

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

Video Lecture Series

by Dr. Stephen Myers and Robert D. McCurley, ThM

STUDY GUIDE

Module 4:
CHRISTOLOGY

Lecture 6:
THE OFFICES OF CHRIST



The John Knox Institute
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Entrusting our Reformed Inheritance to the Church Worldwide

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Unless otherwise indicated, all Scripture quotations are from the Authorized King James Version.

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STUDY GUIDE

Module 4

Christology

Lectures by Dr. Stephen Myers:

1. Introduction to Christology
2. The Divinity of Christ
3. The Humanity of Christ

Lectures by Robert D. McCurley, ThM:

4. The Hypostatic Union
5. The States of Christ
- 6. The Offices of Christ**
7. The Necessity of the Atonement
8. The Nature of the Atonement
9. The Extent of the Atonement
10. The Preeminence of Christ

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CHRISTOLOGY

Lecture 6:

The Offices of Christ

Introduction

When we study God's names, we learn that they are a revelation of who he is. His name refers to everything by which he makes himself known; in his names, titles, attributes, Word, works, worship, and so on. This explains the importance of the Third Commandment, "Thou shalt not take the name of the LORD thy God in vain" (Deuteronomy 5:11); and it explains the importance of the First Petition of the Lord's Prayer, "Hallowed be thy name" (Matthew 6:9). To know the name of God is to know who God is, and what God does. As we will come to see, this helps us to understand the significance of the name of the Mediator—the Lord Jesus Christ—and how he executes the offices of Prophet, Priest, and King.

Theme: *The doctrine of Christ's three offices of Prophet, Priest, and King.*

I. Scriptural Basis

"For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." (1 Timothy 2:5)

1. The Mediator—the one who stands between the holy God and sinful men.
2. Christ Jesus, or Jesus Christ.
 - a. "Christ" means the anointed one.
 - 1) Three anointed offices in the Old Testament: prophets, priests, kings.
 - 2) Calling him "Christ" refers to him as Prophet, Priest, and King.
 - b. "Jesus" means "Savior."

Questions:

1. What is the role of a mediator? Who is the Mediator that is referred to, in 1 Timothy 2:5? Between which two parties does he mediate?

2. What is the meaning of the title, “Christ”?

3. What are the implications of calling Jesus by the name “Christ”?

II. Doctrinal Overview

As summarized in *The Westminster Shorter Catechism*, question #23:

“Christ, as our Redeemer, executeth the offices of a prophet, of a priest, and of a king, both in his estate of humiliation and exaltation.”

1. Christ, in the office of Prophet.

- a. The official messenger, ambassador, spokesman of God.
- b. Declares God’s Word to his people—“Thus saith the Lord.”
- c. All Old Testament prophets pointed forward to Christ.
- d. The Lord Jesus Christ was God’s last and greatest Prophet.
- e. Christ continues as our Prophet in heaven.

2. Christ, in the office of Priest.

- a. Old Testament priest represented the people before God.
- b. The Old Testament priest offered the sacrifices for the people.
 - 1) Christ is both the sacrifice offered, and the Priest who presents the sacrifice.

- 2) The priest was also a mediator between God and man.
- c. Jesus Christ executes the office of Priest by offering up himself as a perfect sacrifice to secure reconciliation for the sins of his people.
3. Christ, in the office of King.
 - a. The sovereign over the nation, the ruler, the protector of the people.
 - b. Christ is the only King who is truly after God's own heart, because he is the divine Messiah.
 - c. Christ executes the office of King.
 - 1) He calls his people out of the world.
 - 2) He sets his people free from bondage of Satan.
 - 3) He rules his church, providing ministers and officers for censures and discipline.
 - 4) He gives saving grace and rewards to his people.
 - 5) He restrains and conquers his and our enemies.
 - 6) He takes vengeance on those who now not God.

Questions

1. What is the purpose of an Old Testament prophet in the Bible?

2. What were the particular duties or tasks the Old Testament prophet had to perform?

3. How do we know that all the Old Testament prophets pointed forward to Christ? How is Christ the fulfillment of all that the prophetic office represented?

4. How does Christ continue to execute the office of Prophet in heaven?

5. What was the role of the Old Testament priest in the Bible? How does that office differ from the office of prophet?

6. How can a sinful people approach a holy God? How is this need beautifully met in the Lord Jesus Christ?

7. How does Christ exercise the office of Priest?

8. What is the role of the office of a king in the Bible? What does it mean to be a king after God's own heart? What conclusion might we draw about the long record of kings of Israel in the Old Testament? What were they pointing to?

9. How do we know that the Lord Jesus Christ is the only true and ultimate heir to David's throne?

10. How does Christ execute the office of King?

III. Polemical Exposition

Error 1: *Some today claim to be prophets, and say they have new revelations from God.*

Error 2: *Some insist the Old Testament ceremonial ordinances and worship have continued. Roman Catholicism teaches and practices the ongoing office of priests and sacrifices.*

Error 4: *Some say Jesus is not yet King, that he will become King when he returns.*

Questions:

1. Since the close of the New Testament canon, can there be any new revelations given by the Holy Spirit? Please explain your answer? How should we view those who claim they are modern-day prophets?

2. What errors must we resist regarding Christ's office of Priest?

3. Is Christ ruling as King at this moment, or should we be looking for him to rule as King in the future? Please explain your answer.

IV. Practical Exposition

1. Christ as our Prophet.

a. Should reinforce in our minds the centrality of the ministry of the Word of God, both in private and in public.

2. Christ as our Priest.

a. Believers derive a great deal of comfort from this doctrine.

3. Christ as our King.

a. The Lord Jesus Christ must be Lord of your life.

Questions:

1. How does Christ execute his prophetic office in his church today? What implications are there for the church and for our daily Christian lives?

2. Explain how the believer can derive a great deal of comfort from Christ's office as Priest.

3. What does it mean to be in subjection to our great King, the Lord Jesus Christ? What are the duties of the Christian to serve our King?

V. Self-Reflection

Lord Jesus Christ is our Prophet, Priest, and King. These gracious truths call for a diligent and faithful response in the lives of Christians. Do you already know the Lord Jesus as your Prophet, your Priest, and your King? How are his offices manifest in your life? What exhortations or admonitions about your Christian walk can you derive from this lecture?
