

LG Questions for the week of 01.04.09

Colossians 1:1-8

Getting Started:

Welcome to the New Year...2009. Can you believe it's here? As you look back on 2008 what would you consider your most impactful growth with the Lord Jesus Christ?

Explain. As you look to the New Year what specific areas of growth do you look forward to experiencing in your Christian walk?

(As a small group consider writing a letter to Jesus in the form of a prayer asking him for help in those areas. Put the letter away for the year and mark your calendars to read them next December...or perhaps the small group leader could take the letters stuffed in envelopes with your address on them and mail them to you next December. It's amazing how we forget the work that God does and these letters will encourage you).

Getting into the Bible

2) Read Colossians 1:1-2. Using a study Bible...have someone in the group read the *Historical Background* of the church in Colosse. What was unique about this church? Did Paul ever personally visit this church? See 2:1. Paul described the brothers in Colosse as 'holy' in verse two. What did he mean? (See 1:22)

3) Read Colossians 1:3-4. a) Paul is thankful for the 'faith' and 'love' this church possesses. What is the aim of this church's faith? (Vs. 3) According to the US census 80% of all Americans classify themselves as Christians. Many people have a level of belief with no substance. Read Col. 1:15-20. What percent of Americans, or those in church across America, yield their lives to the Supremacy of Christ?

b) Paul commended this church for their "love for all the saints". What does this type of love look like? See the example of Epaphras, vs. 1:7 & 4:12.

4) Read Colossians 1:5-6. What is the source of hope for the Christian who has let Jesus have control of their life? See the end of vs. 5. What is the Gospel message? See 1:22. Do you have Hope? Do you walk in a way that you sense you are Holy in God's eyes? Do you feel you are without blemish, free from accusation? If not, what gets in the way of this in your life? See vs. 23. Go around the room and pray for each other's obstacles to the freedom and hope that can be ours in Christ.