

Daily Prayer

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24

Today's prayer is based on the thirty-first and -second questions and answers of the Heidelberg Catechism, 1563. The first question is: Why is Jesus called "Christ" and "Anointed"?

*Jesus is called "Christ" and "Anointed" because he has been ordained by God the Father and has been anointed with the Holy Spirit to be
our chief prophet and teacher
who perfectly reveals to us
the secret counsel of God for our deliverance;
our only high priest
who has set us free by the one sacrifice of his body,
and who continually pleads our cause with the Father;
and our eternal king
who governs us by his Word and Spirit,
and who guards us and keeps us
in the freedom he has won for us.*

Thank you, Father, for making Jesus my prophet, priest and king.
Thank you for giving him the power of your Spirit
so he could perfectly reveal to me
your plan for my deliverance that was hidden for ages.
Thank you that, in his role as priest,
my Lord Jesus is both the one offering the sacrifice -
and the sacrifice itself!
Thank you for Jesus' continued prayers for me.
Thank you that Jesus is my king,
governing, guarding and keeping me
in and by the power of his Word of truth and gracious Spirit.

The second question is: Why are you called a Christian?

*I am called a Christian because by faith I am a member of Christ
and so I share in his anointing.
I am anointed to confess his name,
to present myself to him as a living sacrifice of thanks,
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.*

The faith Jesus has given me makes me part of his body.
Jesus was anointed, I am part of his body, I share in his anointing.
This anointing empowers me
to speak of him to anyone, anytime, anywhere;
to give myself to him as a living thank-offering*;
to fight, with a good conscience, against sin and the devil now
and later to share in ruling with Jesus
over all that is
forever;
for Jesus and his kingdom's sake. Amen.

personalized by ptc

Prayer unaccompanied by perseverance leads to no result.

- John Calvin

**thank-offering* = from Leviticus 7.12-13. A sacrifice made, not to pay for sin, but to express gratitude, which is exactly what our lives should be. Jesus paid the debt. We should live thankfully.