

Theology Simply Explained — WSC25 “Our Forever Priest”

Pastor walks his children through Westminster Shorter Catechism question 25—especially explaining how Christ is our effective and eternal Priest.

Q25. How doth Christ execute the office of a priest? ***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.***

(The following is a machine-generated transcription. Please be aware of—and patient with—transcribing errors. If there is something confusing or obviously erroneous, you are invited to listen to the audio recording via hopewellarp.org)

All right, our shorter. Catechism question. This week is how death Christ, execute the office of a priest? The answer is Christ, executed the office of a priest and has once offering up of himself. A sacrifice to satisfy Divine Justice and reconcile us to God. And in making continual, intercession for us.

So, it's important to note that. The determination that Christ would. Be our priest comes from the decree of God, within the Uh, one mind and will of God that is shared by Father Son and Holy. So that The intention for the lamb to be slain. Uh, goes back to Eternity and The time at which, Man, first sins.

Uh, not only then is there already this plan? Uh, for his atonement. But also, There is immediately the promise even before any curse is spoken to the woman or to the man. In the curse spoken to the serpent. There is the promise. Of the atonement.

Christ will offer. In the bruising of. The or crushing bruising head wise. The serpent. Um, at the cost of Being bruised, heel wise. By the serpent. Uh, so There is this idea of the lamb, slain from before the foundation of the world. So that Christ Uh, priesthood, which is after the order of Melchizedek which, of course Hebrews, which talks a lot about Christ's priesthood.

Giving exposition of Psalm, 110, is the great place to look at in the Bible to think about the priesthood of Jesus. And one of the main points that is made about it then is that it is without beginning and Without End Uh, that the reason that Melchizedek appears Uh, on the Bible scene without beginning and Without End without genealogy.

Is because he is the template. For Christ's priesthood. And I think that Melchizedek, Uh, almost certainly a Uh, christophany. Fact that he is referred to as a man. Uh, is not an obstacle. Yahweh in appearance as three men, two of whom are sent as Messengers.

Uh, but then Uh, the two who are sent as Messengers. Speak with one voice. Talking about themselves as Yahweh who are about to destroy Sodom. When? Uh, when they arrive there. An actual christophany and appearance of Christ, who is Uh, king of righteousness as malthazadak means.

And who is described as the king of Peace. Uh, the king of Shalom, King of Salem. Um, in the passage. Before, of course. Uh, there is even a Jerusalem. Um,

Jerusalem, being a city of Peace. At the time, it was a jebusite Hill. Anyway, so The great place in the Bible to look at to think about learn about Christ as priest. Is in the book of Hebrews which points out that, with respect to his Incarnation and his actual entering into the office of priest.

That this was something that he did not take to himself in his Humanity. Uh, but he received from God and Um, as far as Jesus's human consciousness. Uh, we see that he tends to focus on his relationship with the father whenever Whenever he is interacting as a man with God, even though he himself, of course, is also God.

But then, when he talks about, The offering of his life up, he says In John 10 that no one takes his life from him. He has authority to lay it down. He has authority to take it up. Uh, and this Authority that he has. This reality that he is God, and man is actually essential to his priesthood.

So that When he lays down his life, it is not merely taken from him. But he offers himself up unto death as Philippians 2. Describes him doing So that when he's offering himself up to the death, that is on the cross, he is actually submitting himself placing himself under The wrath of God.

So yes, the wrath of God is poured out on him. Who becomes identified with our sin. That's what he's doing this reconciliation. Uh, one of the primary ideas behind the word reconciliation is the idea of exchange, And we hear that idea of exchange, especially in second Corinthians chapter five, Uh, verse 21 that God made him who knew no sin to be sin.

Uh, so that in him we might become The righteousness of God. Um, But God did this, not only the father to the son, but the son to himself. Offering himself in our place as our priest to, which he was called, And we have his call recorded in the Bible, in which he is Anointed.

Um, not so much by the baptism of John, although John pours water on Jesus, at his baptism, but by the spirit who descends upon Jesus from Heaven just as Jesus later when he has bodily ascended to Heaven. Pours the spirit out on us from Heaven, Uh and this takes place at the age of 30 which was the proper age for entering in upon the full work of his priesthood.

And so Christ, as Identifies himself with us. Uh, at his baptism. And you remember that from Matthew chapter 4, Um, I'm sorry. I think chapter three. You remember that from earlier in Matthew? Uh, of Yeah, it's definitely chapter three and You remember that from early from Matthew chapter 3, Where Jesus told John that it was necessary, that he be baptized or that John baptized him.

Because in that way, they it was plural. We Uh, we'll fulfill all righteousness that Jesus is identifying with his people. Uh, in order to be their righteousness before God. And so, there is this righteous offering of Obedience before God. But ultimately Not only is he being cleaned and being holy in our place, which was a great part of the Priestly work as we have seen in Leviticus and now on into Numbers that the priests must be clean and holy.

In the place of the people, as the ones. Um, whose ministry brings the people near to God. But especially then in the offering of himself once for all as a sacrifice. Uh, and this is something that Hebrews 7, especially highlights when it reminds us that other priests were prevented from continuing in their Ministry by death.

Uh, but the Lord Jesus. Um, offered himself up once for all. And he rose again from the dead and he will never die. Again. And therefore not only has he reconciled us to God in this great exchange in which he atoned for our sin and became cursed for us and endured the fullness of God's Wrath.

So that God's Wrath is propitiated, there's none of it left. There's only the favor of gods towards us. But he always, he also also. Always lives. To make

intercession for us by the power of his indestructible life. And so his ongoing Priestly work, is the reason that we know that he is able and does As Hebrews says there, save.

To the uttermost. And so you have this conceived intention within the decree within God. Um, Uh for him to be slain, the promise and the application of the benefits of his future, atonement being applied right from the fall. Um, in fact, Adam and the gospel named Eve, Uh, already receiving benefits.

From the application of an atonement, that would not come. For another 4 000 years. Um, at that point and the therefore the application, even during the shadow period in which There was the levitical priesthood, the aaronic priesthood. And the sacrifices that looked forward in the Tabernacle, that was a copy.

But it was always the efficacy of Christ's priesthood and the efficacy of Christ's sacrifice the efficacy of Christ's reconciliation. Uh, that was being applied. Um, by faith and the work of the spirit until the time that Christ came, and now he pleads his own merits, the merits of his once for all sacrifice for us.

For which reason we need no other priest. He is Our great high priest. And so, how does Christ execute the office of a priest Christ? Executed the office of a priest and his once offering up of himself, a sacrifice to satisfy Divine Justice, and reconcile us to God, and in making continual, Intercession for us.

And so we have been brought near to God. Uh, in Jesus Christ and you can hear, of course. Now that you have been through Leviticus and heard over and over again that the word that most often there are other words that the, that sometimes get translated offering in our English version in Leviticus.

But the word that is most often behind the English word offering where you see, it is the word for being brought near. And so in Ephesians 2, when it says, those who are near and those who are far off were both reconciled to God and both brought near it is.

Talking, not only of the once for all sacrifice but Jesus is the one. Our priest who brings us near to God and as Hebrews 10 says all the way Into the holy of holies. Uh, through the new and living way that is his flesh. Having. Our hearts sprinkled clean by his blood from an evil conscience just as our bodies also were washed or sprinkled.

With. Uh, pure water at the baptism. Um, Of course, the parrot. The Purity has nothing to do with the substance of the water. Uh, but with the sacramental purpose. That was assigned to the Water by the institution. Of Christ. So, the water is not wholly, except in its application, according to Christ's command.

Uh, so finally again, how does Christ execute the office of a priest Christ? Executed the office of a priest and has once offering up of himself, a sacrifice to satisfy Divine Justice, and reconcile us to God. And in making continual, intercession for us.