

The Doctrine of the Work of Christ

I. Introduction to This Doctrine

- A. No sweeter subject for sinners to contemplate
- B. Must be viewed in connection with all the preceding doctrines we have studied, especially the Person of Christ
- C. Determining the best manner to approach this topic

II. The Threefold Office of Christ

- A. The need for a threefold office
 - 1) Man was originally intended for this threefold office and work
 - 2) Sin affected the entire life of man and manifested itself in numerous ways
 - a) Ignorance, blindness, error, and untruthfulness
 - b) Unrighteousness, guilt, and moral pollution/corruption
 - c) Misery, death, and destruction
- B. The three offices
 - 1) Prophet – Christ represents God to man
 - 2) Priest – Christ represents man in the presence of God
 - 3) King – Christ exercises authority and restores the original dominion of man

III. The Office of Prophet

- A. The role of a prophet
 - 1) Receives revelation from God
 - 2) Delivers that revelation to the people (instruction, admonition, exhortation, glorious promise, stern rebuke, etc.)
- B. Christ as a prophet
 - 1) Reveals God to us
 - 2) Proclaims God's words to us
- C. Biblical affirmation of the prophetic office of Christ
 - 1) Foretold in Deuteronomy 18:15 (applied to Christ in Acts 3:22-23)
 - 2) Jesus speaks of himself as a prophet (Luke 4:24, 13:33)
 - 3) He claims to bring a message from God the Father (John 8:26-28, 12:49-50, 14:10, 24)
 - 4) The people recognized him as a prophet (Matt. 21:11, 46; Luke 7:16, 24:19; John 3:2, 4:19, 6:14, 7:40, 9:17)
- D. The exercise of the prophetic office of Christ
 - 1) Directly
 - a) The Angel of the Lord in the OT
 - b) The incarnate Lord
 - 2) Indirectly (through the Holy Spirit, which is the Spirit of Christ)
 - a) OT prophets

- b) NT apostles
- c) Indwelling Spirit in all believers
- d) Ministers of the gospel

IV. The Office of Priest

- A. The role of a priest
 - 1) Man's representative with God (acted on behalf of the people in the presence of God)
 - 2) Two primary functions – to offer sacrifices and to intercede for the people
- B. Christ as a priest
 - 1) Acts as our representative before God
 - 2) Offered a perfect sacrifice for sin
 - 3) Continually intercedes for us
- C. The biblical affirmation of the priestly office of Christ
 - 1) Predicted and prefigured (Ps. 110:4; Zech. 6:13)
 - 2) The OT priesthood, and particularly the high priest, prefigured a priestly Messiah (Lev. 16)
 - 3) The epistle to the Hebrews clearly points to the priestly office of Christ, as do numerous passages in the other NT epistles
- D. The exercise of the priestly office of Christ
 - 1) His past work – a sacrificial work (Hebrews 2:10-18, 4:14-5:10, 8:1-10:25)
 - a) The cause of the atonement
 - b) The nature of the atonement
 - c) The effects of the atonement
 - d) The extent of the atonement
 - 2) His present work – an intercessory work (Rom. 8:34; Heb. 7:25, 9:24; 1 John 2:1)
 - a) A constant reminder of full and perfect atonement
 - b) An advocating voice to answer any and all charges brought against his people
 - c) A sanctifying effect on the prayers of his people
 - d) An offering of intercessory prayers on behalf of his people
 - e) Characteristics of his intercession
 - i) Continual
 - ii) Authoritative
 - iii) Efficacious

V. The Office of King

- A. The role of a king – exercises authority and dominion
- B. Christ as a king
 - 1) Rules all things in heaven and on earth
 - 2) For the glory of God and for the execution of God's purposes
- C. The biblical affirmation of the kingly office of Christ (Ps. 2, 45; Matt. 2:2, 28:18; Luke 1:33, 19:38; John 18:36-37, Eph. 1:20-22; Rev. 19:11-16)
- D. The exercise of the kingly office of Christ
 - 1) The Kingship of Christ over the Church
 - 2) The Kingship of Christ over the universe