

## WESTMINSTER CONFESSION OF FAITH SHORTER CATECHISM

### LESSON # 16 (Q2LES3) - OFFICES OF THE REDEEMER QUESTIONS# 23, 24, 25, & 26

#### 1. Prayer

#### 2. Bible reading: Hebrews 9: 1 - 28

**3. Review:** We are working on the subject of our Redeemer. As noted in the last lesson, Christ, as our Redeemer/Mediator, is covered in questions 20 through 30 of the SC. In questions 20, 21, and 22, we learned about God's gift to us sinners of a redeemer. Question 20 taught us that God, from all eternity has elected some to everlasting life, that He entered into a covenant of grace with these elect; and that grace for the elect was purchased by a Redeemer. Question 21 taught us that there is only one Redeemer of God's elect, the Lord Jesus Christ, who became man, and so is both God and man in two distinct natures, and one person, forever. Question 22 taught us that Christ became man by taking to himself a true body and a reasonable soul, and that he was conceived by the power of the Holy Ghost, in the womb of the virgin Mary, and born of her, yet without sin.

**4. Introduction:** This week we will cover questions 23 through 26, which deal with the offices which Christ executes, as our Redeemer.

#### 5. Questions

Question 23: **What offices doth Christ execute as our Redeemer?**

Answer: **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.**

Question 24 **How doth Christ execute the office of a Prophet?**

Answer: **Christ executeth the office of a prophet, in revealing to us, by his word and Spirit, the will of God for our salvation.**

Question 25 **How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?**

Answer: **Christ executeth the office of a priest, in his once offering up of himself a sacrifice to satisfy divine justice, and reconcile us to God; and in making continual intercession for us.**

Question 26      **How doth Christ execute the office of a king?**

Answer:            **Christ executeth the office of a King, in his subduing us to himself, in ruling and defending us, and in restraining and conquering all his and our enemies.**

6. **Question 23** Question 23 of the SC is an introductory question. It introduces the following five questions. It identifies Christ, as our Redeemer, (Mediator - used in WCF & LC, redeemer used in SC) as:

1. executing the office of a Prophet (SC q24, LC q43) (**Acts 3:22 [from Deut 18:15,18]**)
2. executing the office of a Priest (SC q25, LC q44) (**Heb 5:6**)
3. executing the office of a King (SC q26, LC q45) (**Matt 21:5**)

both in his estate of:

1. humiliation (SC q27, LC q's 46 – 50)
2. exaltation (SC q 28, LC q's 47 – 56)

We will study Christ's "offices" today, and deal with the two estates in the next lesson.

- a. The WCF, chapter 8 (Of Christ the Mediator), para 1 says: "It pleased God, in His eternal purpose, to choose and ordain the Lord Jesus, His only begotten Son, to be the Mediator between God and man; the Prophet, Priest, and King, the Head and Savior of His 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, and sanctified, and glorified."
- b. The LC deals with the offices of Christ also in four questions.
  - Question 42 identifies the offices which Christ is to execute (prophet, priest & king), and the estates wherein executed (humiliation & exaltation).
  - Question 43 asks how Christ executes the office of a prophet.
  - Question 44 asks how Christ executes the office of a priest.
  - Question 45 asks how Christ executes the office of a King.

The answers, while expanded, are essentially the same.

7. **How doth Christ execute the office of a prophet?**

a. What does a prophet do?

My trusty Webster's New 20<sup>th</sup> Century dictionary says of a prophet:

- A person who speaks for God or a god, or as though under divine guidance.
- A person who predicts future events in any way.

So Christ, as a prophet, would speak for God, and predict future events. (**Heb 1:1** *"<sup>(1)</sup>God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets,<sup>(2)</sup>Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son, whom he hath appointed heir to all things, by whom also he made the worlds."*)

b. What does Christ reveal to us as a prophet?

The will of God for our salvation. The LC q43 expands this adding, *"the whole will of God, in all things concerning their edification and salvation"* (**John 15:15** *"Henceforth I call you not servants; for the servant knoweth not what his lord doeth: but I have called you friends; for all things that I have heard of my Father I have made known to you."*) [good discussion item: If Christ is God, why does he not know all what is to occur in the future.]

c. To whom does Christ reveal His will?

The SC q24 says, "to us". The LC q43 says, "to his Church"

d. How does Christ reveal this too us?

- by his Word (**John 20:31** *"But these are written, that ye might believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God; and that believing ye might have life through his name."*)

what do we mean by his "word" - the whole bible, old & new testaments

- by his Spirit (**John 14:26** *"But the Comforter, which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance, whatsoever I have said unto you."*)

e. TV notes that "the word of Christ, without his Spirit is not sufficient to teach us the will of God for our salvation, because it is by the Spirit of Christ only that we are enabled to discern and receive the things which are necessary to salvation." and that "the Spirit of Christ could, without his word, teach us the will of God, but will not since the whole will of God necessary for our salvation is revealed in his word" Is this circular reasoning?

## 8. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest?

- a. Was Christ, as a priest, appointed by God. Yes
- God appoints priests, God appointed the line of Aaron, Israel lost it's line of priests
  - God appointed Christ as a priest. **(Heb 5: 4 - 6 “<sup>(4)</sup>No man taketh this honor unto himself, but he that is called of God, as was Aaron: <sup>(5)</sup>So also Christ glorified not himself to be made an high priest, but he that said, Thou art my Son, to day have I begotten thee. <sup>(6)</sup>As he saith also in another place, Thou art a priest for ever, after the order of Melchizedek”).**

- b. What are the two parts of Christ's executing the office of a priest?

- offering a sacrifice to God for us
- making intercession for us

- c. What was the first part of Christ's priestly office.

Making a sacrifice for us. TV defines a sacrifice as “a holy offering rendered to God by a priest of God's appointment.

- d. What was Christ's sacrifice for us?

**“His once offering up of himself” (Heb 9:14 “How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the living God.”)**

- e. How many times did Christ make this sacrifice? Once only **(Heb 9:28 “So Christ was once offered to bear the sins of man; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second tome without sin unto salvation.”)**

- f. How did Christ's sacrifice of himself satisfy God's divine justice?

- because Christ, being God, was of sufficient worth to satisfy God's justice.
- because this sacrifice of Christ was accepted by God in behalf of sinners. (Christ's having perfectly fulfilled the first covenant) **(Eph 5:2 “And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweet smelling savour.)**
- because Christ, in his death, who was our sacrifice, did bear our sins, or he punishment due for our sins; and wherefore did he bear them, but for the satisfaction of God's justice.

- g. What is the result of Christ's sacrifice for us?

- Our reconciliation to God. (**Eph 2:16** *“And that he might reconcile both unto God in one body by the cross having slain the enmity thereby:”*)

h. What is the second part of Christ’s priestly office

- Making continual intercession for us. (**Heb 7:25** *“Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them.”*)

i. Why do we need Christ’s continual intercession if his death was sufficient for all our sins?

- because we continue to sin?

**NOTE: If you want more information on Christ’s qualifications to be our priest , see Pastor Elliott’s sermon notes from a couple of weeks ago titled Melchizedec’s Order Return’s.**

9. **How doth Christ execute the office of a King?** Read (**John 1:49** *“Nathanael answered and saith unto him, Rabbi, thou art the Son of God; thou art the King of Israel.”*)

a. What are the three parts of Christ’s executing the office of a King?

- subduing us to himself  
LC q45 says, *“in calling out of the world a people to himself”.*
- ruling us  
LC q45 says, *“and giving them officers, laws, and censures, by which he visibly governs them;”*
- defending us  
LC q45 says, *“in bestowing saving grace upon his elect, rewarding their obedience, and correcting them for their sins, preserving and supporting them under all their temptations and sufferings, restraining and overcoming their enemies, and powerfully ordering all things for his own glory, and their good, and also taking vengeance on the rest, who know not God, and obey not the gospel.”*

b. What does Christ’s having to subdue his people reflect/suppose?

- That we are a stubborn, disobedient, rebellious and enemies unto him. (**Col 1:21** *“And you, tat were sometime alienated and enemies in you mind by wicked works , yet now hath he reconciled.”*)

- c. What does Christ's implied success in subduing his people imply?
- That we are called, and brought under his government. (**Psalm 110:3** *"Thy people shall be willing in the day of thy power, in the beauties of holiness from the womb of the morning: thou has the dew of thy youth."*)
- d. How does Christ rule his people?
- by giving them laws. (**Isa 33:22** *"For the Lord is our judge, the Lord is our lawgiver, the Lord is our King, he will save us."*)
  - by annexing or adding to his laws threatenings of punishing the disobedient, and promises of rewarding the obedient. (**Rev 2:23** *"And I will kill her children with death; and all the churches shall know that I am he which searcheth the reins and hearts: and I will give unto every one of you according to your works."*)
  - by appointing Church officers (**Matt 16:19** *"And I will give unto thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever thou shall loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."*)
  - by the application of his Spirit. (**2 Cor 3:3** *"Forasmuch as ye are manifestly declared to be the epistle of Christ ministered by us, written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in fleshly tables of he heart."*)
- e. Christ in his office of a King, has dominion over both his people and his enemies. TV defines Christ's and our enemies as "the devil, the flesh, the world, and death".
- f. How does Christ restrain and conquer his and his peoples enemies?
- He restrains them by setting bounds and limits (there power remaining) to them, over which he does not allow them to pass.
  - He conquers them by
    - taking away their power in part, and
    - totally abolishing and destroying them