

The sermon “Christ at the Center”  
Preached by Rev. Peter Blank  
At Plymouth Presbyterian Church  
St. Helens, Oregon  
From Colossians 1:11-20  
November 23, 2025

## **Introduction**

Every person builds life around something—career, family, success, comfort, approval. Whatever is at the center shapes everything else.

I once heard a story about a man trying to hang a heavy mirror. He kept measuring from the edges and adjusting, but it always looked crooked. A carpenter friend walked over, tapped the middle of the frame, and said, “You’re measuring from the wrong point. Start from the center.” Once he found the center, everything aligned. Our spiritual life works the same way.

When Christ is not at the center, life looks crooked—our priorities, our emotions, our relationships, even our identity.

But when Christ becomes the center, things begin to align.

Paul writes to the Colossians to say: **Christ is not an addition to life; He is the center of life.**

Let’s look at four areas in this passage where Christ must be central.

## **I. Christ at the Center of Our Strength (vv. 11–12)**

Paul begins not with what we must do for Christ, but what Christ supplies for us.

Paul prays that we would be “strengthened with all power according to His glorious might.”

This is not self-help or grit. This is divine strength for real life—strength for endurance, patience, and joy.

### **Endurance and Patience**

“Endurance” is the ability to stay standing under pressure.

“Patience” is staying gentle with difficult people.

A pastor asked an older saint, “How are you doing?”

She said, “I’m not under the circumstances—I’m on top of them.”

That’s Christ-centered strength.

**Joyful Gratitude** - Even in difficulty, Christ gives joy—not because life is easy, but because Christ is present.

**So ...**

When your day begins, pray: “Christ, be my strength today.”

When irritated: “Christ, be my patience.”

When discouraged: “Christ, be my joy.”

But Christ isn’t just the center of our strength—He is the center of our salvation itself.

## **II. Christ at the Center of Our Salvation (vv. 13–14)**

Paul says God has **rescued, transferred, redeemed, and forgiven** us.

**Rescued From Darkness**

We were not simply misguided—we were trapped. But God reached down and delivered us.

A drowning person can't save themselves by trying harder.

They're rescued because **someone else** reaches in.

That's what Christ did for us.

### **Transferred Into His Kingdom**

God didn't just pull us out of darkness—He brought us into the kingdom of His Son.

**Redeemed and Forgiven** - Not partially forgiven. Not temporarily forgiven. Fully redeemed.

### **A Practical Step**

When guilt whispers, speak verse 14 to your own heart:

“In Christ we have redemption.”

If Christ has saved us, that alone is enough to center our lives on Him.

But Paul lifts our eyes even higher.

## **III. Christ at the Center of All Creation (vv. 15–17)**

Here Paul gives one of the most breathtaking descriptions of Jesus in the whole Bible.

### **He Is the Image of the Invisible God**

If you want to know what God is like, look at Jesus.

### **He Created Everything and Everything Exists for Him**

“All things were created through Him and **for** Him.”

Your life is not random. You were created with purpose—His purpose.

### **Puzzle Centerpiece**

A child tried putting together a puzzle without the center piece. Nothing made sense.

Many people are building their lives while missing the center—Christ.

### **He Holds All Things Together**

If Christ holds galaxies together, He can hold your family, your finances, your future.

Reorder your schedule so Christ isn't squeezed into the margins but honored at the center.

Christ is not only the center of creation—He is also the center of the new creation God is forming.

## **IV. Christ at the Center of the Church and New Creation (vv. 18–20)**

### **Christ Is the Head of the Church**

The church is not built around personalities, programs, or preference.

Christ leads. We follow.

### **The Firstborn From the Dead**

Christ began a whole new humanity through the resurrection.

He doesn't just fix our past—He secures our future.

### **All the Fullness of God Dwells in Him**

Not a glimpse of God.

Not a fraction.

### **The fullness of God in Christ.**

### **He Reconciles All Things**

Through His cross, Christ brings peace—peace with God and peace within.

## **The Bridge**

You've seen that picture of two cliffs with a cross forming the bridge. I remember I saw it in the Four Spiritual Laws, published by Campus Crusade for Christ. Sin creates the uncrossable gap. Christ becomes the bridge.

**So for us – Ask:**

“Where is Christ calling me to be a peacemaker?”

“Where do I need to surrender control to the Head of the church?”

So what do we do with all this?

## **Conclusion: Bringing Christ Back to the Center**

Paul has shown us a Christ big enough, strong enough, loving enough, powerful enough, and glorious enough to be the center of everything.

- Not the edge.
- Not the weekend.
- Not Plan B.
- The center.

## **Three Questions for Reflection**

1. **What sits at the center of my life today?**
2. **Where have I pushed Christ to the margins?**
3. **What is one step I will take this week to re-center my life on Him?**

Christ is the strength we need, the Savior we trust, the Creator we worship, and the Head we follow.

**May we place Him where He truly belongs—**

**Not somewhere in our lives,  
but at the center of everything.**