dan. 12:4b) Moses sets forth the Lord's gift to Israel: the light of prophecy. What a great contrast!
 2. Promised is a whole line of prophets, so that God's people will never be without a witness.
 3. Peter (Acts 3:22,23) and Stephan (Acts 7:37): this promise is fulfilled in Christ (Ps. 22:22, John 4:25, Isa. 61:1-3).
 4. The words of Moses have reference chiefly and centrally to Christ Jesus. Other prophets point to and culminate in him.

II. THE WORK THAT HE PERFORMS AS PROPHET. "I will put my words in his mouth and he shall speak (18:18)."

- A. What Jesus does:
1. The prophet's task does not only involve foretelling the future (even though this is of importance).
 2. The prophet teaches (John 7:16-19). He reveals the glory of God the Father and the will of the Father (John 5: 31).
 3. He reveals that God is the God of salvation.
 4. When he does this, he does a saving work in us (John 5:24-26). We have life in the hearing of his Word spoken
- B. This was Christ's work throughout all history.
1. In the OT. Christ is the one who spoke the Word of God in and through the OT prophets and types.
 2. During his earthly ministry, Jesus' work was primarily teaching. He did not try to change society or make this life better.
 3. At his ascension, Christ comes to his Church by his Spirit. He commissioned apostles to preach and teach.
 4. Christ gave his Word and Spirit to his church to preach, giving to the church gifts: one of them pastors.
 5. Today, Christ continues as Prophet to speak and teach through the office of the ministry.
- C. This prophetic Word of Christ is always opposed.
1. The devil from the beginning seeks to silence God's Word, change the truth into a lie. "Yea, hath God said..."
 2. We may expect opposition from the unbelieving world: evolution, abortion, alternate life-styles are examples.
 3. But the Word of Christ is opposed in a far more dangerous manner in the "church".
 4. Even as Aaron and Miriam opposed Moses, and later Korah, Dathan and Abiram, so Christ the greater is opposed.
 5. This is done through cultural relativity, unbelief, heresy, and changing theological terms, giving them new meanings.
 6. Brother and sister: the Word is opposed by our carnal and sinful flesh.

III. OUR CALLING TOWARDS OUR PROPHET.

- A. We must honor Christ as our chief Prophet.
1. We recognize and believe in him as God's prophet par excellence.
 2. We honor Christ by honoring his Word that he speaks. This has implications for our hearing the preaching of the Word!
 3. We honor Christ by opposing all false teaching that contradicts his Word.
 - a. As it comes from the world.
 - b. Exposing and denouncing the lie when it comes from the carnal in the church.
 4. We honor Christ when as a Church we carry out the great commission that he has given to us.
- B. "Unto him shall ye hearken (Deut. 18:15)
1. The purpose of God's Word and Prophet is that his fear may be before your faces, that ye sin not (Ex. 20:20).
 2. Already when God gave his law at Sinai, and when the Lord approved their request that Moses be their Mediator, God stressed the necessity of hearts that would fear him and keep all of his commandments (Deut. 5:29).
 3. We must receive the Word of God with meekness and be doers of it.
- C. The warning given (vs. 19,20).
1. To those who refuse to hear and do Christ's Word, The Lord will require it of him.
 2. To those who presume to speak a work in Christ's name, either not called or disobedient in their calling.
 3. What a great responsibility to hear and obey Christ only as our Prophet as he speaks .