

Announcement: stories@hopecc.com

Introduction – Memory Lane

Sermon Series
Jesus + Nothing = Everything

Our study of Galatians

This week: Galatians 6:11-18

What you boast in shows what you trust most in

Galatians 6:11

Galatians 6:12-13

What is their angle?

What is their motivation?

What are they boasting in?

Galatians 6:14-15

What Paul boasting in?

What is Paul's motivation?

What is Paul's angle?

Galatians 6:16-18

So, therefore,...

Gospel Application

What are you boasting in?

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Galatians 6:11-18

11 See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

12 Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13

Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh. 14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ,

through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. 16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule—to the Israel of God. 17 From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus. 18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Philippians 3:10-11

10 I want to know Christ—yes, to know the power of his resurrection and participation in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, 11 and so, somehow, attaining to the resurrection from the dead.

Matthew 23:3-4

3 But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. 4 They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

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MEMORY LANE

“The epistle to the Galatians is my epistle. To it I am as it were in wedlock. It is my Katherine.



[Galatians] brings us face to face with the gospel. It's very common in Christian circles to assume that "the gospel" is something mainly for non-Christians. We see it as a set of basic "ABC" doctrines that are the way in which someone enters the kingdom of God. We often assume that once we're converted, we don't need to hear or study or understand the gospel – we need more "advanced" material... But in this short letter, Paul outlines the bombshell truth that the gospel is the A to Z of the Christian life. It is not only the way to enter the kingdom; it is the way to live as part of the kingdom...

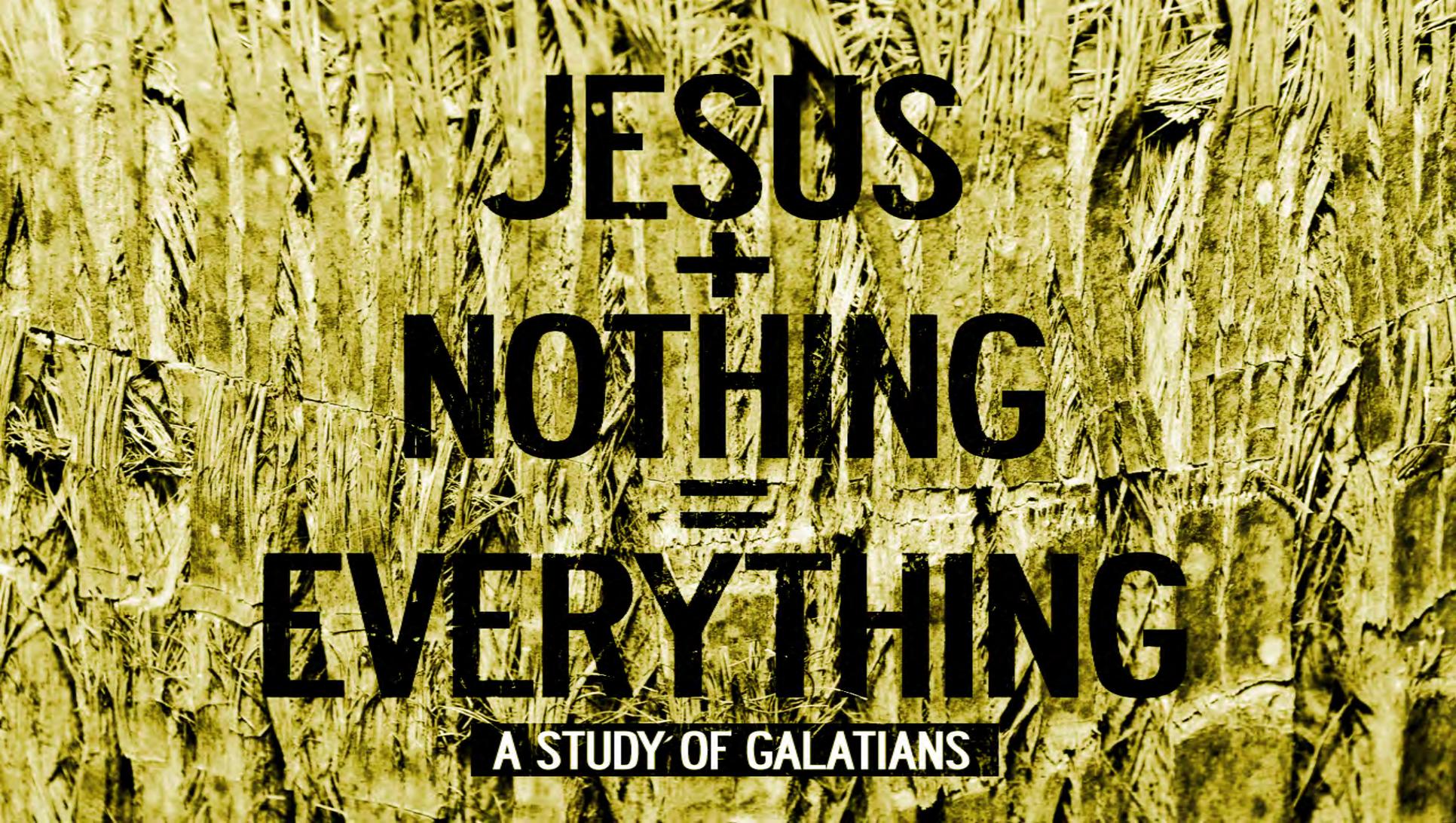
“We’re going to see him telling them that all they need—all they could ever need—is the gospel of God’s unmerited favor to them through Christ’s life, death and resurrection... We’re going to hear him solving their issues not through telling them to “be better Christians”, but by calling them to live out the implications of the gospel. We’re going to watch Paul challenge them, and us, with the simple truth that

the gospel is not just the ABC of Christianity, but the A to Z—that Christians need the gospel just as much as non-Christians. ~Timothy Keller

“The gospel will be found equal to every emergency; an arrow which can pierce the hardest heart, a balm which will heal the deadliest wound. Preach it, and preach nothing else. Rely implicitly upon the old, old gospel.

Chuck Spurgeon





**JESUS
+
NOTHING
=
EVERYTHING**

A STUDY OF GALATIANS

Galatians 1:6-7

6 I am astonished that you are so quickly deserting the one who called you to live in the grace of Christ and are turning to a different gospel – 7 which is really no gospel at all.



Paul as Fanatic for Jesus

Galatians 1:15-16a

15 But when God, who set me apart from my mother's womb and called me by his grace, was pleased 16 to reveal his Son in me so that I might preach him among the Gentiles...

Justified Not by Observing the Law

Galatians 2:15-16

¹⁵“We who are Jews by birth and not ‘Gentile sinners’
¹⁶know that a person is not justified by observing the law, but by faith in Jesus Christ. So we, too, have put our faith in Christ Jesus that we may be justified by faith in Christ and not by observing the law, because by observing the law no one will be justified.

“Martin Luther, whose grasp of the gospel was better than most, once said that The Doctrine of Justification was the article by which the Church stands or falls. “This article,” he said, “is the head and cornerstone of the Church, which alone begets, nourishes, builds, preserves and protects the Church; without it the Church of God cannot subsist one hour.” Luther was right. Although for our understanding of the general shape and direction of the Christian life we have suggested the doctrine of regeneration is important, The Doctrine of Justification is central. Not only is it the article of the standing or falling Church,



but also of the standing or falling Christian. Probably more trouble is caused in the Christian life by an inadequate or mistaken view of this doctrine than any other. When the child of God loses his sense of peace with God, finds his concern for others dried up, or generally finds his sense of the sheer goodness and grace of God diminished, it is from this fountain that he has ceased to drink. Conversely, if we can gain a solid grounding here, we have the foundation for a life of peace and joy.

~ Sinclair Ferguson, *Know Your Christian Life: A Theological Introduction* (Downers Grove, IL; InterVarsity, 1981), 71.





How's this hot dog made?

[The Grace of God]

Galatians 2:20-21

²⁰I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me. ²¹I do not set aside the grace of God, for if righteousness could be gained through the law, Christ died for nothing!”

Imagine that your house were burning down but your whole family had escaped, and I said to you: “Let me show you how much I love you!” and ran into the house and died. What a tragic and pointless waste of a life, you would probably think. But now imagine that your house was on fire and one of your children was still in there, and I said to you: “Let me show you how much I love you!”, ran into the flames, and saved your child but perished myself. You would think: “Look at how much that man loved us.”

“If we could save ourselves, Christ’s death is pointless, and means nothing. If we realize we cannot save ourselves, Christ’s death will mean everything to us. And we will spend the life that He has given us in joyful service of Him, bringing our whole lives into line with the gospel.”

~ Tim Keller, *Galatians For You*, p. 50-52



Sweet Redemption! Jesus becomes a curse...for us!

Galatians 3:13

¹³Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a tree.”

“Thou Christ art my sin and my curse,
or rather, I am thy sin, thy curse, thy
death, thy wrath of God, thy hell;
and contrariwise, thou art my
righteousness, my blessing, my life,
my grace of God and my heaven



~ Martin Luther, *Commentary on Galatians*, page 283

Galatians 4:12-20

17 Those people are zealous to win you over, but for no good. What they want is to alienate you from us, so that you may have zeal for them. 18 It is fine to be zealous, provided the purpose is good, and to be so always, not just when I am with you. 19 My dear children, for whom I am again in the pains of childbirth until Christ is formed in you, 20 how I wish I could be with you now and change my tone, because I am perplexed about you!

“The phrase “not just when I am with you” reflects the deep hurt Paul felt because of the fickle affection and shifting loyalties of his erstwhile disciples. Although he was not much to look at physically, Paul’s actual presence and unique personality had no doubt contributed to the overwhelmingly favorable reception the Galatians granted to him during his first sojourn among them.



But now all of that had changed. The Galatian Christians had been courted, seduced, and bewitched by false teachers whose true aim was to alienate their affection from Paul and to enlist them as devotees in their own campaign of self-aggrandizement. Like another Pauline congregation, the church at Ephesus, the Galatian Christians had forsaken their first love (Revelation 2:4).



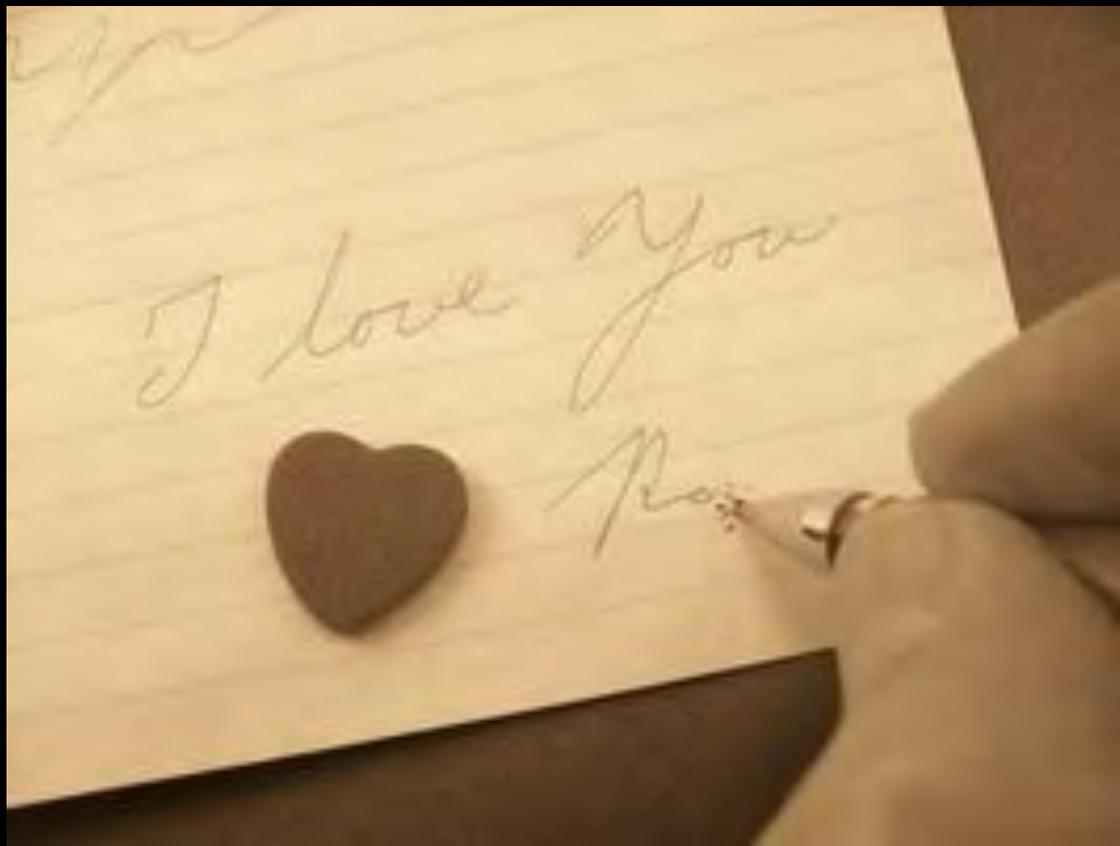
~ Timothy George, *Galatians*, vol. 30, page 328.

Galatians 5:1

It is for freedom that Christ has set us free. Stand firm, then, and do not let yourselves be burdened again by a yoke of slavery

“I’m gonna make him an offer
he can’t refuse.”





I love you



you

What you boast in
shows what you trust most in

Galatians 6:11-18

11 See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

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12 Those who want to impress people by means of the flesh are trying to compel you to be circumcised. The only reason they do this is to avoid being persecuted for the cross of Christ. 13 Not even those who are circumcised keep the law, yet they want you to be circumcised that they may boast about your circumcision in the flesh.

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14 May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world. 15 Neither circumcision nor uncircumcision means anything; what counts is the new creation. 16 Peace and mercy to all who follow this rule – to the Israel of God.

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17 From now on, let no one cause me trouble, for I bear on my body the marks of Jesus.

18 The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Galatians 6:11-18

11 See what large letters I use as I write to you with my own hand!

Dear Mrs
McMahon,

You're a good teacher
but not my most favourite

The

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Matthew 23:5-7

5 Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; 6 they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; 7 they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.



What is their motivation?

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Galatians 5:2-3

²Mark my words! I, Paul, tell you that if you let yourselves be circumcised, Christ will be of no value to you at all. ³Again I declare to every man who lets himself be circumcised that he is obligated to obey the whole law.

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1 Corinthians 1:26-31

26 Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. 27 But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong. 28 God chose the lowly things of this world and the despised things – and the things that are not – to nullify the things that are, 29 so that no one may boast before him.

1 Corinthians 1:26-31

30 It is because of him that you are in Christ Jesus, who has become for us wisdom from God – that is, our righteousness, holiness and redemption.

31 Therefore, as it is written:
“Let the one who boasts boast in the Lord.”

What is Paul's motivation?

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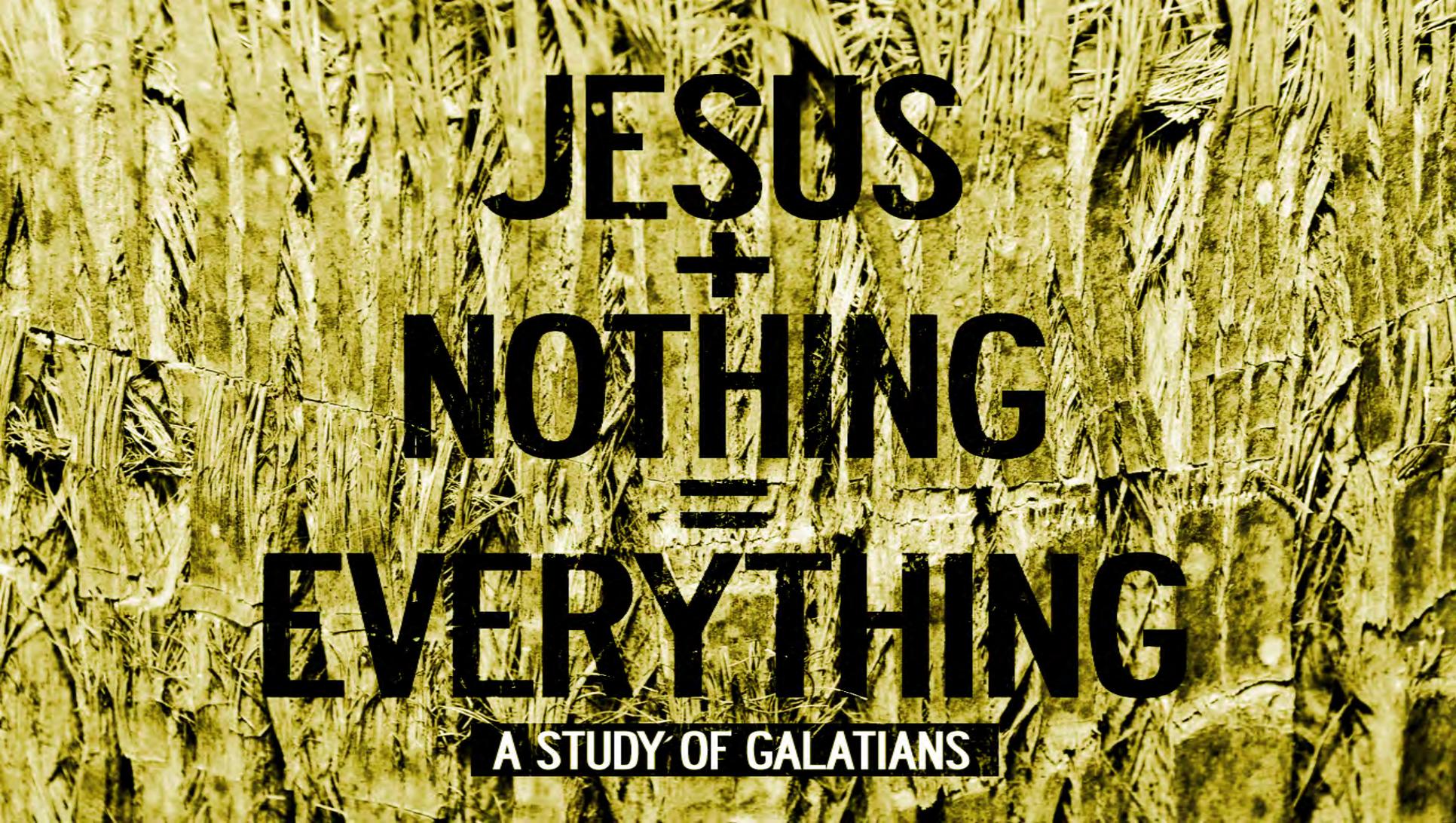
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A STUDY OF GALATIANS

What you boast in
shows what you trust most in

How Deep the Father's Love for Us

Stuart Townsend © 1995 Thankyou Music CCLI #1181771

How deep the Father's love for us,
how vast beyond all measure.
That He should give His only Son
to make a wretch His treasure.
How great the pain of searing loss.
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the Chosen One
bring many sons to glory.

Behold the man upon a cross,
my sin upon His shoulders.
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice
call out among the scoffers.
It was my sin that held Him there
until it was accomplished.
His dying breath has brought me life.
I know that it is finished.

I will not boast in anything,
no gifts, no power, no wisdom.

But I will boast in Jesus Christ,
His death and resurrection.

Why should I gain from His reward?

I cannot give an answer.

But this I know with all my heart.

His wounds have paid my ransom.