

Theme: Christ is central to the Gospel and true life, and we must proclaim Him as Paul did.

## I. Intro – “Personal” Greetings

- A. Form letters with “personal” greetings
- B. Now some have fake personal notes!
- C. A real personal note here (v11; 2 Th 3:17)
- D. Giving central concerns for Paul

## II. The Centrality of Christ (v14)

- A. Christ central to this last section (12, 14, 17, 18)
- B. The Gospel centered on Christ – not works
  - 1. Our only boast & hope (v14-15)
  - 2. False Gospel – works – which fail (v12-13)
- C. Christ – door to the new creation
  - 1. In Christ – old world passes away (14)
  - 2. In Christ – new creation comes (15; 2 Cor 5:17)
  - 3. New creation is all that counts (15)
- D. Christ – door to the True Israel (v15-16)
  - 1. True Israel new creation – not circumcision (15-16)
  - 2. Christ is Seed, Heir – we only in Him (3:16, 26-29)

## E. Divergent responses to Christ (v14 – Paul/world)

- 1. Christ rock of salvation (v14; 1 Cor 1:18,22-24)
- 2. Christ stone of stumbling (v14; 1 Cor 1:22-24; 1 Pet 2:6-8)
- 3. Leads to persecution (v17; v12)

## III. Conclusion & Summary

- A. Is Christ central to you?
  - 1. Is He the rock of salvation or stumbling stone?
  - 2. Is your hope in Christ alone?
  - 3. Are you a new creation?
- B. Is Christ central to our message?
  - 1. Do we speak of Christ – or just “god”?
  - 2. Are we willing to suffer for Christ?
  - 3. Do we see there is no other hope?

### The Centrality of Christ

Galatians 6:11-18

May 15, 2005

I Will Boast In the Cross of Christ

Galatians 6:18

17 I, Paul, write this greeting in my own hand, which is the distinguishing mark in all my letters. This is how I write.

2 Thessalonians 3:17

17 Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; the old has gone, the new has come!

2 Corinthians 5:17

16 The promises were spoken to Abraham and to his seed. The Scripture does not say "and to seeds," meaning many people, but "and to your seed," meaning one person, who is Christ... 26 You are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus, 27 for all of you who were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. 28 There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. 29 If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.

Galatians 3:16, 26-29

18 For the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God.... 22 Jews demand miraculous signs and Greeks look for wisdom, 23 but we preach Christ crucified: a stumbling block to Jews and foolishness to Gentiles, 24 but to those whom God has called, both Jews and Greeks, Christ the power of God and the wisdom of God.

1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-24

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1 Corinthians 1:18, 22-24

6 For in Scripture it says: "See, I lay a stone in Zion, a chosen and precious cornerstone, and the one who trusts in him will never be put to shame." 7 Now to you who believe, this stone is precious. But to those who do not believe, "The stone the builders rejected has become the capstone," 8 and, "A stone that causes men to stumble and a rock that makes them fall." They stumble because they disobey the message-- which is also what they were destined for.

1 Peter 2:6-8