

FOR US AND OUR SALVATION

*An Integrative Study of the Person and Work of Jesus Christ
Lesson #30 – The Work of Christ – Jesus as Priest (Part 3)*

Overall Review

1) What does the phrase the “Work of Christ” refer to?

“In short, it refers to ALL that Christ did when he came to this earth ‘for us and our salvation,’ all that he continues to do now that he risen from the dead and at God’s right hand, and all that he will do when he returns in glory at the end of the age.” – Robert Letham

2) Why should we study the “Work of Christ?”

Essentially and simply put, our understanding of the work of Christ affects every aspect of our being. From the way we live our life to the message that we declare about eternal life, a Biblical understanding of the “work of Christ” is absolutely vital.

3) What is the threefold office of Christ?

Prophet, Priest, and King

4) What was the role of the Old Testament Prophet?

The Prophet was primarily the mouthpiece of God to the People.

5) What was the role of the Old Testament Priest?

The Priest was primarily the representative of the People to God.

Last Week Review

1) What were the two aspects of Jesus’ priestly ministry that we considered last week?

- **Jesus’ special relationship to the temple, where the High Priest worked, enabled him to transcend it.**
- **Jesus’ intercession is a prominent feature of his entire ministry.**

Lesson #30 – The Work of Christ – Jesus as Priest (Part 3)

I. The Priesthood of Christ in the New Testament

- **Jesus’ death was seen as the shedding of new covenant blood, which fulfilled the ultimate purpose of the death of the Passover lamb.**
 - What is the ultimate purpose of the death of the Passover lamb?**
 - How is Jesus’ death as the True Passover lamb related to his priestly work?**
 - John 1:29 - The next day he saw Jesus coming toward him, and said, “Behold, the Lamb of God, who takes away the sin of the world!”**

- iv. **1 Corinthians 5:7** - Cleanse out the old leaven that you may be a new lump, as you really are unleavened. For Christ, our Passover lamb, has been sacrificed.
 - v. **Ephesians 5:2** - And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us, a fragrant offering and sacrifice to God.
 - vi. **1 Peter 1:18-19** – ¹⁸ knowing that you were ransomed from the futile ways inherited from your forefathers, not with perishable things such as silver or gold, ¹⁹ but with the precious blood of Christ, like that of a lamb without blemish or spot.
 - vii. **Revelation 5:6-10** -And between the throne and the four living creatures and among the elders I saw a Lamb standing, as though it had been slain, with seven horns and with seven eyes, which are the seven spirits of God sent out into all the earth. ⁷ And he went and took the scroll from the right hand of him who was seated on the throne. ⁸ And when he had taken the scroll, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb, each holding a harp, and golden bowls full of incense, which are the prayers of the saints. ⁹ And they sang a new song, saying, “Worthy are you to take the scroll and to open its seals, for you were slain, and by your blood you ransomed people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, ¹⁰ and you have made them a kingdom and priests to our God, and they shall reign on the earth.”
- **Jesus pronounced benedictions over His disciples.**
 - i. **What is a benediction and how does it relate to Jesus’ priestly work?**
 - 1. **Essentially, a benediction is a prayer/declaration/invocation of blessing from God upon another/or one’s own person**
 - 2. **In the OT, this was most frequently done by the priests on behalf of the people of Israel.**
 - ii. **Luke 24:50-53** – ⁵⁰ Then he led them out as far as Bethany, and lifting up his hands he blessed them. ⁵¹ While he blessed them, he parted from them and was carried up into heaven. ⁵² And they worshiped him and returned to Jerusalem with great joy, ⁵³ and were continually in the temple blessing God.
 - iii. **John 20:19-21** – ¹⁹ On the evening of that day, the first day of the week, the doors being locked where the disciples were for fear of the Jews, Jesus came and stood among them and said to them, “Peace be with you.” ²⁰ When he had said this, he showed them his hands and his side. Then the disciples were glad when they saw the Lord. ²¹ Jesus said to them again, “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, even so I am sending you.”
 - iv. **John 20:26** - Eight days later, his disciples were inside again, and Thomas was with them. Although the doors were locked, Jesus came and stood among them and said, “Peace be with you.”

- **The Sinlessness of Jesus is stressed clearly and consistently throughout the New Testament.**
 - i. **Why was the Sinlessness of Jesus necessary for his priestly work?**
 1. **First, the sacrifices had to be without spot of blemish. It had to be perfect, and in this case, it was moral perfection that was required of God, something that an animal could not possess.**
 2. **Second, the High Priest had to be considered ceremonially clean in order to offer the Passover lamb on the Day of Atonement. This was achieved by the High Priest first making atonement for himself and his family, before he could represent the people and make atonement for all of the sins of the people of Israel. Yet, this atonement was merely ceremonially, because the blood of bulls and goats could never cleanse the conscience of the worshipper, which was defiled by sin. Only the sacrifice of Christ could cleanse the conscience from dead works and make one truly clean before God.**
 - ii. **2 Corinthians 5:21 - ²¹ For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.**
 - iii. **1 Peter 2:21-25 - ²¹ For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. ²² He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. ²³ When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly. ²⁴ He himself bore our sins in his body on the tree, that we might die to sin and live to righteousness. By his wounds you have been healed. ²⁵ For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the Shepherd and Overseer of your souls.**
 - iv. **1 Peter 3:18 - For Christ also suffered once for sins, the righteous for the unrighteous, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh but made alive in the spirit,**
 - v. **1 John 3:5-7 - ⁵ You know that he appeared to take away sins, and in him there is no sin. ⁶ No one who abides in him keeps on sinning; no one who keeps on sinning has either seen him or known him. ⁷ Little children, let no one deceive you. Whoever practices righteousness is righteous, as he is righteous.**