

INTRODUCTION

MARK PRATER

I can't wait for you to read this second edition of the Sovereign Grace Journal. Our theme is glorious yet practical: "A Christ-Centered People."

The gospel, which shapes the culture in our family of churches, declares what Christ has accomplished for us through his death and resurrection. Based on the finished work of Jesus Christ that we receive by faith, we are a people who joyfully respond to this good news by walking in him, living for him, and staying centered on him. Colossians 2:6-7 says, "Therefore, as you received Christ Jesus as Lord, so walk in him, rooted and built up in him."

Because the gospel is for all of life, there isn't an area of our lives where we aren't centered on Christ—whether that is parenting, politics, living the single life, or our involvement in missions. This edition of the journal speaks into each of these areas and more.

Devon Kauflin has written an outstanding article to help us remain centered on Christ in our corporate worship, entitled "Union with Christ and the Church's Worship." If you currently find yourself in the midst of suffering, don't miss Todd Peterson's inspiring story entitled, "To Live is Christ: Lessons Learned in the Valley of Darkness." And because it is our prayer that the gospel continues to define our family of churches long into the future, Jon Payne shares a timely word for the second generation

of Sovereign Grace and beyond. May God use what Jon shares here to protect our gospel heritage.

We have included four more book recommendations because Christ-centered people love reading books about Christ. Hopefully, these short recommendations inspire you to get these excellent books into your hands and benefit from them.

Our journal is written by Sovereign Grace pastors throughout the world to serve the members and pastors of our family of churches. Therefore, I want to thank the pastors who made contributions to this edition, which by God's grace will help us be a Christ-centered people.

All for the glory of Christ,

Mark