



DCFA Newsletter

Volume 23. Issue 2

Winter 2016

Our Chief Prophet

Moses wrote in Exodus 18: 15, ***“The LORD your God will raise up for you a prophet like me, from among your own brothers. You must listen to him.”***

Scripture reading: Luke 4: 14 –22.

“Why is He called CHRIST, that is, Anointed”

“Because He is ordained of God the Father and anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption; and our only High Priest, who by the One sacrifice of His body, has redeemed us, and ever lived to make intercession for us with the Father; and our eternal King, who governs us by His Word and Spirit and defends us and preserves us in the redemption obtained for us.”

The word “Christ” is derived from the Greek word “Christos” which is itself a translation of the Hebrew word “Messiah.”

The word “Messiah” means “anointed one.” In the Old Testament, anointing with oil was a way of symbolically commissioning individuals to one of three offices — that of prophet, priest, or king.

The Messiah, or true Anointed One, would fulfil all three of these offices. The answer in Catechism Article 31 speaks of all three of these offices, beginning with the office of prophet.

Christ is described as our “chief Prophet and Teacher.” In the Old Testament a prophet was one who brought the Word of God to the people. He was specifically commissioned to do this, and God spoke through him.

This is why, when we read the Old Testament books of prophecy, time and again we find the expression, ***“Thus says the LORD,”*** followed by a specific message addressed to the people.

All the Old Testament prophets spoke the Word of the Lord. But their revelation was partial and specific to the particular situation of the day. Not so the revelation of Christ.

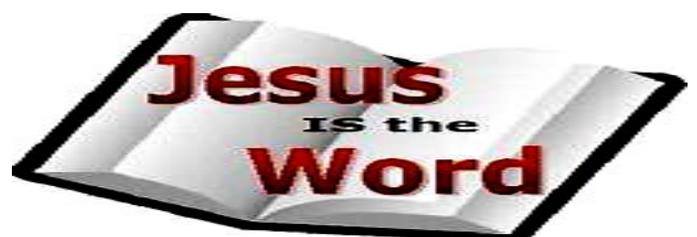
Jesus Christ is the Word of God made flesh. (John 1: 14) Therefore, in both his words and his life he fully reveals the Word and the will of God. In particular, as the Catechism points out, he reveals that Word concerning our redemption.

Whereas the Old Testament reveals God’s plan of redemption partially and through the shadows of the ceremonial law, the New Testament fully reveals that plan in its entirety.

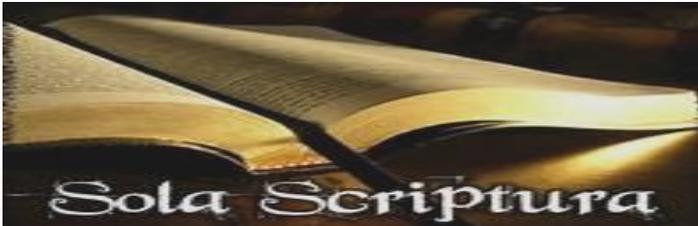
It does this through its record of the words of Christ spoken during his earthly ministry as well as the inspired revelation of the Holy Spirit, whom Christ sent to his apostles. Because of this, we have no need for further revelation.

That revelation is complete in Christ, who is indeed our chief prophet and teacher. Christ’s Word is truth. We must listen to him.

By Doug Erlandson, “Righteous in Christ”, written in 2013.



Together *for the* Gospel Scripture's Sufficiency



God's Word is all sufficient.

(2 Peter 1: 3)

“The testimony of Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.” (Revelation 19: 10)

Scripture reading:- 2 Corinthians 1: 18—22.

“Why is He called CHRIST, that is, Anointed?”

“Because He is ordained of God the Father and anointed with the Holy Spirit to be our chief Prophet and Teacher, who has fully revealed to us the secret counsel and will of God concerning our redemption...”

Although most people who claim to be Christians would agree that Christ is the Word made flesh (John 1: 14) and that he is indeed our chief prophet and teacher, many of these same people deny this in practise.

First, there are those who simply pick and chose what teachings of Jesus they want to believe. They may find what he says about turning the other cheek to be to their liking, but deny his teachings on hell.

Or they may have a smug confidence that they are obediently following what he says about money while ignoring what he says about forgiveness.

If Christ is to be our chief prophet and teacher we cannot simply obey what comes easily to us while ignoring the rest.

Another way in which people have denied the sufficiency of Christ as the One who reveals God's will to us is to put tradition on a par with God's Word.

It's easy for Protestants to point the finger at the Roman Catholic church for doing this, but many Protestants do this as well. Any time we forbid a practice that is not forbidden in the Bible (or, conversely, make a requirement of something that is not commanded in Scripture), we are guilty of this. To take the most obvious example, the Bible does not forbid the moderate consumption of alcoholic beverages, and neither should we.

Finally, some Christians place what they believe is further revelation on a par with Scripture. While it is true that the Holy Spirit gives Christians insight and discernment, the only infallible revelation is that which is given in God's Word.

Jesus is the Word made flesh. All the promises of Scripture are “Yes” and “Amen” in him. (See 2 Corinthians 1:20). Let us not add or subtract anything from the perfect revelation that has been granted to us through Christ and the Apostles.

By Doug Erlandson, “Righteous in Christ”, written in 2013.

The Shorter Catechism with Scriptural Proof

Question 27: Where was Christ's humiliation?

Answer:- Christ was humiliated being born, and in a low condition, **(1)** under law, **(2)** undergoing the miseries of this life, **(3)** the wrath of God, **(4)** and the cursed death of the cross, **(5)** in being buried, and continuing under the power of death for a time. **(6)**

- (1) Luke 2: 7; *She gave birth to her first baby. It was a boy. She wrapped him in large strips of cloth. Then she placed him in a manger. That's because there was no guest room where they could stay.*
- (2) Galatians 4:4; *But when the chosen time came. God sent his Son. A woman gave birth to him. He was born under the authority of the law.*
- (3) Isaiah 53: 3; *People looked down on him. They didn't accept him. He knew all about pain and suffering. He was like someone people turn their faces away from. We looked down on him. We didn't have any respect for him.*
- (4) Matthew 27: 46; *About three o'clock, Jesus cried out in loud voice. He said, “Eli, Eli, lema sabachthani?” This means “My God!, my God! why have you deserted me?”*
- (5) Philippians 2: 8; *He appeared as a man. He was humble and obeyed God completely. He did this even though it led to his death.*

(Continued from page 2)

Matthew 12.40; *Jonah was in the belly of a huge fish for three days and three nights. Something like that will happen to the Son of Man. He will spend three days and three nights in the grave.*

Question 28: Where was Christ's exaltation?

Answer:- Christ was exalted in rising again from the dead on the third day,(1) in ascending up into heaven, in sitting at the right hand of God the Father, (2) and in coming to judge the world at the last day, (3)

- (1) 1 Corinthians 15: 4; *He was buried. He was raised from the dead on the third day, just as Scripture said he would be.*
- (2) Mark 16: 19: *When the Lord Jesus finished speaking to them, he was taken up into heaven. He sat down at the right hand of God.*
- (3) Acts 17: 31; *He has set a day when he will judge the world fairly. He has appointed a man to be its judge. God has proved this to everyone by raising that man from the dead.*

(Note:- All verses used from NIRV translation)



'Born of the virgin Mary'

"The Lord himself will give you a sign. The virgin is going to have a baby. She will give birth to a son. And he will be called Immanuel. (Isaiah 7: 14 NIRV)

Scripture reading; Isaiah 9: 1—7.

"What is the meaning of 'conceived' by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary?"

Answer:- "That the eternal Son of God.... took upon Himself the very nature of man, of the flesh and blood of the Virgin Mary, so that he might also be the true seed of David, and be like His brothers in all things, sin excepted.

Jesus was conceived by the Holy Spirit and thereby Adam's sin did not pass down to the one conceived in Mary's womb.

However, in order to redeem us, Jesus not only needed to be righteous, but he needed to be born as a human being.

When the early church began using the creed in the second century that eventually came to be known as the Apostles' Creed, the Gnostic heresy threatened the church. Gnosticism denied that Jesus was truly a man. Although divine, he only appeared to be fully human. By confessing that Jesus was born of a woman the church made clear its belief that Jesus was every bit as much a human being as the rest of us.

Jesus had to be conceived by the Holy Spirit in order to avoid the decay of original sin. Why did he have to be fully human? The Catechism tells us why: "So that He might also be the true seed of David, and be like unto His brothers in all things, sin excepted."

Jesus had to go through all the experiences that attend normal human life. He had to spend nine months in Mary's womb. He had to grow up from infancy. He had to learn how to walk and to speak. He had to feel the pain that comes from physical hurts and ailments. He had to feel hunger, thirst, and fatigue. He had to have human emotions.

He needed to experience acceptance and rejection. He needed to feel anger, sorrow, and joy. In every way he was a human being. The only way in which Jesus differed from other human beings during his lifetime was that, although tempted just like we are, he resisted temptation. He was without sin.

And therefore he could be an acceptable sacrifice for the sins of those whom God had chosen in him from before the creation of the world. As true and righteous man, and also true God, he could pay the full penalty for our sins and accomplish the work of redemption on our behalf.

Praise his holy Name!

We have been set free because of what Christ has done. Because he bled and died our sins have been forgiven. We have been set free because God's grace is so rich.

He poured his grace on us. By giving us great wisdom and understanding.

Ephesians 1: 7—8

Our Mediator

“Once we were God’s enemies. But we have been brought back to him because his Son has died for us. Now that God has brought us back, we are even more secure. We know that we will be saved because Christ lives.” Romans 5: 10 (NIRV)

Scripture reading; Hebrews 2: 14—18

“What benefit do you receive from the holy conception and birth of Christ?” Answer:- “That He is our Mediator, and with His innocence and perfect holiness covers, in the sight of God, my sin, wherein I was conceived.”

In discussing the conception and birth of Christ over the last page of this newsletter we have already had occasion to talk about the necessity of all this for our salvation.

Jesus Christ had to come as a true and righteous man if my sins are to be covered by his death at Calvary.

He had to be a true man because God required the sacrifice of one like us as our substitute. Thus He had to in a man in every way, including being born of woman.

He had to be a righteous man, one who was not stained with the sin of Adam. He could not be conceived by the action of a human father but only through the operation of the Holy Spirit.

The present article focuses on two specific benefits we receive from the unique conception and birth of Christ. First, Christ is our “mediator.” Second, his perfect righteousness and holiness “covers” my sin in the sight of God.

A mediator is a go-between. For example, when a corporation is at odds with a worker’s union regarding a labor contract, a mediator is often hired to bring two sides together. Through the process of negotiation, the mediator (if he is successful) gets labor and management to agree on a contract. The two sides are reconciled.

In 2 Corinthians 5: 18—19 we read that God “reconciled us to himself through Christ.” The passage goes on to say that “God was reconciling the world to himself in Christ, not counting men’s sins against them.”

According to Romans 5: 10, we were enemies of God. We were at odds with him. This enmity was due to our sin.

However, because Christ, as our perfect substitute, has paid the penalty for our sin, he can and does act as our mediator. He is the one who reconciles God to us.

We are therefore no longer under condemnation. (Romans 8: 1) Instead, we are now at one with God, We have passed from death unto life. (John 5: 24)

Meditation of God’s Word

But the servant was pierced because we had sinned. He was crushed because we had done what was evil. He was punished to make us whole again. His wounds have healed us.

All of us are like sheep. We have wandered away from God. All of us have turned to our own way. And the Lord has placed on his servant the sins of all of us. Isaiah 53: 5—6 (NIRV)



Word of Encouragement for Deaf Christians

Gentleness & Peace

Apostle Paul wrote in Philippians 4: 5–7 (NIRV)
“5. ***“Let everyone know how gentle you are. The Lord is coming soon.*** 6. ***Don’t worry about anything. No matter what happens, tell God about everything. Ask and pray, and give thanks to Him.*** 7. ***Then God’s peace will watch over your hearts and your minds. He will do this because you belong to Christ Jesus. God’s peace can never be completely understood.”***

(A) Gentleness because the Lord is near:

In all our relationship with people, whether they are Christians or not, whether they are reasonable people or cantankerous and ill-tempered, we are to be gentle. (Romans 12: 17–18)

Being firm is commanded (Philippians 4: 1), but not being abrasive.. We are not to be imagining slights and harbouring grudges, and busy devising reasons why we cannot have much to do with this person or that person.

There is a great difference between being firm and being unreasonable. The Christian is to reflect the character of the Lord Jesus Christ Himself . (2 Corinthians 10: 1)

(Cont’d to page 5, please)

(Cont,d from page 4.....Gentleness & Peace)

The motive which drives the Christian is that **“the Lord is at hand”**, which is a distinctly Christian motive. By definition, the Christian believe it, the unbeliever does not. Paul could mean that the Lord is close and watching us. Psalm 145: 18 (ESV) assures us that **‘The Lord is near to all who call on Him, to all who call on Him in truth.’**

Because the Lord is near us, we can be strong enough to be gentle. We are to be always ready for Christ (Luke 12: 35—36). The Christian is grateful for God’s past mercies in Christ (Romans 12: 1), but also look ahead to what is coming (James 5: 7—9).

Why be joyful and gentle? Because the Lord is near—that is both a comfort (as it was, say to Paul in prison) and an incentive (it would stop resentment, for example, against the jailors who beat him)

(B) Peace through prayer.

Paul continues his train of thought : **“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”** (Philippians 4: 6—7 ESV)

If we are evangelical Christians, we have no trouble in saying that idolatry is sin, and so is blasphemy, murder, adultery, homosexuality and stealing. We would also say that these are internal sins like pride, lust and coveting, so sin is not just what we do but also what we think in our hearts.

One suspects that we are not used to thinking of anxiety as a sin. Yet Scripture says; **“Do not be anxious about anything.”** Clearly, this has to be interpreted properly. There is a concern which is right and good. There is right concern for the welfare of others, a right kind of anxiety which Scripture does not forbid. Notice that the prayer is not just asking for things, even asking for peace.. It is prayer and making requests with thanksgiving. (Colossians 3: 15, 17; 4: 2)

The Bible always treats ingratitude as a mark of the unbeliever (2 Timothy 3: 1— 5).

A motto :- “A prayerless life is a sign of a self-sufficient person; a prayerful life is a sign of a God-dependent person”

Author : Dr Peter Barnes
Edited P. Mundy (D)

A copy from 'Deaf Christian' newsletter printed by Australian Deaf Christian Crusaders (Sydney) September—November 1943.

GOD’S ROSES

Some men grumble because God puts thorns on Roses, but we should thank Him because He puts Roses on thorns.

God puts the Roses on the thorns,
To help us bear our pain,
For mortal man who often mourns,
God’s roses bloom again.
Their fragrance comes from heaven above,
The riches of His grace so free,
A message of abiding love,
God’s Roses tell to me.



Oh, make a posy for your breast,
A garland for your brow,
Accept the Joy and Peace and Rest,
God does offer now.
O Sharon’s Rose You Bloom Divine,
So pleasing to adore,
Your fragrance fills this life of mine,
To praise You more and more.



Here are a few of God’s choice Roses from His garden of love. Read 1 Corinthians 2: 9; 1 John 1: 7; Romans 8; 1; Hebrews 13: 8. There are many other Roses in God’s garden waiting for you to gather them each and every day.
(The late R.A. Reid (Deaf / Blind) Melbourne ,1930’s)



Power in the Word of God

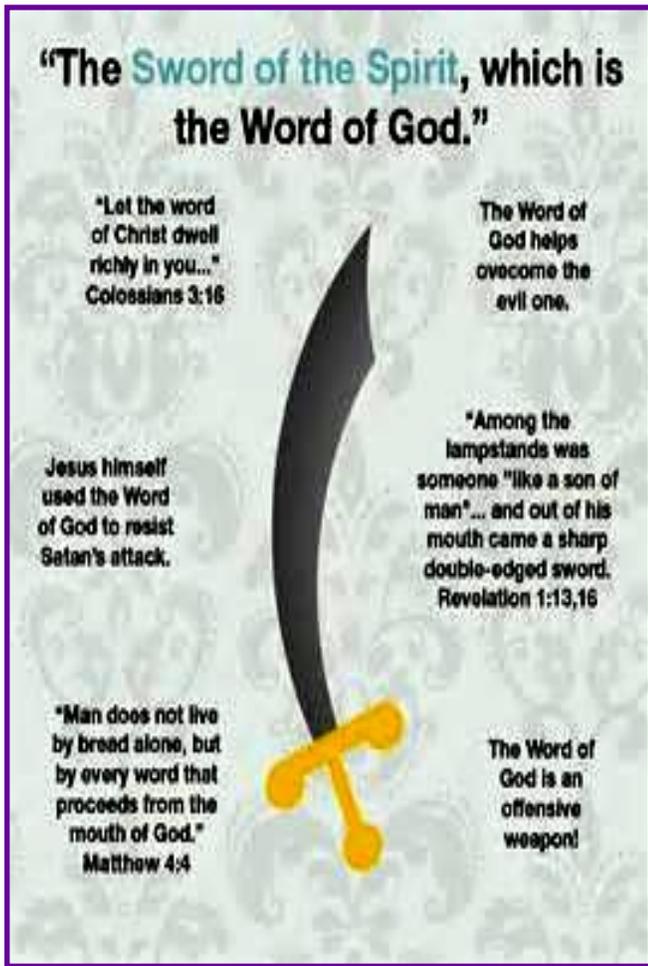
1. By what does Christ uphold all things?
Hebrews 1: 3
Your answer:-
2. In what other scripture is it shown that creative power is exercised through the Word of God?
Psalm148: 5
Your answer.....
3. Through what is the new birth accomplished?
1 Peter 1: 23
Your answer
4. What did Christ say is the seed of the kingdom of God? Luke 8: 11
Your answer
5. Where should the Word of Christ dwell?
Colossians 3: 16
Your answer
6. Why were the people astonished at Christ’s teaching?
Luke 4: 32
Your answer
7. What nature is imparted through the promises of God?
2 Peter 1: 4
Your answer
8. By what are believers made clean?
John 15: 3
Your answer
9. How may a young man cleanse his way?
Psalm 119: 9
Your answer
10. What power has the Word when hidden in the heart?
Psalm 119: 11
Your answer

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Next deadline for spring newsletter to the editor by **31st July 2016**, please send any spiritual article / news. if any pastor wishes. Please contact the editor by email or text 0404 299 055, if you wish to know about and visit Deaf church in any state of Australia.



“Take..... The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.” (Ephesians 6: 17)

Under Nehemiah’s supervision, the Israelite workers were building the wall around Jerusalem. When they were nearly half-finished, however, they learned that their enemies were plotting to attack Jerusalem. This news discouraged already exhausted workers.

Nehemiah had to do something. First he p _ _ _ _ _ and posted numerous guards in strategic places. He armed his workers; **“Those who carried materials did their work with one h _ _ _ _ and held a weapon in the o _ _ _ _ and each of the builders wore his s _ _ _ _ at his side as he worked.** (Nehemiah 4: 17—18 NIV)

We, who are building God’s k _ _ _ _ _ need to arm ourselves against the attack of our spiritual enemy, S _ _ _ _ . Our protection is the s _ _ _ _ of the Spirit, which is G _ _ _ _ W _ _ _ _ .

Memorizing and meditating on it enable us to **“take (our) s _ _ _ _ against the devil’s schemes.”** (Ephesians 6: 11)

If we fear we’ve sinned too greatly for God to use us, we must remember we’ve been f _ _ _ _ _ by the power of Jesus’ b _ _ _ _ _ . (Matthew 26: 28)

And if we’re worried we might fail if we try to serve God, we can recall that Jesus said we will bear f _ _ _ _ as we a _ _ _ _ in Him. (John 15: 5)

God’s Word is a d _ _ _ _ _ defence against attacks from the enemy.

Prayer: God, thank-you for the Bible. I believe that Your Word is alive and active. Please help us to remember it when we are worried or fearful, when we need encouragement and inspiration. Amen



The forthcoming DCF national camp will go ahead in Perth, January 7th—14th 2017.

People who are interested to register please pay the deposit to secure your booking to avoid disappointment. Visit the Facebook :-

Deaf Christian Fellowship of Australia Camp <http://www.facebook.com/groups/1610192872536985/> which has copies of the camp application forms and camp information sheets.

We would like to remind about the closing date for camp application and full payment will be on 31st October 2016.

For the day visitors who live in Perth, if they like to attend, they should register for lunch and dinner, please contact the Registrar on or before 30th November 2016. See the details in Facebook.

You can make enquiries with the Registrar, Peter Mundy, by email:

petermundy28@gmail.com or sms 0404 299 055 or fax (02) 9873 2900.

Answers (“Power in the Word of God” page 5)
 (1) His powerful Word; (2) His command; (3) Living and enduring Word of God; (4) The seed is the Word of God; (5) the message of Christ; (6) His Word had authority; (7) the divine nature; (8) because of His Word; (9) by living according to Your Word; (10) I might not sin against You

Answers from left column of this page:
 prayed, hand, other, sword, kingdom, Satan, sword, God’s, Word, sword, forgiven, blood, fruit, abide, divine