Congregation of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Who here knows the children’s song that goes: I am a C. I am a CH. I am a CHRISTIAN. If you couldn’t follow the spelling, it was Christian. And we have noted on another occasion that the word ‘Christian’ is found three times in the Bible. The first time it was how unbelievers described followers of Christ. Back then, for example, followers of King Herod were called Herodians. And today you hear people talk about Trumpites – people who are devoted supporters of Donald Trump. So, Christian was the name given to those who were all about Christ.

But being a Christian is not about political allegiance. What is it about? Well, as the name suggests, it clearly has to do with Christ. So, to understand what being a Christian means, we first need to understand what Christ means. And that is why the theme of our sermon today is that **understanding why Jesus is the ‘Christ’ unpacks the Christian life**.

And maybe the first and most obvious thing to note here is that Christ is not a last name. You and I have last names, but Christ is a title. As Question 31 explains, the Greek word “Christ” means “anointed.” So, it is Jesus, the Anointed One. Does anyone know the Hebrew equivalent of Christ? It is “Messiah.” Messiah also means anointed. So, in our first point we will simply see that **Jesus was anointed and that Christians are anointed**. And then in the second half of the sermon we will look at **the significance of these anointings**. And as we move through the sermon, our order will always be Christ then Christians. What does what we are considering mean in relation to Christ and then what are its implications for us as Christians?

And brothers and sisters, young people and boys and girls, I can’t stress enough how basic or fundamental to all of life this topic is. Every moment of every day, every decision you make, your relationships, your attitudes, how you spend your money, how you vote, who your closest friends are, how you drive, how you speak, what you think about, and even your hopes and dreams, has to do with being a Christian.

1. Let’s see this, first of all, by simply noting that **Jesus was anointed and that Christians are anointed**. And this will not take us long to see.
   1. In **Luke 4**, Jesus was preaching in a synagogue. He read a part of **Isaiah 61**, which includes the words, “*The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because He has anointed me to proclaim good news to the poor*.” And when He finished the reading, Jesus said, “*Today this Scripture has been fulfilled in your hearing*.” So, this was Jesus saying, I am the one who has been anointed by the Holy Spirit.
      1. And His anointing happened at His baptism. We are told that “*when Jesus was baptized … the heavens were opened to Him, and … the Spirit of God descend[ed] like a dove and [came] to rest on Him; and behold, a voice from heaven said, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased."*”
      2. And so, in **Acts 10:38**, Peter speaks about “*how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power*.” And in **Acts 4:26**, Peter quoted Psalm 2, which speaks of God and His anointed one, and explained that Jesus is God’s anointed one. And **Hebrews 1:9** speaks about God having anointed His Son.
      3. And all this is why, when Jesus asked the disciples, “*Who do you say that I am*?” Peter answered, “*You are the Christ*.” Peter understood and believed that Jesus is the anointed One of God.
      4. And this is a major focus of the Gospels. The Old Testament taught the people of Israel to expect a Messiah/Christ – an Anointed One. And we will look at this in more detail in our second point, but the Gospels tell us that Jesus was anointed.
   2. Well, next we want to see that Christians are also anointed. We noted earlier that Jesus was anointed with the Holy Spirit at His baptism. So, for our anointing to be a sharing in or connection with His anointing, it must also be an anointing with the Holy Spirit.
      1. And this is exactly what the Old Testament leads us to expect. In **Ezekiel 36**, God said that a time was coming when He would put His Spirit within His people.
      2. And when Jesus was on earth, **John the Baptist** said of Him, “*I baptize you with water for repentance, but He … will baptize you with the Holy Spirit*.”
      3. And this happened, the first time, in a very visible and spectacular way, **on the Day of Pentecost**. We are told that the Holy Spirit came down from heaven in the form of tongues of fire that rested above each of the disciples.
      4. But it happens in a far less visible and spectacular way to each and every believer. Please turn with me in your Bibles to **1 Corinthians 12:13** (p.959). The topic there is the church as one body made up of many parts. But we read, “*For in one Spirit we were all baptized into one body … and all were made to drink of one Spirit*.” So, every believer receives or is anointed by the Holy Spirit. And if you turn over a few pages to **2 Corinthians 1:21-22**, Paul talks there about himself, Silvanus, Timothy, and all believers, saying “*And it is God who establishes us with you in Christ, and has anointed us, and who has also put His seal on us and given us His Spirit in our hearts as a guarantee*.”
      5. And finally on this point, in our earlier reading from **1 John 2:20**, John says of believers, “*But you have been anointed by the Holy One*.”
   3. So, Jesus was anointed by the Holy Spirit, and as the Anointed One, He anoints each believer with the Holy Spirit.

1. But now, as the second part of this sermon, we need to consider **the significance of His and our anointing**. What does anointing mean in relation to Christ and us as Christians?
   1. Well, let’s begin with **the biblical concept of anointing in general**. Earlier we read about the anointing of Aaron and his sons as the priests of Israel. And later on in the Bible, the prophets and kings of Israel were also anointed. And this was done with a special oil, the recipe for which was provided by God Himself in Exodus 30.
      1. Now, as something of an aside, boys and girls, who was the first king of Israel? Saul. And who was the first priest in Israel? Aaron. And who was the first prophet of Israel? Moses. And we know who anointed Saul – Samuel, and we know who anointed Aaron – Moses, but who anointed Moses? Here is a clue: It was not done by a human but by God, and it wasn’t with oil, but with the Holy Spirit. It was actually at the burning bush. That is where God called Moses, equipped Moses, and sent Moses. And later on in **Numbers 11**, we read that the Lord appointed 70 men as elders to assist Moses with leading the people. And we are told that the Lord “*took some of the Spirit that was on [Moses] and put it on the seventy elders. And as soon as the Spirit rested on them, they prophesied*.” So, God anointed Moses with the Holy Spirit.
      2. And the main point of all this is that anointing is about three things, **calling, catering, and commissioning**. The one anointed was *called* by God to their special office, whether it be prophet, priest, or king. And their anointing was a symbol that God had *catered* *for* or supplied them with all they needed to fulfill the duties of their office. And they were also now *commissioned* or sent out to do what the Lord had called them to do. So, called, catered for, and commissioned to – that’s what anointing is about.
   2. So, let’s think about this in terms of **Jesus, the Christ**.
      1. We saw earlier that He was anointed with the Holy Spirit when He was baptized. And we have also seen that in the Old Testament we have accounts of a bunch of different **prophets, priests, and kings**. But each one of them were sinners. So, they were not able, as prophets, to fully declare God and salvation, or as priests, to truly cleanse us from our sins and mediate between man and God and to give every blessing of God, or as kings, to completely rid God’s people of their worst enemies, which are sin and death. Moses, Aaron, Saul, David, Solomon, Samuel, Elijah, none of them were perfect prophets, priests, and kings. But there were good things that these prophets, priest, and kings did for the Lord’s people. And so, together, they make us expect a perfect prophet, priest and king.
         1. Some of you will have seen the Avenger movies. You get a bunch of individual superheroes who have their own movies where they defeat villains. But each of them also has some type of weakness, or gets defeated in some way. But then there are those movies when they all come together as the Avengers, and together they triumph over evil. And perhaps you, like me, have tried to design the perfect superhero – this part from Ironman, this part from Thor, this part from Black Widow, etc.
         2. Well, it’s a far from perfect illustration, but the individual prophets, priests, and kings of the Old Testament made the Old Testament people of God long for the perfect combination of prophet, priest, and king. If there was someone who was the best of Moses and Aaron and David …
         3. And this is why, if you are ever looking for a way to explain Jesus, or to explain what the Bible is all about, just remember **PPK**. Prophet, priest and king. The Old Testament is a whole bunch of mixed-bag individual prophets and priests and kings, and the New Testament is about He who is the perfect prophet, priest and king – Jesus Christ.
      2. And our Lord’s Day explains how He is this:
         1. As “our chief **prophet** and teacher [Jesus] perfectly reveals to us the secret counsel and will of God for our deliverance.”
            1. In **John 3**, Jesus said, “*For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life*.”
            2. And in the Gospel of John, we have all of Jesus’ “I am” sayings. “*I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry*.” “*I am the light of the world*.” “*I am the door*.” “*I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep*.” “*I am the way, the truth, and the Life. No one comes to the father except through me*.” “*I am the true vine ... apart from me you can do nothing*.” And with all these statements, Jesus revealed Himself as true and eternal God and the one through whom we may be saved and have eternal life.
            3. And as we saw two weeks ago from **Acts 4:12**, “*There is salvation in no one else [but Jesus], for there is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved*.” It is only by faith in Jesus Christ that we can be saved.
            4. And do you remember the last part of the great Commission? Do we just have to baptize people? Is that the end of it? No, Jesus said, “*Teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you*.” And the commandments of God only make sense in Christ. As He said, “*If you love me, you will keep my commandments*.” It is love for Him that brings us to church and Bible study and personal Bible reading, that we may learn more about and obey His commandments.
            5. So, Jesus is our chief prophet and teacher.
         2. But secondly, we see that as “our only high **priest** [Jesus] has set us free by the one sacrifice of His body, and … continually pleads our cause with the Father.”
            1. If were to ask you which book of the Bible says the most about Jesus as our great High Priest, your answer would be? **Hebrews**. In **4:14**, we are told that in Jesus “*we have a* *great High Priest*.” **7:23-24** says, “*The former priests were many in number, because they were prevented by death from continuing in office, but He holds His priesthood permanently, because He continues forever*.”
            2. And as our perfect priest, He offered Himself as the **perfect sacrifice**. **Hebrews 10:10** says, “*We have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*.” When Jesus had suffered the Father’s eternal wrath at your sins and mine, what did He say just before He died? “*It is finished*.” The price is paid. Our guilt is taken away and His righteousness is ours. So, by His one, perfect sacrifice, our sins are forgiven and we have eternal life.
            3. But another task of the Old Testament priests was to pray on behalf of the people. But the problem is that the priests were sinners and they eventually died and had to be replaced. But **Hebrews 7:25** says, “[*Jesus] is able to save to the uttermost those who draw near to God through Him, since He always lives to make intercession for them*.”

Have you ever had moments of doubt? Have you ever worried that a particular sin or sins might mean God will reject you? What if Satan himself tells God what you have done? Well, **Romans 8** says, “*Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? … 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*.”

Boys and girls, sometimes children think that their parents have a favourite child. Their parents deny this, of course, but it seems to the children that if that child A asks for something, he or she always gets it. Now, of course, this is not real because parents never have a favourite child. Right parents? But sometimes, if children think that they do, they will try and use this to their advantage by getting that child to ask for something.

Well, with all respect, and in a holy and good sense, Jesus is the Father’s favourite. He always listens to Him and gives Him what He asks for. And so, when the Bible tells us that Jesus is always interceding or praying or pleading for us to the Father, that is wonderful news! The Father will not listen to a charge against us, from anyone else, because He listens to His Son!

* + - * 1. This is the good news of having Jesus as our only high priest!
      1. And then, thirdly, as “our eternal **king** [Jesus] governs us by His Word and Spirit, and … guards us and keeps us in the freedom He has won for us.”
         1. In **2 Samuel 7**, God promised David that a Son of His would be the eternal King of the Lord’s people. And the fulfilment of that prophecy came when Jesus rode into Jerusalem on a donkey and was hailed by the people as the Son of David King. And right now, in heaven, He receives the worship of the angels as they do His bidding. And He is described in **Revelation 1** as the “*ruler of the kings of earth*,” and in **Revelation 19:16** as “*King of Kings and Lord of Lords*.” He is the sovereign ruler of *all* creation.
         2. But He graciously and lovingly rules us, as Christians, as His special people, by His **word and Spirit**. In His word, He teaches us what is good and evil, how to be saved, how to live a life that is pleasing to God, and the glorious reward that will be given to those who submitted to His reign. And by His Spirit, He helps us to understand His word and He makes us willing to obey it and supplies us with the power for obedience.
         3. And **will He fail in this task**? Could He lose us or be defeated by an enemy, somehow? No! For in **John 10:28**, He said, “*I give [my sheep] eternal life, and they will never perish, and no one will snatch them out of my hand*.” And **Romans 8:39** says that nothing “*will be able to separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord*.”
  1. So, Jesus, as the Christ, is our perfect prophet, priest, and king. And as we saw in our first point, we share in His anointing; we have been anointed with the same Holy Spirit as He was. So, unsurprisingly, to be a Christian is to be a ‘little Christ,’ if you like. We are prophets, priests, and kings.
     1. As a **prophet**, you are to “confess His name.” In **Matthew 10:32**, Jesus said, “*Therefore everyone who confesses Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in heaven*.”
        1. And this means that you must tell others that in order to be saved, they must confess their sins and receive Christ as their Saviour and Lord. This is the gospel that you must share with others. **Romans 1:16** says, “*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes*.” Can you say that? Are you *not* ashamed of the gospel? Or could it be that you *are* ashamed of the gospel? Can you remember the last time you actually told someone the gospel? You have the Spirit of Christ within you. He will help you share the gospel. And it is the sharing of the gospel – the speaking of sin and salvation in Jesus – that He uses to save people. So, don’t be ashamed. Confess Him!
     2. But also, as a **priest**, you are to “present yourself to [Christ] as a living sacrifice of thanks.” **Romans 12:1** says, “*Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God-- this is your spiritual act of worship*.”
        1. Your skills, your time, your money, your house, your job, your possessions, your body, each day and all day, must all be offered to Christ in selfless, sacrificial, service. And this is why you practice hospitality. It is why you value sexual purity of body and mind. It is why you tithe, or, if you don’t like that word, engage in regular, sacrificial, generous giving. It is why you volunteer to be a fire warden. It is why you offer a brother or sister a lift to Bible study. It is why you children obey your parents and why you adults pay your taxes and obey speed-limits and observe the Lord’s Day.
        2. And when you slip up and fall into sin, you turn in prayer to your perfect “*High Priest who is able to sympathize with your weakness,” because from Him you will “receive mercy and find grace to help … in [your] time of need*.”
     3. And finally, as a **king**, you are to “strive with a good conscience against sin and the devil in this life, and afterward to reign with Christ over all creation for all eternity.”
        1. Every king has an army and he sends his soldiers to war. And so does Jesus Christ. It is why we are commanded in Ephesians 6 to put on the full armour of God. Why? So “*that you may be able to stand against the schemes of the devil. For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the cosmic powers over this present darkness, against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly places*.” And if you cannot see how the devil is fighting against Christ and His people today, then you must have your eyes closed! From outside, he is doing it through issues like abortion, gender, and marriage. And inside, he is doing it through division and strife and false teaching. And it is why, as we have been seeing in our morning sermons, that we must be regularly reminded of and taught the truth of God’s Word.
        2. But this is also personal for each one of us. **Hebrews 12:4** talks about our “*struggle with sin*.” The Puritan, John Owen, said, “Be killing sin or it will kill you.” Are you at war with your sin? Are you killing it? The quote from John Owen that I gave you comes from his book, ‘The Mortification of Sin.’ And mortification means killing. It contains 9 strategies or instructions for killing sin. We have looked at them on another occasion and we don’t have time to go through them today, but you can Google John Owen and 9 strategies for killing sin. You will find it, easily, and can read it in your own time.
        3. And on the positive side, again, as we have seen in recent 2 Peter sermons, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, knowledge, steadfastness, self-control, etc. For it is in practicing these qualities that we are kept from falling.
        4. And Christian, never forget the promises of Christ your King: All things work together for your good. No one can bring a charge against you. Nothing can separate you from His love. You are more than conquerors through Christ who loves you! And when you stand before Him on Judgment Day, as your King, He will say to you, “*Come, you who are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world*.” Amen.