

# FOLLOW-THROUGH

Small Group Discussion around the Sunday Message  
Colossians 1:1-14, First week of the "Alive" preaching series  
January 7, 2007

## Introduction

1. Read Colossians 1:1-14. Share any thoughts, comments or questions that come to mind.
2. The Apostle Paul wrote this book to the church in Colosse while in prison. Paul encourages them in their faith and challenges them not to water down the gospel. Can you think of any modern day examples of popular teaching or secular practices that challenge our faith.
3. Read verses 4-6 again. Faith and Love are a result of (spring from) what? And where do we find the root of all of these?
4. The key verse this first section of Colossians is in verse 10, "live a life worthy of the Lord". In your opinion, what does a life worthy of the Lord look like?

## Practical Application

1. The theme of our new series is Alive. Can you share with the group a time that you felt completely alive.
2. An irony for many people is the time that we feel the most alive is in our imagination. Sometimes that is inspired through something like a good movie. And other times, our own good intentions go beyond our actual motivation. In your group share a dream that you once had, that was never fulfilled or a time when what you wanted to do and what you actually did turned out very different.
3. Saint Irenaeus is quoted as saying that "The glory of God is a man fully alive." To live life to the fullest is to live life with the purpose and the way that our creator designed us to be. Share in your group the unique gifts that God has equipped you with. ie. joy or skill in a particular area, the gift of hospitality or compassion; something that others have told you that they appreciate about you.
4. Being so close to the new year this is a time that many of us reflect on our lives, who we are and who we would like to be. As a result many of us make resolutions. Share with the group any resolutions you made this year or the last? How are they coming?

## Digging Deeper

1. Read vv. 10-12 What are the things the passage says are a part of a life "worthy of the Lord" and pleasing to Him?
2. Tough personal question. In verse 6 and verse 10 bearing fruit as an action of faith is mentioned. For discussion: What does fruit look like in the life of a believer?  
Personal question for reflection: Is there evidence of faith bearing fruit in your life?
3. When thinking about how to live a fully alive life there is a temptation to ask, "What are the things I should do?" But it's not about what you do, it is actually more about what you can't do. The first move is to give everything over to God. In other words surrender. Jesus really is the answer, the only answer. Surrender your time, will, energy, hopes, dreams and self to him. And there with your creator you will begin to find who you really are. Why do you think it is so hard for people to surrender themselves to Jesus?
4. Topics like this are easy to talk about and hard to live. Pray for each other and also pray for the ability to live this, not just talk about it.