

Text

Various.

Opening Text – Col 2:9-10

Main Point

The all-encompassing work of the Mediator

Introduction

What would you say is the biggest problem humanity faces?

Hunger? Natural disasters? Lack of Education? Corruption? Politicians? Resource Depletion? Inequality? Nuclear War? Or something else?

All of these are problems humans face, but they are not humanity's biggest issue.

The biggest problem humanity faces is Sin. Sinners by nature and sinners in action.

Sin made us desperate and needy:

- Sin makes us blind and Ignorant.
- Sin makes us deserving of punishment before a holy and just God.
- Sin makes us rebellious towards God and powerless to act any differently.

Sin is the most serious issue that any human faces. God hates sinners and we need a mediator to have any hope in this life and the next.

The corruption of sin is wide and deep, but the work of our mediator is wider and deeper. As mediator Jesus holds three offices: Prophet, Priest and King. Each of these offices addresses a specific need that our sin has plunged us into.

As prophet he reveals, As Priest he atones and intercedes, and as king he rules.

Link into the 1689

As Nick mentioned last week we are beginning a new series in the 1689 Baptist Confession of Faith. We are in chapter 8 which talks about the Christ the Mediator. In chapter 8 there are 10 paragraphs, and the topic of this study is still based in paragraph 1, but is also summarized in Paragraph 10.

Let me just read that first paragraph of chapter 8.

*It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, his only begotten Son, according to the covenant made between them both, **to be the mediator between God and man; the prophet, priest, and king;** head and saviour of the church, the heir of all things, and judge of the world; unto whom he did from all eternity give a people to be his seed and to be by him in time redeemed, called, justified, sanctified, and glorified.*

Outline

Our outline is going to be simple

1. Prophet
2. Priest
3. King

In this study, we are going to focus on how each of these offices meets our need in sin.

Part 1 – Prophet

Exposition

OT Anticipation

So let us begin by looking at the Office of Prophet.

First let us look at how the Old Testament anticipates the coming Messiah as a Prophet.

In Deuteronomy 18:15 we read:

¹⁵ *“The Lord your God will raise up for you a prophet like me from among you, from your brothers—it is to him you shall listen.*

In this verse God is talking to Moses of a coming prophet, whom God himself would raise up, or anoint. This verse is pointing to the Messiah who would be the great Prophet. This verse is quoted in Acts 3:22 as Peter fully attributes it to Jesus.

What is a Prophet

All the prophets of the OT had a simple but profound task. They received a message from God and proclaimed it to others. That was the role of a prophet. It was a one-street. From God to the People. And this “revealing of God’s will to the people” is one of the functions of the promised Messiah.

Jesus as a Prophet – Spoke the Very word of God

So how did Jesus fulfil this office? And how is he fulfilling it now? (Any thoughts?)

First off, when he was on earth, he spoke with authority. This was something that surprised his listeners. And this authority was not a delegated authority, like Isaiah or Moses would have had.

He was speaking the very will of God from his authority as God. The prophets of the OT were like the siblings who work our delegated authority with “Mum said, you have to come in”, that holds authority, but there is a different authority when Mum herself gives an order.

The prophets of old said “Thus saith the Lord” but Jesus said “But I say to you”. He had inherent authority.

So Jesus was The Prophet, Speaking the will and the words of the Father with total authority.

Jesus as a Prophet – Called People to repentance/to follow him

Prophets in the Old Testament were well known to call people to repentance. To turn from their sins and Obey God’s law.

And Jesus too called people to repentance, to turn away from sin. But He does it in a unique fashion. He calls people to stop sinning and follow Him.

Following him becomes synonymous to Obeying God’s laws and decrees. To follow him is to repent.

Jesus as a Prophet – Sends the Spirit

So while he was on earth, in his state of humiliation, Some ways that Jesus fulfilled his office of Prophet was by teaching God’s will and by calling people to repentance.

But what about after his ascension? What about right now? How does he fulfill his office of prophet in his exalted state?

First, He exercised his office of Prophet when He sent the Holy Spirit to inspire the apostles to write the New Testament.

John 14:26

²⁶ But the Helper, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, he will teach you all things and bring to your remembrance all that I have said to you.

But He does not stop there. Jesus continues to exercise His office of Prophet to each and every one of us as the Holy Spirit illuminates scripture. As a Christian reads the Bible, We know it has been inspired by the Spirit of God, But we also know that the Spirt of God helps us to understand the truths we read. (1 Cor 2:12-13)

Application

We are Blind and Ignorant

So we are blind, we are ignorant and we are forgetful because of Sin. Our Messiah, Jesus Christ, the Great Prophet addresses our plight: He opens our eyes, illuminates our minds and reminds our hearts of God's truths again and again.

Teaches Us God's truths (initially)

If you are here this evening, and do not call Jesus your saviour, then at least hear him as the Prophet he is. Hear Him Speaking on God's behalf, warning you of the seriousness of sin and the punishment of hell. Hear him call you to repentance. To follow Him and not follow your selfish desires. Listen to Him for the way of salvation. His word is true and can be trusted.

Illuminates the Word (continually)

As we all know the curse of sin still clings to those who believe and follow Jesus. In our nature we still tend to be blind to the Glories of God. Blind to the seriousness of sin. Blind to how small we are. And blind to how big God is. Blind to truth and reality, and so we need Jesus our Great Prophet to declare every single day God's Truth, God's Purpose, God's will and God's Glory.

Jesus continues His work as Prophet in your life as you read his Word, as you hear His Word, and as you listen to His Word preached.

Jesus is the Great Prophet, but he is not **only** a prophet. If Jesus was **only** a prophet, than we would find ourselves agreeing with the Muslims. And we would also find consensus with many liberal Christian who see Jesus as just a good moral teacher but nothing more.

Next let us turn our attention to Jesus' office of Priest. How he has atoned for our sins and is interceding for us.

Part 2 – Priest

Exposition

OT Anticipation

First let us have a brief look at how the OT anticipates that the Messiah would be a priest.

The priest had the job of representing the people before God. They offered sacrifices for sins and gifts of worship on behalf of the people. Again, this is a one-way street of communication, but going from the People to God this time. The prophet goes from God to the people. The priest from the people to God.

The entire priesthood and sacrificial system was a Type of the messiah. Highlighting the need sin had created and pointing forward to one who would satisfy that need.

One key OT text which explicitly anticipates the priestly office of the Messiah is Ps 110:4.

In this psalm we hear God talking to His anointed one, to the awaited messiah, and he says:

*The Lord has sworn
and will not change his mind,
“You are a priest forever
after the order of Melchizedek.”*

Jesus as Priest – He is the offeror and the offering

So how did Jesus fulfil his office of priest while he was on earth?

First off he was both the offeror and the offering for sins. He was the high priest offering the sacrifice for sins on behalf of humans, but he was also the blood sacrifice himself. In Mark 10:45 we read:

Mark 10:45

⁴⁵ For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”

And further, in Heb 7:26-27, we read:

²⁶ For it was indeed fitting that we should have such a high priest, holy, innocent, unstained, separated from sinners, and exalted above the heavens. ²⁷ He has no need, like those high priests, to offer sacrifices daily, first for his own sins and then for those of the people, since he did this once for all when he offered up himself.

Jesus is both the High priest and the blood offering.

Jesus as Priest – Intercedes against accusation

But his work as priest does not stop once the payment for sin was fulfilled. Yes, He paid our penalty in our place, He atoned for our sins once and for all, He endured the wrath of God and fulfilled the just requirements of the Law, but his work as priest continues. It continues in his exalted state. It continues as he intercedes for his people. As he advocates for his people.

Satan accuses the people of God as they stumble into sin. Sometimes we accuse ourselves when we focus on our sins instead of our Saviour. But Jesus is seated at the right hand of God. He is a constant reminder that the price for your sins has been paid in full. And that payment has been fully accepted by God. And, no one, No One, can bring a charge against you, not Satan not yourself, nothing can. In Romans 8:33-34 we read:

³³ Who shall bring any charge against God's elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴ Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.^[a]

Application

We deserve Punishment and Separation

So we deserve punishment and are totally separated from God because of Sin. In Sin we are criminals before God deserving eternity in Hell. All relationship with God has been destroyed. We need a mediator. We need another to pay our debt on our behalf if we wish to live. We need someone to talk to God on our behalf. We need a priest.

Jesus is our Great High Priest who fulfills those exact needs.

He paid the price for your sins

You have a choice, either you face God by yourselves and your crimes against him will justly condemn you to Hell. Or you trust in the One Mediator. You trust in the fact that he has offered his own life to pay for your sins. Reject his work on the cross and you reject the only way to escape hell.

But if you do trust in his work on the cross to pay for your sins, He promises that your debt to God will be erased and you will be welcomed into heaven and into the Family of God.

Intercedes in our weakness

And His work as priest is ongoing as we continue to fight sin in this fallen world. Satan's forces will accuse you on every side. He will want you to doubt that you are really saved. He will want you to look at your

inadequate service and record of faults and he will want you to doubt the promises of God.

But we must remember that Jesus is seated at the right hand of the father. His work of atonement is finished, and no accusation against the people of God can stand. You are declared righteous because of what Jesus has done and nothing can change that.

The priestly work of Jesus is deep and wide, and much of the New Testament is dedicated to explain the nature of the Atonement. It is a truth we all cling to in our times of doubt and trial.

But what happens if you isolate the priestly work of Christ? If you remove his teaching and ruling offices? You quickly fall into error. One error for example is to conclude that all humans will be saved, regardless of what they believe or how they live.

Yes Jesus is Priest but he is also prophet and King.

So let us look at the third office of Jesus. The Office of King

Part 3 – King

Exposition

OT Anticipation

The kingly office of the Mediator is the most anticipated work of the messiah in the Old Testament, but ironically, his kingly work was the more obscure while he was on earth and we still anticipate the full consummation of his reign.

Many psalms prophesied about the coming messiah as a King, defeating and judging the enemies of God's people.

Also in II Sam 7:12-13 the kingdom of the messiah is promised to last forever. This is what we call the Davidic covenant. Talking to David, God says:

*¹² When your days are fulfilled and you lie down with your fathers, I will raise up your offspring after you, who shall come from your body, and I will establish **his** kingdom. ¹³ He shall build a house for my name, and I will establish the throne of his kingdom forever. ¹⁴ I will be to him a father, and he shall be to me a son.*

The Old Testament makes it very clear that God would establish His King to reign forever.

Jesus as King - Declared at his conception

Although we still anticipate the full consummation of the reign of King Jesus, he exercised his kingly work while on earth.

For example in Luke 1:32-33, when the Angel Gabriel announces to Mary that she will be the mother of the messiah, his kingship is highlighted.

³² He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God will give to him the throne of his father David, ³³ and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end."

Gabriel is explicitly saying that Jesus was the fulfilment of the Davidic covenant. He is the King who's kingdom would last forever.

Jesus as King – Miracles and Resurrection

And of course, the miracles of Jesus displayed that Jesus had kingly authority. They show that he had authority over nature, over time, space, and matter, over the winds and the waves, over demons, over sickness, and even over death. He was the king, and all these things had to submit to him.

But the one event that declares him to be the awaited King above all else is his resurrection. In Rom 1:4 we read:

⁴ and [Jesus] was declared to be the Son of God in power according to the Spirit of holiness by his resurrection from the dead, ~~Jesus-Christ-our-Lord.~~

The title "Son of God" in Romans 1:4 is linking straight back to the Davidic covenant of II Samuel 7 and the prophecies in Ps 2 and ps 110.

Which means that the resurrection is a fulfilment of the promise of II Samuel 7. The resurrection declares Jesus to be the long-awaited King.

Jesus as King – Rules His church

And so Jesus is King, He is seated at the right hand of the Father with full authority.

One way that he exercises his kingship today, in his exalted state, is his rule over his church. He is the head of the church. He is the great shepherd who leads and directs his church. In Eph 1:20-23 we read:

²⁰ that he [God] worked in Christ when he raised him from the dead and seated him at his right hand in the heavenly places, ²¹ far above all rule and authority and power and dominion, and above every name that is named, not only in this age but also in the one to come. ²² And he put all things under his feet and gave him as head over all things to the church, ²³ which is his body, the fullness of him who fills all in all.

Jesus is king and he rules his church.

Jesus as King – Rules His people

And his kingship is not so much over lands and dominions. No, his kingship is talking about the rule and reign in the hearts of his people. King Jesus requires Loyalty, Obedience, Submission, and Service from his people.

But the wonder is that King Jesus is the one who empowers us to submit, obey and serve.

Listen to how a subject of the king speaks of his King. Gal 2:20.

²⁰ I have been crucified with Christ. It is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Application

We are powerless to stop rebelling

Because of Sin, we are powerless to stop rebelling. We are powerless to be loyal, obedient, to submit, and to Serve Him as our king. We are rebels at heart and we need a King who will subdue and deliver us from ourselves. The great Mediator, Jesus Christ, in his office of King, does exactly that.

He is king of our hearts

Our hearts are a battleground. A battleground for loyalty. Loyalty to the king of kings, verses loyalty to Self. Your greatest enemy is you. You can never run away from yourself. Self must be subdued by the King of kings. Our rebellious and sinful attitudes all spring out of our hearts, and King Jesus addresses that.

When you were regenerated you entered into the kingdom of Jesus. Your heart was changed to be able to serve and obey the true king. And as you grow and continue to fight sin, your king Jesus will uphold and deliver you. Through his leading and governing he will give you the strength to persevere till the end. The Mediator, Jesus Christ is our king.

But what happens if you isolate the kingly office of the messiah? This was the error the first-century Jews were caught by. They wanted the blood of their enemies without realizing that they themselves were guilty before God and in need of atonement. Yes, He is king, but he is also Prophet and priest.

Conclusion

So we have one Mediator, our lord Jesus Christ. And he did his work in two states. He endured the state of Humiliation, and is now in the state of Exaltation.

And His work as Mediator is threefold. He is Prophet. He is Priest and He is King. To disregard any of one of these offices is to deny the work of the Mediator. And without God's mediator, you stand alone before the wrath of a holy and just God.

We should marvel at the comprehensive and complete work of our Mediator.

Sin leaves us with a gaping need. In His threefold offices He fulfils our every need.

In Sin, we are blind and ignorant but as Prophet He reveals the will and the Word of God to us.

In Sin, we deserve punishment and are separated from God, But as Priest He paid the price in our place and He intercedes on our behalf.

In Sin, we are rebels at heart, but as King he delivers and upholds us in the war we are in.

In closing, let me read Paragraph 10 of Chapter 9 of the 1689 which summarises these three offices:

This number and order of offices is necessary; for in respect of our ignorance, we stand in need of his prophetic office; and in respect of our alienation from God, and imperfection of the best of our services, we need his priestly office to reconcile us and present us acceptable unto God; and in respect to our averseness and utter inability to return to God, and for our rescue and security from our spiritual adversaries, we need his kingly office to convince, subdue, draw, uphold, deliver, and preserve us to his heavenly kingdom.

Let us Pray