

BURNING TRUTH: THEOLOGY IN THE LIGHT OF CHRIST

The Doctrine of Christ: The Work of Christ (21.1)

When the Father is mentioned his Logos is there too and the Holy Spirit who is in the Son, and if the Son is named, the Father is in the Son and the Holy Spirit is not separated from the Logos.¹

The three offices are so related to one another that Christ is Prophet in a priestly and royal manner; Priest in a prophetic and royal way; King, but King as priest and priest. The three offices can be distinguished; they cannot be separated. At every moment Christ acts in all three capacities... It is, therefore, not permissible to emphasize one of the three offices to such an extent that the other two are forgotten.²

THE VICTORIOUS CROSS: ACHIEVING THE FATHER'S VICTORY

The Promise

Genesis 3:15 – *The whole story of salvation is set in the context of cosmic conflict/victory (Rev 12). The Father's plan is to send his son to defeat his enemies & to redeem a people for his own possession.*

OT Anticipation

Exodus 14 – *From the beginning, salvation has included "salvation by conquest"*

1 Samuel 16-17 – *The life of David foreshadows Jesus. In his inaugural victory, David is anointed by the Spirit; he kills the enemy (the seed of the serpent); he crushes his head; and his people benefit.*

Psalm 68 – *God is praised for defeating the enemy Gentile kingdoms 'who delight in war.' Verse 18 explains how this Psalm relates to the cross: When Jesus died and rose again, he took captive his enemies and now gives gifts to his people. Moreover, his death defeats his enemies (cf. Zech 12-14)*

NT Anticipation

Mark 1:24 – *The demons anticipated their destruction.*

Luke 12:49-51 || Matthew 10:34 – *Jesus came to bring a sword and to win a victory.*

John 5:24-47 – *Jesus is sent by the father. He is completing the Father's mission (v. 30); all that he does is accomplishes the Father's will. Jesus works are greater (v. 36), and so is his glory (v. 44).*

Christus Victor Texts

Col 2:14-15 – *By cancelling the law, God broke Satan's only weapon (Rev 12:10)*

1 John 3:8 – *Jesus appearing was to destroy Satan and save his people ensnared by the serpent of old*

Rev 6:1-17 – *The Lamb alone has authority to open seals, pour out judgment; execute wrath (v. 16)*

Revelation 19:11-21 – *Jesus has right to judge nations because of his death on the cross*

1 Corinthians 15:20-28 – *Christ will return the kingdom to the Father, who gave it to him (v. 24)*

So, Christ is fulfilling the Father's mission. He dies on the cross to defeat all his enemies, to save his people, and to purge the world of all uncleanness (Rev 11:15-18)

¹Athanasius, *Letter to Serapion*, 1.14.

²W.A. Visser't Hooft, *The Kingship of Christ* (1948), 16-17. Quoted by Robert Sherman, *King, Priest, Prophet: A Trinitarian Theology of Atonement*.

THE ATONING CROSS: THE SON'S SACRIFICIAL OFFERING

OT Anticipation

Gen 3:21; 4:3-5, 26; 22:1-14 – *The principle of bloodshed and substitution is established early*

Exodus 12 – *Without the Passover, Israel would have perished in Egypt.*

Lev 1-7, 16 – *The sacrificial system (en toto) points to priestly and atoning work of Jesus Christ.*

Psalm 22 – *The forsakenness David expresses, anticipates the emotional turmoil of Christ's atonement; notice that the Psalm 22 has two parts—the suffering (v. 1-21) and the glory (v. 22-31)*

Isaiah 53 – *Bulls and goats were never meant to atone for sin; the suffering servant is the first place an unblemished man stands in the place of a sinful people. The sacrifice secures the new covenant.*

Zechariah 12-14 – *Imagery of the cross & its effects—cleansing for God's people; judgment on all others*

NT Fulfillment

Heb 5:10 – *Jesus is the superlative high priest who ends old covenant, begins new (9:16-18); he is the priest who offers himself (9:26); his sacrifice is perfect because of his obedient life (10:4-14)*

Mark 10:45; Matthew 20:28 – *He came to give his life as a ransom; pay penalty for sins.*

Matthew 26:28 – *His death inaugurated a new covenant, one that provides forgiveness*

John 1:29; 1 Cor 5:7; Eph 5:2 – *Christ is the Passover lamb; the one who takes away the sin of the world. He is the substance; all the previous OT sacrifices are but incomplete shadows.*

Ephesians 2:11-22 – *Reconciliation (vertical & horizontal) depend on the cross (2 Cor 5:14-21)*

Revelation 5:9-10 – *Christ's death redeems people from the world, and merits eternal praise.*

THE REVEALING CROSS: THE SPIRIT'S LIFE-GIVING WORD

OT Anticipation

Isaiah 52:10; 3:1 – *The arm of the LORD, which is God's saving power, is revealed in the OT*

Luke 24:44-47 – *The message of the OT was one of suffering & glory.*

1 Pet 1:10-12 – *The Spirit of Christ spoke of the suffering and glory that Christ would encounter.*

Justice

Romans 3:23-28 – *At the cross, God proved himself to be just and the justifier.*

Galatians 3:13 – *The full curse of God is displayed in the death that Jesus died.*

Love

Romans 5:8 – *God's love is not passive or needy, it takes the first step.*

1 John 4:7-10 – *Christ's death defines what love is and reveals how loving God is.*

Wisdom & Witness

1 Corinthians 1:30 – *The cross is not man's invention, but God's wisdom.*

1 Corinthians 2:2 – *The message of salvation is centered on the cross*

Example

1 Peter 2:21-25 – *Christ's death pays for our sins, but it also reveals how we should live.*

Glory

John 12:27-28 – *The cross is the highpoint in all history. Even in eternity, its fruit will be recognized and praised (Rev 5:10-11), the scars of Jesus will remain as an eternal reminder.*