

BLESSEDNESS OF THE TRUTH: CHRIST, OUR ETERNAL KING

Intro: - Earlier we saw that Christ Jesus was anointed to be our chief prophet, and our only high priest. Now we rejoice in his work as our eternal king.
- What is his kingship? This is important to understand. Many in Jesus' day and still today want a different king. It is a spiritual kingship in our hearts.

I. CHRIST'S CERTAIN KINGSHIP.

- A. God's sovereign rule.
 1. God rules over his whole creation.
 2. God rules over his church. In the OT Israel was a theocracy.
 3. But even so, God promised to them a king to rule, defend and preserve his people from their enemies.
 4. Israel sinfully wanted a king "like the nations". Having giving them such a king, then gives them a king with a heart for God.
- B. Promised to his people is a visible representative of God to rule as King.
 1. Many historical passages of the OT. Gen. 3:15, Gen. 49:10 Numb. 24:19 II Sam. 7:4
 2. This is the beautiful message of the Psalms: Ps. 2, 21, 24, 45, 72, 89:35-37, 110.
 3. The prophets also speak of coming of the king: Isa. 9:6,7, 32:1, 33:22, Micah 5:2 Daniel 7, Zech. 9:9
 4. Always the promise in the OT: the king is coming!
- C. The NT shows that this prophecy is fulfilled in Jesus.
 1. The angel Gabriel comes announcing to Mary the birth of her son Jesus; his kingship and kingdom (Luke 1:32, 33).
 2. Jesus begins his ministry with the startling proclamation, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Mt.4:17).
 3. When Pilate asks the question, "Art thou the king of the Jews?" Jesus asserts that, yes he is! (Luke 23:3).
 4. The epistles repeat this testimony "who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, Lord of lords (I Tim. 6:15).
 5. Revelation is the clearest of all, the central theme being Jesus' kingship (rev. 19:6).
- D. What is this kingship?
 1. Christ is King of his church by his grace, with a love and a desire to bless.
 2. As King of his church he has also at his ascension been made king over all nations in his sovereign power.
 3. Lord's Day 12 is concerned with the kingship of Christ over the church, Lord's Day 19 with deal with Christ's rule over all.

II. CHRIST'S WORK AS OUR KING (Remember that anointing means worker!)

- A. Christ rules over his people.
 1. He reigns over believers individually and over his church organically and institutionally!
 2. Christ fought the battle for us, in our behalf, even unto death.
 3. His rule is **a rule of grace**, not a rod of iron. He makes us willing and eager subjects of his kingdom.
 4. His rule is **an internal and spiritual** rule, not by outward compulsion. He has **entered our hearts**, dethroning sin.
 5. His rule is **a sovereign rule**, his will is law.
 6. His rule manifests itself in his people by their **obedience**.
 7. He rules in our hearts by his Word and Holy Spirit.
 8. He rules in his church by means of the office of elder.
- B. Christ defends and preserves his people and his church.
 1. Now the church is still in the midst of a hostile world, and surrounded with enemies seeking her destruction.
 2. The church has a battle, not against flesh and blood, but against principalities and powers of darkness (Eph.6:12).
 3. Because of indwelling sin and weakness, the church as a whole and believers individually need to be preserved.
 4. Not in their own strength. Christ dwells with and in us by his Word and Spirit. He strengthens and blesses us.
 5. Christ in his power of all things also causes all things to work for our good and salvation! (Lord's Day 19)
- C. Christ leads his church to glory.
 1. We have glory now already, but the half of that glory we have not yet seen.
 2. For the saints, there will be rest from their labors, the will be a finish to their battles and their race.
 3. When all things are accomplished, the last of the elect saved, the wickedness of the world filled, Christ will come!
 4. Christ will come in great power and glory, establish his eternal Kingdom of glory in the new creation.
 5. Christ will reign over his church as an eternal King. Christ shall have dominion!

III. BLESSEDNESS OF HIS REIGN.

- A. A victorious King.
 1. Christ has received a new name: "King of kings, and Lord of lords" (Rev.19:16).
 2. How is it that the world is so little changed and his kingdom so little acknowledged? Is it all future?
 3. There are those who believe that the whole world will be evangelized or 'Christianized'. A golden age.
 4. Jesus says, "my kingdom is not of this world." Christ's kingdom is his church gathered from all nations and tribes.
 5. All the kingdoms of the world have their little time of glory until Christ sweeps them away.
 6. Christ's kingdom will fill the whole new world (Dan. 2:44, Dan. 7:22-27, Rev. 19).
- B. The result of Christ's reign in our hearts and over his church.
 1. We repent of our sins.
 2. We hear his royal summons to follow him wherever he leads.
 3. We fight the good fight of faith, even unto death.
 4. We are not left to ourselves in our struggles. Our King abides with and in us!
 5. We are redeemed as fallen kings, and are made to rule and reign with Christ. We are given crowns!
- C. The glory of God.
 1. God's rule through his visible representative brings glory to God.
 2. His is the Kingdom, the power, and the glory forever. Amen.