

A dramatic landscape with a dark, stormy sky and a silhouette of a hill with crosses. The sky is filled with dark, heavy clouds, and a bright light source is visible behind a mountain range in the distance, creating a strong backlighting effect. The foreground shows the dark silhouette of a hill with several crosses on top. The text "CHRIST-CENTERED + PREACHING" is overlaid on the image in a large, white, sans-serif font.

CHRIST-CENTERED
+ PREACHING

1 CORINTHIANS 2:1-5

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- This is not the only time Paul used seemingly contradictory language (1 Cor. 3:18, 2 Cor. 12:9-10).
- The right message does not need 'superiority of speech'. Often, truth comes in surprising forms (Mark 1:4-8).
- 'Knowing nothing but the cross' puts the emphasis on Christ, and not human scholarship.

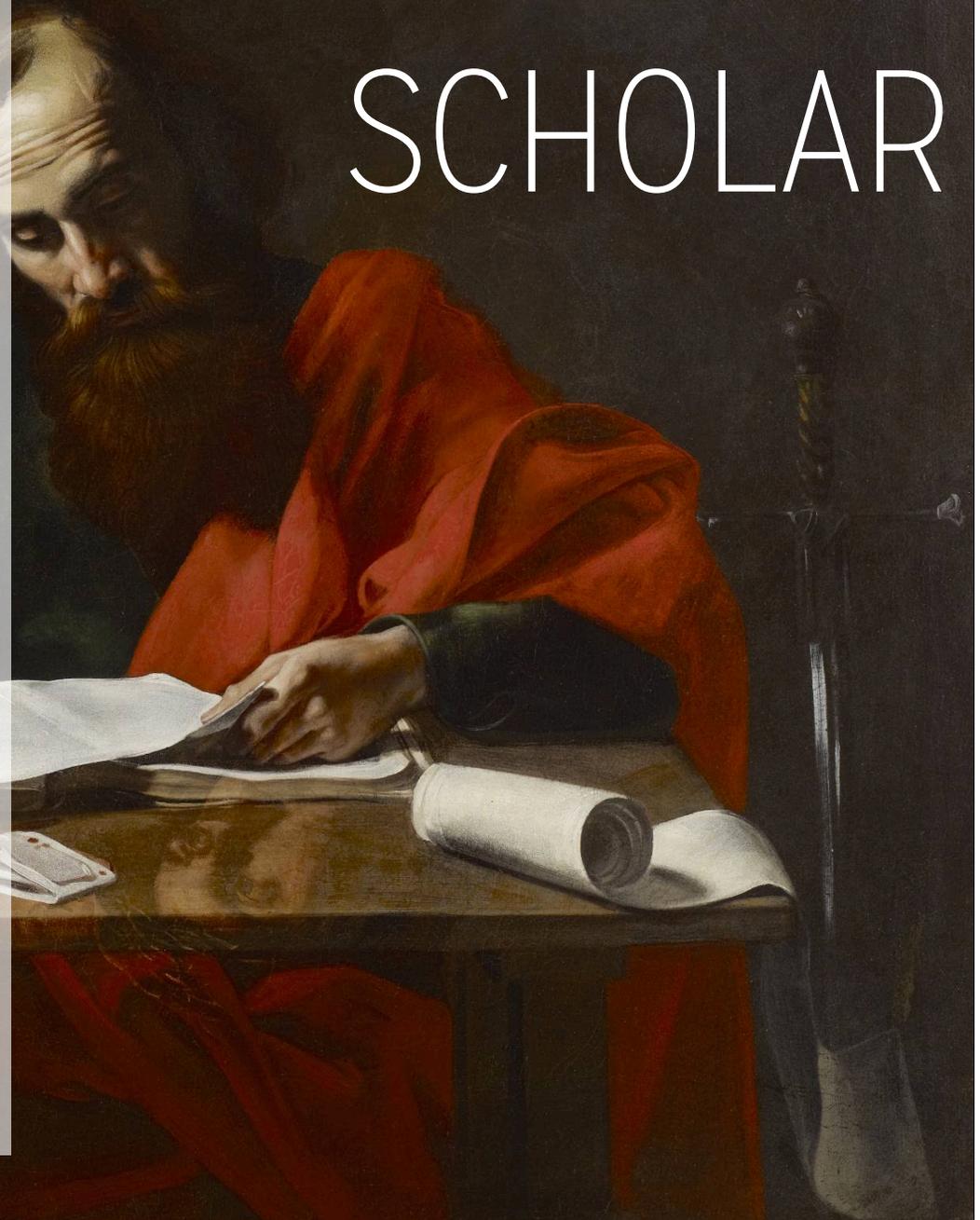


“That your faith should not rest on the wisdom
of men, but on the power of God”

1 CORINTHIANS 2:5

PAUL THE SCHOLAR

- It is not that human intelligence is wrong, or useless, for even Paul was known for his scholarship (Acts 26:24, 22:3).
- When it suited his work, though, Paul cast off any trappings, even in his demeanor. He would humble himself so that the message was emphasized all the more (1 Cor. 9:19ff), lest the events of Acts 14:8-18 occur again.



WE PREACH CHRIST CRUCIFIED

- 1 Cor. 1:18-25 – Means more than...
 - A heavy dose of philosophy
 - Lots of Bible verses strung together
 - That the story of the cross is the only thing we can preach (1 Cor. 15:1ff, Acts 20:20,27)
 - The emotional response, or the environment
 - That if we preach the cross alone, our teaching is complete (Titus 2:11-14)

PROCLAIMING CHRIST

- Acts 8:5-12
- 'Proclaiming Christ' must have included...
 - 'Things concerning the kingdom' or Christ's church (worship, organization, etc.)
 - 'The name', Christ's authority, salvation in Him alone (Acts 4:12, Colossians 3:17)
 - Baptism, since that was the response of the people (repentance from sin [Acts 2:38], belief [Mark 16:16], resurrection [Romans 6]). Also notice Acts 16:30-33.

APPLICATIONS

- Knowing the Bible and practicing the Bible are not always the same thing.
- Part of keeping the focus on Christ is a healthy dose of self-reflection (2 Cor. 13:5, James 1:22ff).
- Preaching Christ requires us to leave our comfort zones and seek the lost.
- Reflect on why you like a certain preacher, church, or type of sermon.
- Preaching Christ is, by nature, alienating. Be prepared (1 Peter 2:21, Matthew 10:21ff).