

STUDY PACK 3

CHRIST AS THE CENTER OF THE BIBLE

"The Bible is not an end in itself, but a means to a greater end: to lead us _____ and _____.

It is possible to be a "Bible-believer," but not a Christian, that is, not someone who reads this as a book about the person and work of Christ. But, some will say, not all of Scripture can be about Christ. After all, the Book of Revelation, for instance, is about the end times, right? Yes, and yet, Revelation is such a rich tapestry bringing together the threads of redemptive history around Christ: nothing could be more obvious from the text itself. Furthermore, Jesus was criticizing the religious leaders for not understanding that the Scriptures were all about Him when the only Scriptures to which He had reference consisted of the Old Testament. If Christ _____, then is He any less central in the New? If there is any doubt, we are reminded of our Lord's appearance to His disciples on the road to Emmaus. Not understanding the meaning of Jesus' death, these disciples were utterly despondent. Jesus told them, 'O fools, and slow of heart to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things, and to enter into his glory?' And beginning at Moses and all the prophets, he expounded unto them in all the scriptures the things concerning himself (Luke 24:25-27). No wonder their hearts burned within them as he opened up the Scriptures. It could happen on a broad scale today, too, if the Scriptures would only be approached this way in preaching.

Through the Scriptures, Peter says (again referring to the Old Testament), the Spirit revealed '... the sufferings of Christ and the glories that would follow' (I Peter 1:11). The sermons in the Book of Acts all reflect this way of preaching the Scriptures: Christ is proclaimed from the Old Testament. The first Christian sermons, therefore, do not proclaim Moses as a great Christian leader, nor is the purpose to set forth the example of Joshua's courage or David's 'heart for the Lord,' nor is Gideon's fleece a parable of seeking the Lord's will for our lives. Rather, Scripture is all about Christ, from beginning to end: his sufferings, and the glories that would follow."

~~ Michael Horton, *Modern Reformation* magazine, July -August, 1999, pp. 10-11 ~~

I THE ENTIRE BIBLE IS CENTERED IN _____

A. Scriptures.

Luke 24:25-27, 24:44-47
Acts 3:18-22, 26:22-23
John 5:39, 1:45, 5:46, 20:30-31
I Pet. 1:11
Rev. 19:10
I Cor.15:3-4

B. Comments.

"Over a period of years I have been increasingly impressed with the fact that _____ and _____. Since I desired above all else to honor Him, I took the study of the Bible with the idea of seeing Christ in all the Scriptures.

The Bible is *one Book* ('in the *volume* of the book'), made one by one Author (_____), one Theme (_____), and one Person (_____). Christ is *the one Person* of the Book, its center, its theme, its Chief Actor. His blessed face is on every page and the perfume of His divine loveliness makes fragrant the entire "volume of the book." Not one book of the volume of the sixty-six books but what points to God's Well-Beloved, throwing the light inspiration of His divine brow, illuminating His sublime character, unfolding to His people the depth and riches of His transcendent personality.

This is the Holy Spirit's own method of Bible Study - _____. When the believer takes up a portion of God's Book, be it book, chapter, or page, he should ask the Spirit to open his eyes to see Jesus in that portion. He should ask himself: how is Christ seen in this passage? for he has it from Christ's own lips that He is "in all the Scriptures." The object of all Bible study is first, to find Christ, and then that the beauty of Jesus be found in the believer.

What a "Bible Conference" that was that first Easter Sunday on the way to Emmaus! Not a very large congregation, offering not worth mentioning, no additions, no thrilling statistics, yet this report went abroad: "Did not our heart burn within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the Scriptures."

~~ Marimon Lowe, *Introduction to Christ In All the Scriptures* ~~

"Our Lord Jesus is both the _____ and the _____ of divine revelation. As the sun is the center of our solar system, and also the power which holds it together, so Christ is the magnetic center of Scripture, and the unifying theme which makes all the three-score-and-six books of the Bible one self-consistent whole.

As Christ is the central *figure* of biblical revelation, so the Cross is the central *factor*. Whatever else our Bible may or may not be, it is distinctively and preeminently the book of *salvation from sin*, and its many-sided doctrine of salvation both centers in and radiates from the Christ of the *Cross*. The 'precious blood' of Calvary, so to speak, sprinkles every page. The doctrine of redemption by the *Lamb* runs through Holy Writ like a crimson cord holding all the various parts of the sacred canon together in one. Amid the present-day whirl of new

ideas, let this shine all the more clearly in our thinking: Jesus, as the *Lamb of God*, is the center-point of that message which we are to preach."

~ J. Sidlow Baxter, *Introduction to The Master Theme of the Bible* ~

"There is a deep significance in the statement of John, the inspired seer of Patmos, '_____ is the spirit of prophecy'; for, witness to the divine person and redeeming work of Christ, is the impelling motive, the inner meaning, the ultimate goal in all the prophetic utterance of the Old Testament and the New. In fact, it is said truly that the one unifying theme of all sacred Scriptures is 'Redemption through Jesus Christ in order to the establishment upon earth of the perfected kingdom of God.'"

~ Charles Erdman, *Introduction to the Messianic Hope in Both Testaments* ~

II. THE UNIVERSE IS CENTERED AROUND CHRIST

- A. The _____ is eternally centered in _____.
1. This is seen, first of all, in the fact that Christ was in the form of God; the mind of God was in Him - Phil. 2:5; Heb. 1:3. We do not see the sun, but the rays of the sun, and yet the rays are of the sun. It is the same with God and the Son of God – Heb. 1:8. He has all the perfections of God. He is the _____.
 2. God was unseen by men before the Incarnation except in the Theophanies of the Old Testament. "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father" expressed the power of God in His mighty works. He is the image of the invisible God. Jesus is God. He had a mind big enough to hold the thoughts of God and a heart big enough to hold the love of God.
 3. He is the Creator of all things. He is the _____, John 1:3, 10; Col. 1:16-17; Heb. 1:3, 3:4; Rom. 11:36; II Cor. 8:9. He is the _____ - Heb. 1:2. Why heir? He gave up all the riches and rights He had as God, and became man to die and be raised and ascend to heaven, and be heir of all things.
 4. Eph. 1:4 - before the foundations of the earth, all was centered in Him.
Rom. 5:14 - Adam was the figure of Him that was to come.
- B. All angelic _____ and _____ are centered in Him.
1. Compare Isaiah 6 with John 12:41. The vision of the figure on the throne being worshiped by the Seraphim shows Jesus. In Revelation, there is a throne surrounded by angelic beings worshipping the Lamb.
 2. Luke 1 - angels announced His birth.

3. After temptation - _____.
4. Matt. 25:31 - He will return surrounded by angels - II Thess. 1:7.
5. I Pet. 3:22 - _____.
6. Heb. 1:6 - _____.

C. All _____ and subtlety are centered at Christ.

1. Rev. 12 – Here we have the sun-clad, and star-crowned woman. The red dragon is ready to devour the child. The woman is Israel, the child is Christ, and the dragon is Satan. The child is caught up to God. Here is a picture of Satan trying to prevent the coming of the Seed.
2. “Conflict of the Ages.” This is the war Satan carried on all through the ages. Trying to prevent the coming of the Seed.
3. From Gen. 3:15 to Revelation.
 - a. Before the flood – attempt to _____ . Gen. 6.
 - b. Abraham called for warfare again.
 - c. In Egypt –
 - 1.) Tried to wear out the life of the people by hard labor.
 - 2.) Command to kill men. God intervened and allowed Moses to be reared in the very home which he would later be turning against.
 - 3.) Command to _____
_____.

D. All human hopes are, and all human occupations should be, centered in Him.

1. We can get eternal life from no other. In hope we have desire and expectation, John 1:29; Acts 4:12; Heb. 1-3.
2. All human hopes are in Him from Adam on. No one could help Jesus when He was on the cross. God the Father couldn't help Him for He was a substitute for sinners, and Mary (His mother) couldn't help Him because she was a sinner. There was nothing else for God to do but smite. If the only blood that was shed had been that of bulls and goats, no one would go to heaven. Blood of goats _____
_____ sin. Jesus Christ does not merely atone for us or for anyone; _____ . Rev. 1:5.
3. All occupations should be centered _____ . Col. 3:17; I Cor. 10:31.

4. If we put Christ where He belongs in our lives, many souls will be the result.

E. The material universe in creation and preservation _____.
Col. 1:16; Heb 1:3.

III. CHRIST IN ALL THE BOOKS OF THE BIBLE

In *Genesis*, He is the _____ and _____, 1:1, 3:15.

In *Exodus*, He is the Lamb of God for sinners slain, chapter 12.

In *Leviticus*, _____ – entire book.

In *Numbers*, He is the Star out of Jacob, 24:17.

In *Deuteronomy*, He is the Prophet like unto Moses, 18:15.

In *Joshua*, _____, 5:14-15.

In *Judges*, He is the Messenger of Jehovah, 3:15-30.

In *Ruth*, He is our Kinsman Redeemer, Chapter 3.

In *Samuel*, _____, I Sam. 16-19.

In *Kings and Chronicles*, He is the Lord of Heaven and Earth - entire books.

In *Ezra*, He is Lord of Heaven and Earth.

In *Nehemiah*, He is Lord of Heaven and Earth.

In *Esther*, _____, Chapter 10.

In *Job*, He is our Risen and Returning Redeemer, 19:25.

In *Psalms*, He is the _____ of 1.

He is the _____ of 2.

He is the _____ of 8.

He is the _____ of 22.

He is the _____ of 23.

He is the _____ of 24.

He is the _____ of 72.

He is the Leader of Praise of 150.

In *Proverbs*, He is our Wisdom, Chapter 8.

In *Ecclesiastes*, He is the _____, 9:14-15.

In *Song of Solomon*, He is "my Beloved," 2:16.

In *Isaiah*, He is Our Suffering Substitute, chapter 53.

In *Jeremiah*, He is the Lord our Righteousness, 23:6.

In *Lamentations*, He is the _____, 1:12-18.

In *Ezekiel*, He is the Throne Sitter, 1:26.

In *Daniel*, He is the Smiting Stone, 2:34.

In *Hosea*, He is _____, 3:5.

In *Joel*, He is the _____, 2:18-19.

In *Amos*, He is the Rescuer of Israel, 3:12.

In *Obadiah*, He is the Deliverer upon Mount Zion, v. 17.

In *Jonah*, He is the _____ - entire book.

In *Micah*, He is the Everlasting God, 5:2.

In *Nahum*, He is our Stronghold in the Day of Wrath, 1:7.

In *Habakkuk*, He is the _____, 2:4.

In *Zephaniah*, He is in the Midst for Judgment and Cleansing, 3:5, 15.

In *Haggai*, He is the Smitten Shepherd, 13:7.

In Zechariah, He is the Branch, 3:8.
 In *Malachi*, He is the _____, 4:2.
 In *Matthew*, He is the King of the Jews, 2:1.
 In *Mark*, He is the Servant of Jehovah – entire book.
 In *Luke*, He is the Perfect Son of Man, 3:38, 4:1-13.
 In *John*, He is the Son of God, 1: 1.
 In *Acts*, He is the Ascended Lord, 1:8-9.
 In *Romans*, He is _____, 3:22
 In *I Corinthians*, He is the First-Fruits from among the dead, 15:20.
 In *II Corinthians*, He is made Sin for us, 5:21.
 In *Galatians*, He is the _____, 3:10, 13.
 In *Ephesians*, He is our Armor, 6:11-18.
 In *Philippians*, He is the Supplier of Every Need, 4:19.
 In *Colossians*, He is the Preeminent One, 1: 18.
 In *I Thessalonians*, He is our Returning Lord, 4:15-18.
 In *II Thessalonians*, He is the World's Returning Judge, 1:7-9.
 In *I Timothy*, He is the _____, 2:5.
 In *II Timothy*, He is the Bestower of Crowns, 4:8.
 In *Titus*, He is our Great God and Saviour, 2:13.
 In *Philemon*, He is the _____, 1:17-19.
 In *Hebrews*, He is the Rest of Faith and the Fulfiller of Types 9, 11, 12:1-2.
 In *James*, He is the Lord of Sabaoth, 5:4.
 In *I Peter*, He is the _____, 1:10-11.
 In *II Peter*, He is the Long Suffering Saviour, 3:9.
 In *I John*, He is the _____, 1;1.
 In *III John*, He is the _____, 1:7.
 In *III John*, He is the Personification of Truth, 1 :3-4.
 In *Jude*, He is the _____, 1:24-25.
 In *Revelation*, He is the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords, 19:11-16.

~ ~ This list is from *Christ In All the Scriptures*, Marimon L. Lowe;
 Herald Press, 1954, pp. 128-130 ~ ~