

# HC 32 – You Are Anointed -Christians

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

Good parents want their children to be balanced in life. They want them to study hard, work well, and enjoy exercise. They want them to save up and to share. The parents want their children to reflect their ethics (道德准则), imperfect though the parents are.

Your Lord and Savior wants you to reflect him too...be like he...a prophet, priest, and king, and fulfill all your duties in all the different areas of your life. You will hear about this today.

Our headings are:

**Member in Christ**

**Benefits in Christ**

**Duties in Christ**

Our goals are: That **realizing the greatness of your position and privileges (特权) in Jesus Christ, you will walk and work as children of Light, to his praise and glory.**

Q 32 But why are you called a Christian?

A: Because by faith **I am a member of Christ** and so I share in His anointing (恩膏). **I am anointed to confess His name, to present myself to Him 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.

三十二问：你为何被称为基督徒呢？回答：因为我藉着信心（1）而成为基督的肢体，因此在他的恩膏上有份（2）；以致于我也可以承认他的名（3），把自己作为感恩的活祭献给他（4），又可以用自由和无亏的良心，在今生今世与罪恶和魔鬼争战（5），并且从此以后，与他一同作王，掌管万物，直到永远（6）。

## **Member in Christ**

**1. All Christians have Christ's anointing.** (So much for those who want you to be anointed!) Now while the title "Christian" was most likely used in a denigrating (贬低的) way in Antioch to refer to Christians, Christians seized on the opportunity to use it properly. **Christians used it because it was accurate.** Christ means "anointed" (受膏者) so you are rightly called Christians.

Acts 11:26 And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the **disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.**

1Corinthians 12:27 Now you are the body of Christ, and members individually.

1John 2:20 But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you know all things.

Apostle Peter reaffirmed rightly that you are not only Christians, but you **are also officers** in Christ's kingdom.

1Peter 2:9 But you are a **chosen generation, a royal priesthood**, a holy nation, His own special people, that you **may proclaim the praises** of Him who called you out of darkness into His marvelous light;

**2. How do you become a member of Christ? You become a member by having faith in Christ – faith in who he is and what he has done – in his person and in his work.** You simply receive what he has done as if you had done it and you were in him when he did it! The **Holy Spirit, and only he, applies this work to you and seals you.** He did this for free.

1John 2:27 But the anointing which you have received from Him abides in you.

The Holy Spirit's sealing sets you apart for special duty.

**3. While the early church did not write the word "Christian" on their doors, they used it to identify who they were to each other. They also used another Greek word "fish" -"ichthus."** Each letter of the word "ichthus" – an acronym 首字母缩略词 started these 5 words in Greek: **Jesus Christ, God's Son, our Savior.** ("Theos" God – is written as two letters – "th".) This was the fuller symbol that Christians used to identify each other as members of Christ's community. Those who believed were welcomed and they identified themselves as Christians. "Secret Christian" is a contradiction (自相矛盾) -an oxymoron.

**4. What a contrast from society today!** There are some clubs that deliberately try to keep regular folks out by having very large membership fees – like golf clubs. Some clubs you can't join because you can't meet the qualifications. You may not have a yacht (游艇), so you can't get in the yacht club. You may not have a million dollars so you can't get into the million dollar club. But not with Christ! You can become a member of Christ free of cost with no yearly fee. It is a costly price that was paid by him. Even the faith to receive his new life is a gift from him. And it is the best community in history!

## **Benefits in Christ**

**1. You are not only a member of Christ, but you also receive permanent benefits.** These benefits stay with you even after death.

1Thessalonians 4:14 For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him

those who sleep in Jesus.

Christ is not a time-out pole, a port for a cruise ship, or a visitor. You are always near him so you always receive his blessings, even when you die.

**2. And those permanent benefits would not mean much if they were not great benefits.** (Permanent presence of broccoli is not a great gift.) But these gifts from Christ are! Consider some of them:

**a. God pours out his Holy Spirit** on you to keep and bless you – to comfort you, instruct you, and pray for you.

**b. God gives you his church with directions** of how to guide you – pastors, elders, deacons.

**c. God gives you his love letter so you can remind yourself not just of the rules you must follow**, but also of how he loves you and how he encourages and equips you to walk with him.

**d. You have the hope of heaven, and God's Spirit guarantees you will get it.**

Romans 10: 9 that if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, **you will be saved.** 10 For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth **confession is made unto salvation.**

## **Duties in Christ**

**1. Being a member of Christ and receiving his benefits is good, but membership has its responsibilities.**

**You have to see your duties in Christ's 3 offices: prophet, priest, and king, in which you also were anointed.** Almost any club or organization you may join have certain responsibilities... things forbidden and things required. If you join a political party you have to subscribe to its by-laws (you can't be a member of another political party), or if you join the army you have certain rules for behavior that you must follow (you can't fight for the enemy). **Sadly, some find this idea of conforming to Christ as prophet, priest, and king, repulsive (可憎的).** They want to do what is right in their own eyes. But not you! You know there are great benefits to conforming to Jesus Christ. **So what are your duties as Christians to Christ?**

**2. As a prophet:**

**a. You are to confess like Peter that Jesus is the Christ, like you do in Profession of Faith.**

**b. You have to teach God's Word – all of it.** You have probably seen signs that say: Jesus would never discriminate (歧视) against homosexuals because he was all about love? President Obama believes that Jesus would never want "eye for eye." Some argue that Jesus would never support spanking a child. Some teach that all roads lead to God. Ignore pretend prophets (假先知).

**c. You have to teach the words of Jesus by your actions.** Yes, it is hard, especially to live as a prophet and to speak truth with your life...but "lifestyle preaching" is necessary! So be honest with your taxes, drive safely, and fight to protect your family and country. In doing this you show Christ's words.

Romans 12: 1 I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you **present your bodies a living sacrifice**, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service.

Galatians 5: 16 I say then: **Walk in the Spirit, and you shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh.**

You are not to be conformed to the world but be **transformed** to be more Christ-like.

**3. As a priest:**

**a. You have to worship in the way that Christ says.** You don't need bulls and goats, but you are to **worship from your lips and your heart and in spirit and in truth.**

**b. You have to pray to God for yourself and others,** starting with your family – your wife and your children.

Hebrews 13:15 Therefore by Him let us continually offer the **sacrifice of praise to God**, that is, the fruit of our lips, giving thanks to His name.

1Peter 2:5 you also, as living stones, are being built up a spiritual house, a holy priesthood, **to offer up spiritual sacrifices acceptable** to God through Jesus Christ.

**c. You must be willing share in Christ's suffering – be ready to die,** and deny yourself what you may save others.

**4. As a king:**

**a. You have to protect yourself and others against the constant wiles (诡计) of the Devil.** Watch

over the spiritual condition of those under your charge and help them to fight against deceptions of the Devil. Find out what is going on in your children's lives so you can see if there is danger – peer pressure (同龄人的压力), or struggles with sins... Discipline your children at home or in church. This is a large part of your kingly duties.

**b. You must be the most sensible environmentalists** (环保人士), because you would follow God... not Al Gore or Suzuki. You **guard the world** God has entrusted to you and you use it wisely.

**c. As a king you also reign with Christ and you will reign with Christ in fullness in the future.**

2Timothy 2:12 If we endure, **We shall also reign with Him**. If we deny Him, He also will deny us.

1Corinthians 6:3 Do you not know that **we shall judge angels**?

And yet, the Bible teaches that **Christ is reigning now**. Christ is not a baby in the manger (马厩). He is the risen King who sits at God's right hand, judging the nations. He sits there to keep you safe. He sits there to let you know you have a guarantee that a body like yours will be there as well. Meanwhile, he is reigning through you to bring the world to himself. The challenge always is to ask: Do I live like one who is reigning for Christ, or do I feel intimidated? Do I let the world know that I represent Christ and call on the world to submit to the King? Am I afraid to discipline those under my care?

**6. But to fulfill your duties you have to be filled with the Spirit of God who protects you.** If you don't have God's Spirit you will wince (退缩) away from doing your duties. You will be ashamed of Christ. You'll be afraid to speak and unable to speak.

Ephesians 6:11 Put on the whole armor of God, **that you may be able to stand** against the wiles of the devil.

The Devil will do everything he can to stop you from being a prophet, priest, and king under Christ. He has no other purpose in life. So you have to see these Christian duties as war – war against sin, your flesh, and the Devil.

1Timothy 1: 18 This charge I commit to you, son Timothy, according to the prophecies previously made concerning you, **that by them you may wage the good warfare...**

This is the true view of a Christian battle. This feminized (女性化的), bed-of-roses image of Christianity is contradictory to the whole tenor (要旨) of the Bible. Being a Christian is to be involved in a cosmic struggle—a struggle for world dominion. Yes, you will have peace in your heart that will help you to fight, but it is a fight. Don't be fooled by those who limit this fight! Be ready to die in this struggle.

### **Conclusion:**

**You are called to be prophet, priest, and king as Christ. Some people don't share the Gospel because they are ill-prepared** or ignorant or afraid of what to say. **Some don't pray for strength to face the challenges or for conversions** (皈依). **Some fail as kings because they don't know the issues-the dangers of the day.** They don't watch television or follow the news, they don't read other books other than the Bible, and they know little of history so they can't be the king God expects. So they exercise little discipline on children or delinquent (不尽责的, 有过失的) members, etc. These receive the benefits from Christ, but they avoid the duties that come with being anointed. But it should not be so.

Brothers and Sisters in Jesus Christ:

**1. Preach. Let the world know of all the spiritual riches you have found in Jesus Christ – how you were saved, sanctified** (使成圣) **and secured.**

**2. Pray.** Pray for your loved ones... your brothers in Christ... your enemies. Pray for yourself – that you will not love the pleasures of this world... but be ready to sacrifice more for the lost.

**3. Protect.** Make sure your charges know the danger of the world, sin, and the flesh. Punish them when punishment is necessary. Encourage when you see weaknesses.

Finally, if you are not a Christian, let me **invite** you to membership with Christ. Membership is free for you – Christ paid – and he guarantees that those who come will enjoy that membership forever. Come to Christ and receive all his benefits. May this be your desire. It is hell if you don't receive Christ's benefits.