

“The Anointing that Teaches”  
(1 John 2:27)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. We’ve been looking at our communion with the Holy Spirit; most recently at His sealing us and giving us the earnest or down payment of heaven.
  - a. When He seals us, He stamps the moral image of Christ on our souls, so that we begin more and more to resemble Him.
  - b. In giving us the earnest of heaven, He gives us a foretaste of the love, joy, and happiness that will be ours in heaven when we are perfectly filled with His presence and freed once and for all from sin.
  
2. Again, this is part of the Spirit’s work in redemption, where He takes what Christ has earned and applies it to us.

B. Preview.

1. This morning, we return to another work of the Spirit we just touched on earlier: His work of teaching.
  - a. Remember what Jesus said in John 14:26, “He will teach you all things, and bring to your remembrance all that I said to you.”
  - b. We looked at what it meant that He would remind us.
    - (i) He would bring to the minds of the apostles what Jesus said so that they would be able to write it down accurately.
    - (ii) But He would also remind them, and us, of His words in a sovereign and powerful way to comfort us.
    - (iii) Whenever we’re able to draw strength and comfort from the promises of God that is the Spirit’s working in our souls.
  
2. Let’s move on now to the second part: He will teach us.
  - a. Our text calls this the anointing of the Spirit.
  - b. This is what we’ll consider this morning, and we’ll see two things:
    - (i) First, what this anointing is: an equipping for service.
    - (ii) Second, how this anointing equips us for service.

II. Sermon.

- A. Let’s consider first, what this anointing is: it’s the Holy Spirit poured out on us by Christ to equip us for service.
1. The Spirit applies the Word to comfort us, He does so in a way that glorifies Christ, gives us a sense of the Father’s love, shows us we are the adopted children of God, seals us with Christ’s image, gives us a foretaste of heaven, and now we see that He anoints us.

- a. Paul writes, “Now He who establishes us with you in Christ and anointed us is God, who also sealed us and gave us the Spirit in our hearts as a pledge” (2 Cor. 1:21-22).
  - b. And John writes in our text, “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know” (1 John 2:20).
2. What is this anointing?
- a. In the Old Covenant church, the priests were anointed with oil when they were installed in their office.
    - (i) This oil represented the anointing of the Holy Spirit.
    - (ii) It was something they needed if they were to do their work in a way honoring to the Lord – it was meant to equip them.
  - b. Their anointing also pointed to anointing that Jesus would have.
    - (i) He is our Great High Priest, who was anointed with the Spirit above measure – John the Baptist said of Him, “For He whom God has sent speaks the words of God; for He gives the Spirit without measure” (John 3:34).
    - (ii) This anointing was that He might fulfill His office as Messiah.
    - (iii) That’s what Messiah – and its Greek equivalent “Christ” – means: Anointed One.
  - c. Besides equipping Him for His work of redemption, this anointing also was a source of joy and so is called the oil of gladness, “You have loved righteousness and hated lawlessness; therefore God, Your God, has anointed You with the oil of gladness above your companions” (Heb. 1:9).
  - d. There was one more reason Jesus was anointed with the Spirit: that He might give us the same Spirit, this same anointing.
    - (i) To equip us to do the work He’s called us to.
    - (ii) And that we too might do it with joy.
    - (iii) The only difference is that He gives us the Spirit by measure.
- B. Let’s consider second, how this anointing equips us for service.
- 1. It actually does so in many ways, but we’ll focus on one this morning: it imparts to us spiritual knowledge.
    - a. Isaiah tells us something of what this anointing conferred on Christ – “Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit. The Spirit of the LORD will rest on Him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the LORD. And He will delight in the fear of the LORD, and He will not judge by what His eyes see, nor make a decision by what His ears hear” (Isa. 11:1-3) – it gave Him spiritual knowledge.
    - b. Paul tells us the same where he writes that all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Him (Col. 2:3).
    - c. This is the same Spirit He anoints us with, bringing the same results: “As for you, the anointing which you received from Him abides in you, and you have

no need for anyone to teach you; but as His anointing teaches you about all things, and is true and is not a lie, and just as it has taught you, you abide in Him” (1 John 2:27).

- d. Jesus said when the Comforter came, He would teach us (John 14:26) and would guide us into all the truth (16:13).
  - e. This is a large part of what it means to be anointed by the Spirit.
2. There are at least three ways He teaches us.
- a. First, He taught us our need of Christ when we were still in the world.
    - (i) He worked through our consciences to teach us when we did either right or wrong.
    - (ii) He worked through the Gospel to convict us of sin (John 16:8).
    - (iii) Through His teaching, He brought us closer to the kingdom of heaven (Mark 12:34).
  - b. Second, He taught us through illumination when He converted us:
    - (i) He gave sight to our blind eyes, opened them to spiritual things. “Now we have received, not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may know the things freely given to us by God” (1 Cor. 2:12).
    - (ii) He shone His light into our hearts to give us a new understanding of God’s Word – imparting a saving knowledge of the Gospel.
    - (iii) He didn’t give us any new information, but the ability to see what we knew in a new and sanctifying way.
  - c. Finally, He continues to teach us in a way that brings joy and comfort.
    - (i) He is also the oil of gladness: He shows us the beauty of God’s truth, makes it sweet, helps us to see how useful it is, and gives us joy in following it.
    - (ii) He shows us the beauty of Jesus Christ, so that we love Him and want to follow Him.
    - (iii) Sadly, we don’t experience this delight in spiritual things as much as we should.
      - (a) Too often we get more excited about the things of this world.
      - (b) The Spirit is able – and He is willing – to give us so much more of this blessing, by giving us a greater love and desire for the Lord.
      - (c) This is essentially the same thing as the Lord shining His countenance on us: the psalmist writes, “Lift up the light of Your countenance upon us, O LORD! You have put gladness in my heart, more than when their grain and new wine abound” (Ps. 4:6-7).
      - (d) When we find joy in God’s truth, when it reaches our hearts, when we find it come to our souls with life and power, so that our heart embraces it, causing us to want to conform to that truth, then the Holy Spirit is at work pouring into our hearts the oil of gladness.
      - (e) All we need to do what the Lord calls us to do are two things: the natural ability and the heart.

- (1) He gave us the natural abilities when He created us.
  - (2) But He gives us the spiritual ability – the heart – when He recreates and anoints us.
3. John reminds us of one further benefit of this anointing: it will keep us from being deceived and seduced by false doctrine. “But you have an anointing from the Holy One, and you all know. I have not written to you because you do not know the truth, but because you do know it, and because no lie is of the truth” (1 John 2:20-21). It does this in two ways:
- a. First, since this anointing gives us love for God’s truth, we won’t want to give it up: those who give up the truth for error only do so because they love error more.
  - b. And second, we won’t find that same kind of delight in false teaching – the Spirit won’t allow us to find that sweetness and joy in it – and so we won’t embrace it.
  - c. This anointing will not only empower us to serve, it will keep us safe.
4. Do you have this anointing of the Spirit this morning?
- a. You do, if you’re a Christian. But if you don’t, Jesus is the only One who can give it to you. You must turn away from your sins and trust Jesus to save you and anoint you with His Spirit.
  - b. If you do have it, but don’t sense much power or comfort from it, then prepare to come to the Table. Jesus has promised to give us more of the Spirit’s help – His anointing – through this sacrament. Amen.

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