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The First Doctrine

Jesus Christ Our Mediator Was Sent by the Father

“For He whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him. The Father loveth the Son, and hath given all things into His hand. He that believeth on the Son, hath everlasting life; and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him.” John 3:34–36

In these words, our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is described by a threefold adjunct:

1. From His authority and mission from the Father, in those words: “He whom God hath sent.”

2. From His fidelity in the discharge of that work He is employed in, in those words: “He...speaketh the words of God.” As a faithful messenger from a king will act according to his commission, so our Lord Jesus, who was faithful to Him who appointed Him, speaks the Word of God, and nothing else but the Word of God.

3. Our Lord Jesus is described and set forth by His ability and qualification for that work He was employed in. This you have in those words: “For God giveth not the Spirit by measure unto Him.” The Spirit is given to Christ as Mediator without measure, or above measure.

“He whom God hath sent.” The word here translated “sent” comes of the same word that the word “apostle” does. Christ is the great Apostle, the great Messenger of the Covenant, in whom all the elect delight (Malachi 3:1).

He is the Apostle and High Priest of our profession
(Hebrews 3:1). John

2 The Glory of Christ

the Baptist and the other prophets, and so likewise the apostles, were God's ministers and ambassadors; but our Lord Jesus is Ambassador extraordinary.

Men, and angels too (Luke 1:18–19) have been sent and employed by God, but none of them were ever sent, as Christ was, to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in an everlasting righteousness. This was He who was the brightness of the Father's glory and the express image of God. He alone was able by Himself to purge away sin. Neither was ever any other set about this work but He. God never laid the help and salvation of His people upon any but that mighty one.

DOCTRINE 1. Jesus Christ our Mediator was sent by the Father.

There is frequent mention made by our Savior of His being sent by God. I shall mention a few places. John 17:3: "And this is life eternal, that they might know Thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." Verse 8: "For I have given unto them the words which Thou gavest Me, and they have received them, and have known surely that I came out from Thee, and they have believed that Thou didst send Me." And again in verse 21: "That they all may be one...in us; that the world may believe that Thou hast sent Me." Verse 25: "O righteous Father, the world hath not known Thee; but I have known Thee, and these have known that Thou hast sent Me."

QUESTION 1. How shall we understand this phrase that Christ was sent by the Father? Sent of God!

This is a great mystery, one that we shall not fully understand till we come to heaven. When Christ is said to be sent by God, it is to be understood principally and