

BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: CHRIST, GOD'S ANOINTED

Intro: - The name 'Christ' is often misunderstood. It is Jesus' title or position, not his surname. It means 'anointed'.
 - In the days of Jesus' earthly ministry, the burning question was: "Is he the Christ?" This is the great question always and today also.
 - Is Jesus the Christ? What does it mean? What does he do? What honor must he receive?

I. THE POSITION HE HOLDS**A. The idea.**

1. The OT title "Messiah" and the NT title "Christ" mean Anointed One.
2. In the OT there were many anointed ones, types and shadows of him that was to come.
3. This anointing often took place in a ceremony.
4. This anointing emphasized first of all the right one had to the office: authority to do the work.
5. This anointing emphasized in the second place the qualifications given so that one is able to do the work.

B. The ceremony of anointing.

1. Holy anointing oil specially prepared for the purpose was poured out over the head of the one called by God to office.
2. This ceremony had symbolic meaning.
3. The oil used for anointing, fragrant and glittering was a symbol of the Holy Spirit.
4. This is the express testimony of Jesus in Isa. 61:1 where the gift of the Spirit is connected with anointing.
5. The Son of God is ordained or appointed to office, and is qualified to carry out that office!

C. When was Christ anointed?

1. In eternity, the Son of God was appointed, chosen by God to be his worker, his servant. God ordained his Son.
2. Jesus was anointed in his earthly ministry, when the Spirit as a dove descended upon him.
3. Jesus was anointed not with the symbol, but with the reality. He was filled with the Holy Spirit.
4. Jesus is the Christ, God's office bearer, God's servant, God's worker.
5. He is the Anointed par excellence, the 'Son over his own house' to function on behalf of God's covenant and kingdom.
6. He was anointed at his ascension "with the oil of gladness above his fellows (Ps. 45, Heb.1:9)."

II. THE WORK THAT HE PERFORMS.**A. The Messiah is appointed to save his people, the Church.**

1. This office is essentially one, not three.
2. The functions of prophet, priest, and king are not three separate offices, but three aspects or functions of the one office.
3. By office is meant the position in which one is a servant-king in relation to God.
4. Christ is the visible representative of the invisible God in the visible world: to serve God and to rule under God.
5. Christ is the obedient servant. He knows the will of God, loves that will, and delights to do that will. That will was to save.
6. Christ is king, ruling over his church and God's kingdom. He not only restores but rules without end.

B. The Messiah is appointed to bring glory to his father.

1. This is especially the calling of the office bearer.
2. This is Jesus' own testimony in his great high-priestly prayer: "I have glorified thee on the earth...(John 17:1)."
3. This glory was not in merely restoring a lost creation spoiled and destroyed in disobedience.
4. Rather Christ is first in God's eternal counsel: to unite all things in Christ and to make him head over all things.
5. Christ the firstborn of every creature in the way of sin and grace reveals the glory and power of God.
6. God realizes his everlasting kingdom and covenant.

C. Christ's office and work is without end.

1. He revealed unto us the Father, but continues by his Word and Spirit to teach us.
2. He purchased our salvation by his sacrifice, and now continues to apply to us the benefits.
3. He defeated all our enemies, and now continues to rule and preserve us in that salvation.
4. In the new heavens and new earth, the tabernacle of God shall be with us forever, and the glory of his cov. realized.

III. THE HONOR THAT HE RECEIVES.**A. The church honors the Christ by believing on him.**

1. We remember when Christ preached from Isa. 61 that he was the anointed one, he was rejected (Luke 4:18ff).
2. When Jesus answers the question of the high priest affirmatively, he is charged with blasphemy (Matt. 26: 63-68).
3. By grace, the disciples of Jesus, the Samaritan woman, and many others were led to believe and confess Christ.
4. Scriptures emphasize the importance of the confession: I John 5:1

B. The church honors the Christ by honoring his offices in the church.

1. We honor Christ in the office of believer in which we are called to a three-fold function as prophet, priest, and king.
2. We honor Christ in the office of the minister of the Word, where Christ speaks and reveals the God of our salvation.
3. We honor Christ in the office of the elders where Christ rules over and supervises his people in the way of obedience.
4. We honor Christ in the office of the deacons, as we cheerfully give our gifts for the furtherance of his kingdom.

C. Those that honor Christ, he honors.

1. He gives us his own title: Christians.
2. He makes us office-bearers in his kingdom, representing him.
3. No greater honor can anyone have than to be a member of Christ and his body.
4. We now already and forever will enjoy fellowship with God and perfectly have it in the new heavens and earth.