

Theme: The central issue of true life is Christ and His Gospel, which give us life and should be central in our thought and existence.

## **I. Intro – Seeing the Big Picture**

- A. Long time going thru book – 15 + 2 wks
- B. I have enjoyed studying the book
- C. Can miss forest for trees – don't want to
- D. Take 2 more weeks – look at heart of book

## **II. The Centrality of Christ (1:21)**

- A. Christ is absolutely central in letter
  - 1. To live is Christ (1:21)
  - 2. Jesus, Christ, Lord – 48 discrete times!
  - 3. In Christ, in Lord, in Him – 20 times
  - 4. He appears in 48 out of 104 verses in letter
  - 5. He is central to this letter!
- B. The glory of Christ's Person in Philippians
  - 1. Christ is the Savior – 3:20
  - 2. Christ is the Lord – 9x; 2:11
  - 3. Christ is God – 2:6; 2:9-11; Is 45:21-24

## **C. The glory of Christ's work in Philippians**

- 1. Christ the example – 2:5 (humility)
- 2. Christ our righteousness – 3:7-9
- 3. Christ our life now – 1:21
- 4. Christ our eternal life – 3:10-11; 20-21

## **III. The Centrality of Christ's Gospel**

- A. The Gospel is central in this letter (1:27)
  - 1. Live worthy of Gospel; contend for (1:27)
  - 2. Gospel – 9x; more than any Pauline ltr (stats)
  - 3. Key concern – cause of Gospel in Philippi
- B. Key issues surrounding the Gospel
  - 1. True content of the Gospel (3:7-9)
  - 2. Partnership in the Gospel (1:5 NIV; 4:15 ESV)
  - 3. Advance of the Gospel (1:12)
  - 4. Live worthy of the Gospel; contend (1:27)

## IV. Applying the Word

- A. Do we see the centrality of Christ?
  - 1. Do we see He is central to God's purpose?
  - 2. Am I a supporting actor in His drama, or He in mine?
  - 3. He does not make life better – He is life!
  - 4. Apart from Him, we are dead in sin
  - 5. Come to Him, embrace Him, live in & for Him
- B. Do we see the centrality of the Gospel?
  - 1. We must be clear on content of the Gospel
  - 2. Gospel about what He did in history – not my story
  - 3. Consider 1 Corinthians 15:1-5 – Gospel
  - 4. As saved, we then live in light of Gospel
  - 5. As saved, we live for advance of Gospel
- C. Lord's Supper – Gospel in Sacrament
  - 1. I have proclaimed Christ and His Gospel in Word
  - 2. We will now proclaim Christ & Gospel in sacrament

21 Declare what is to be, present it-- let them take counsel together. Who foretold this long ago, who declared it from the distant past? Was it not I, the LORD? And there is no God apart from me, a righteous God and a Savior; there is none but me. 22 "Turn to me and be saved, all you ends of the earth; for I am God, and there is no other.

23 **By myself I have sworn, my mouth has uttered in all integrity a word that will not be revoked: Before me every knee will bow; by me every tongue will swear.** 24 They will say of me, 'In the LORD alone are righteousness and strength.'" All who have raged against him will come to him and be put to shame.

Isaiah 45:21-24

Gospel –  
Philippians 9x;  
Romans 7x;  
1 Cor 8x;  
Gal 7x;  
Eph 4x

1 Now, brothers, I want to remind you of the gospel I preached to you, which you received and on which you have taken your stand. 2 By this gospel you are saved, if you hold firmly to the word I preached to you. Otherwise, you have believed in vain. 3 For what I received I passed on to you as of first importance: that Christ died for our sins according to the Scriptures, 4 that he was buried, that he was raised on the third day according to the Scriptures, 5 and that he appeared to Peter, and then to the Twelve.

1 Corinthians 15:1-5