

LORD'S DAY 12

31. Q. Why is He called *Christ*, that is, Anointed?
- A. Because He has been ordained by God the Father, and anointed with the Holy Spirit,¹ to be our chief Prophet and Teacher,² who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption;³ our only High Priest,⁴ who by the one sacrifice of His body has redeemed us,⁵ and who continually intercedes for us before the Father;⁶ and our eternal King,⁷ who governs us by His Word and Spirit, and who defends and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.⁸

1. **Psalm 45:7** You love righteousness and hate wickedness; Therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness more than Your companions. (cf. also **Hebrews 1:9** where it is quoted in reference to the Son).
Isaiah 61:1 “The Spirit of the Lord GOD is upon Me, because the LORD has anointed Me to preach good tidings to the poor; He has sent Me to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to those who are bound...” (cf. **Luke 4:18** where it is quoted in reference to Christ).
Luke 3:21,22 When all the people were baptized, it came to pass that Jesus also was baptized; and while He prayed, the heaven was opened. ²² And the Holy Spirit descended in bodily form like a dove upon Him, and a voice came from heaven which said, “You are My beloved Son; in You I am well pleased.”
2. **Deuteronomy 18:15** “The LORD your God will raise up for you a Prophet like me from your midst, from your brethren. Him you shall hear....” (cf. **Acts 3:22** where it is quoted in reference to Christ).
3. **John 1:18** No one has seen God at any time. The only begotten Son, who is in the bosom of the Father, He has declared Him.
John 15:15 “No longer do I call you servants, for a servant does not know what his master is doing; but I have called you friends, for all things that I heard from My Father I have made known to you.”
4. **Psalm 110:4** The LORD has sworn and will not relent, “You are a priest forever according to the order of Melchizedek.” (cf. **Hebrews 7:17** where it is quoted in reference to Christ).
5. **Hebrews 9:12** Not with the blood of goats and calves, but with His own blood He entered the Most Holy Place once for all, having obtained eternal redemption.
Hebrews 10:11-14 And every priest stands ministering daily and offering repeatedly the same sacrifices, which can never take away sins. 12 But this Man, after He had offered one sacrifice for sins forever, sat down at the right hand of God, 13 from that time waiting till His enemies are made His footstool. 14 For by one offering He has perfected forever those who are being sanctified.
6. **Romans 8:34** Who is he who condemns? It is Christ who died, and furthermore is also risen, who is even at the right hand of God, who also makes intercession for us.
Hebrews 9:24 For Christ has not entered the holy places made with hands, which are copies of the true, but into heaven itself, now to appear in the presence of God for us;
1 John 2:1 My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous.
7. **Zechariah 9:9** “Rejoice greatly, O daughter of Zion! Shout, O daughter of Jerusalem! Behold, your King is coming to you; He is just and having salvation, lowly and riding on a donkey, a colt, the foal of a donkey.” (cf. **Matthew 21:5** where this is quoted in reference to Christ).
Luke 1:33 “And He will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of His kingdom there will be no end.”

8. **Matthew 28:18-20** And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth. ¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age. Amen."

John 10:28 "And I give them eternal life, and they shall never perish; neither shall anyone snatch them out of My hand.

Revelation 12:10,11 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. ¹¹ And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death."

32. Q. Why are you called a Christian?

A. Because I am a member of Christ by faith¹ and thus share in His anointing,² so that I may
 as prophet confess His Name,³
 as priest present myself
 a living sacrifice of thankfulness to Him,⁴
 and as king fight with a free and good conscience
 against sin and the devil in this life,⁵
 and hereafter reign with Him eternally
 over all creatures.⁶

1. **1 Corinthians 12:12,13** For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ. ¹³ For by one Spirit we were all baptized into one body; whether Jews or Greeks, whether slaves or free; and have all been made to drink into one Spirit (cf. Also **vss 14-27**).

2. **Joel 2:28** And it shall come to pass afterward that I will pour out My Spirit on all flesh; your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your young men shall see visions (cf. **Acts 2:17** where it is quoted in reference to Christ).

1 John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you, and you do not need that anyone teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you concerning all things, and is true, and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you will abide in Him.

3. **Matthew 10:32** Therefore whoever confesses Me before men, him I will also confess before My Father who is in heaven.

Romans 10:9,10 ...that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. ¹⁰ For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

4. **Romans 12:1** I beseech you therefore, brethren,

by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

1 Peter 2:5 ...you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.

1 Peter 2:9 But you are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, His own special people, that you may proclaim the praises of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light....

5. **Galatians 5:16,17** I say then: Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. ¹⁷ For the flesh lusts against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh; and these are contrary to one another, so that you do not do the things that you wish.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.

1 Timothy 1:18,19 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, that by them you may wage the good warfare, ¹⁹ having faith and a good conscience, which some having rejected, concerning the faith have suffered shipwreck....

6. **Matthew 25:34** Then the King will say to those on His right hand, "Come, you blessed of My Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world...."

2 Timothy 2:12 If we endure, We shall also reign with Him. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

In the previous Lord's Day we dealt with the name "Jesus." In Lord's Day 12 the name "Christ" is explained. Again we find, just as was the case with the name Jesus, that the name "Christ" has a Hebrew and a Greek form with an English equivalent. You should become familiar with these names and their English meaning.

Hebrew	Greek	English
Messiah	Christ	Anointed

Before speaking about the anointing of Christ, the Catechism speaks of Christ's ordination. The word "ordain" carries with it the meaning of being set apart according to God's decree, God's special plan. When we speak about ordination (for example of office bearers in the church), it means more than just appointment. Men appoint other men to a specific task. However, when a man is ordained, it is God who calls him and appoints him to that office. It is not an office that a man takes upon himself, but one that is laid upon him by God.

This is also the meaning of Christ's ordination. He was sent by the Father to be our Mediator according to His plan that was established in eternity.

We also confess that Christ was anointed, as His name signifies. Anointing symbolised two things:

1. Anointing symbolised the divine **appointment or ordination to a special office**. In the Old Testament, those men who were given a special office were anointed, such as **prophets** (eg. Elisha, cf. 1 Kings 19:6); **priests** (eg. Aaron and his sons, cf. Exodus 40:13-16); and **kings** (eg. Saul, cf. 1 Samuel 10:1; David, cf. 1 Samuel 16:13; Jehu, cf. 1 Kings 19:16).
2. Anointing symbolised the **preparation for office**. Anointing was a part of one's daily toiletry in Israel, at least if one could afford oil. In the harsh dry climate of Israel, oil was useful in preserving the body moisture. Without it, the skin could become parched and cracked, which would be quite painful

and lead to possible infection and inability to work. Thus someone who was to work in the heat would anoint himself with olive oil. It appears that from this custom, anointing with oil came to have the symbolic meaning of preparation for one's work, to which he was especially called. Thus the anointing with oil signified the anointing with the Holy Spirit, who equips men to do the work of the office to which they are ordained (cf. Isaiah 61:1).

From this we conclude that the idea of **anointing and office are inseparable**.

We speak about Christ's anointing to a threefold office of Prophet, Priest and King. However, before we speak about Christ's threefold office, we do well to look at the history of this office. This threefold office existed already in paradise. In the beginning, before the fall into sin, every man held this threefold office. God created man as a prophet, priest and king. Yet when man fell into sin, he lost the ability to fulfil these offices. Therefore man needed a Redeemer. We could speak of the redemptive work of Christ as the restoration of man to this threefold office.

Christ was the last Adam. As the first Adam was created a bearer of this threefold office, so also the last Adam, Christ, was made a bearer of the same. Christ was anointed to be our chief Prophet, our great High Priest and our eternal King.

When was Christ anointed? He was anointed at His baptism. He was not anointed with oil. Christ was not baptised with the symbol of the Holy Spirit, but with the Holy Spirit Himself, who descended on Christ in the form of a dove.

As our Chief Prophet, Christ restores to us the knowledge of God, His plan of redemption, and His will (how He wants us to live). Christ did this while He was on earth and He continues to do so at His Father's right hand. Through this work of Christ, we again come to know God

and are thus able to have communion with Him through this knowledge. This knowledge which we have of God, is itself an important part of our salvation. For eternal life is to know God, to have intimate fellowship with Him. This knowledge Christ restores to us whose minds are darkened through sin.

As our great High Priest, Christ gave up His life in order that He might conquer death and restore life to us. Christ was both the Priest and the sacrifice for sins. Christ continues in heaven as our High Priest, who intercedes (pleads) on our behalf with the Father. Moreover, He continues to shower His blessings upon us through His Spirit.

As our eternal King, Christ defeated our great enemy Satan. Through His death, He conquered the prince of darkness and He continues to defend His church from their enemies. The day is coming when Christ our King will wage the final battle with His and our enemies, at which time they will be completely destroyed and removed from the presence of His people. Yet not only does He defend His people; He continues to govern and rule them by His Word and Spirit. He lays down the laws of the covenant as rules for life in the Kingdom of God, and He leads them down the paths of righteousness by His Spirit.

Now Christ has not only come to fulfil the threefold office for us, He also came to restore us in this office as well. We, who are grafted into Christ by faith, share in Christ's anointing. That is why we are called "*Christians*," which means "*anointed ones*." Through the work of Christ as Prophet, Priest and King, we are restored and enabled to fulfil the threefold office of prophet, priest and king. The Holy Spirit is poured out upon us, as promised in our baptism, and we are equipped to serve as prophets, priests and kings.

As prophets, we are called to profess Christ's name. This means that we must be willing to bear witness to the work of Christ at all times, even in times of

persecution. We must publish abroad His wonderful name among those with whom we come into contact in our daily life. (cf. 1 Peter 2:9). Never are we permitted to deny Him, for He has warned us: "*But whoever denies me before men, him I will also deny before my Father who is in heaven.*" (cf. Matthew 10:33).

As priests, we must offer ourselves up as living sacrifices (cf. Romans 12:1,2) That means that we deny our own wishes and live in obedience to God in all matters of life. We never do what we want, but what God wants. We must keep ourselves from all evil, and keep God's commandments. Furthermore, we are to offer up spiritual sacrifices, such as songs and prayers of praise and thanksgiving (1 Peter 2:5). That is our work as priests.

As kings, we are called to fight against all evil in this world. We may not simply sit back when we see sinful situations, but we must confront them and endeavour to correct them. This applies in our own lives as well as in church and in society. In every area of life we are called to defend Christ's name and work for the advancement of His kingdom. If we do this, we will remain kings with Him in the life to come, and we will reign with Him over all creatures on this earth.

It is a great privilege to be called Christians (anointed ones), but it is also a very great responsibility. There is no room in Christ's kingdom for lazy and slothful servants. If we are restored to our office as prophets, priests and kings, then we must be very busy working to fulfil these offices.

As youth of the church, you have the name of Christ written upon your foreheads, as signified in your baptism. You are called to be prophets, priests and kings. Furthermore, you have also received the promise that the Holy Spirit will equip you with all you need in order to fulfil this threefold office. You must work very hard in preparing and training yourselves, so that in the near future you may stand before Christ's congregation and promise to fulfil the tasks given to you as office bearers in Christ's kingdom.

Questions:

1. What does the Greek word "*Christ*" mean in English? What is the Hebrew equivalent used in the Old Testament?
2. Prior to being anointed, Christ was ordained. What does that mean? When was Christ ordained?
3. What is the first thing that anointing symbolised? Who were anointed in the Old Testament? Give examples.
4. What is the second thing that anointing symbolised? Explain the custom behind this symbol? What does the oil symbolise?
5. Describe the office to which Christ was anointed.
6. Who originally received this office? What happened? What is the goal of Christ's redemptive work?
7. When was Christ anointed? With what was He anointed?
8. What does Christ do as Prophet? As Priest? As King?
9. What else does Christ do than fulfil the three-fold office for us? What name do we receive as a result of this? What does this name mean?
10. What must we do as prophets? Where, when and how do we fulfil these duties?
11. What must we do as priests? Where, when and how do we fulfil these duties?
12. What must we do as kings? Where, when and how do we fulfil these duties?

Additional Questions:

13. How do the duties of Christ's three-fold office differ from Adam's in paradise before the fall?
14. What is the relationship between the three-fold office (to which all believers are appointed) and the special offices in the church (ministers, elders and deacons)?