



August 28, 2005

# A Life Worth Living

## Colossians 2.1-5

*"I want you to know how much I am struggling for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally. My purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments. For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how orderly you are and how firm your faith in Christ is." Colossians 2.1-5*

Ex-Beatle George Harrison made a comment before he passed away in which he observed that after you had experienced success, met all of the famous people, and made some money, you found yourself wondering, "Is this it?" He had come to the conclusion that there was more. We are told that he searched for something because he recognized what St. Augustine understood when he said that within all of us is a void that can only be filled with God.

I would suggest that all of us have that longing. We desire a life worth living, a life that has meaning, not just utilitarian meaning, but transcendent meaning. Some have called it the search for significance. It really is the search for God. You see, only God can give our lives transcendent meaning. Only God can give us a life worth living.

### **Single-mindedness**

I focus on God and His priorities for my life.

*"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*  
Matthew 6.33

As Christians, we claim that we know where to find this life. I've noticed something interesting, however, about Christians. So many of us do not seem to be enjoying this abundant life that we claim we have in Christ. Why is that?

Perhaps the answer lies in another question. Do we pursue what we know? Do we actively pursue the life that God has provided, or do we passively flounder, busying ourselves with other things? Let's take a look at what our text reveals. I think we will find several principles that will help us take hold of this life.

## 1. A life worth living requires STRUGGLE.

*“I want you to know **how much I am struggling** for you and for those at Laodicea, and for all who have not met me personally.” Colossians 2.1*

*“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the **race** marked out for us.” Hebrews 12.1*

*“Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. Consider him who endured such **opposition** from sinful men, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.” Hebrews 12.2-3*

## 2. A life worth living requires FOCUS.

*“My **purpose** is that they may be **encouraged in heart** and **united in love**, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding, **in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ**, in whom are hidden all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge. I tell you this so that no one may deceive you by fine-sounding arguments.” Colossians 2.2-4*

So many things conspire to keep us from being focused. We can become discouraged and lose our focus. We can let conflict pull our attention away from Christ. This is why Paul said that he wanted them to be encouraged in heart and united in love. **Discouragement** and **disunity** work against our knowing Christ. When we encourage one another and pull together as brothers and sisters in Christ, then we can maintain our focus on Jesus.

## 3. Finally, a life worth living requires DISCIPLINE.

*“For though I am absent from you in body, I am present with you in spirit and delight to see how **orderly** you are and how **firm** your faith in Christ is.” Colossians 2.5*

If we are going to be focused, we must plan to be. And this requires discipline. Just as we must have physical discipline to achieve physical goals, we must have spiritual discipline to achieve spiritual goals.