

# Small Group Discussion



## **ONE RESURRECTED LIFE: If That's True Then What?**

### **DISCUSSION STARTER:**

Watch the Private Ryan Clip from this weekend at [http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOatpR4mf\\_o](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YOatpR4mf_o)

If you want to watch the clip where Hank's character tells Private Ryan to "Earn this!" go to: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LBXjThmQwWY>

If there is a War Veteran in your group ask them to talk about how fighting for their country changed their view of being a citizen of the United States. If you have visited a war memorial, how has it changed your perspective of your freedom.

### **READ: Colossians 1:9-14**

### **STUDY**

I (Tim Weidlich) talked to a Vietnam War vet after the service in Lockwood this last Sunday. I asked him how he responded to the Private Ryan video? This Vet struggled returning home from the war to a country that told him that he was a traitor for fighting for his country in Vietnam, however, he knows what it means to put it all on the line for his platoon, and to have others put everything on the line for him. The connection he had difficulty making was that just as he felt his country was worth putting his life on the line, Jesus believes that he was worth giving His life on the cross. That connection brought tears to his eyes.

**Colossians 1:9-10** *For this reason, since the day we heard about you, we have not stopped praying for you. We continually ask God to fill you with the knowledge of his will through all the wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives, so that you may live a life worthy of the Lord and please him in every way.*

Just as thousands of men and women believed that our country was worth dying for, Jesus, God's son, believes you and the Church is worth dying for!

Vern mentioned that the term *worthy* means "to weigh as much as another thing" or "of equal weight."

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**This verse, then, presents two lives that are measured against one another, what are they?** *My life, and how I live it on one side, and Christ's life sacrificed to buy me back on the other.*

**Paul says that we should live to “please him in every way.” What ways can you tell when you have pleased your spouse or best friend?**

Vern pointed to four ways that we can live lives that are pleasing to God. You may not have time to flesh out each of them, so you may want to pick a couple to focus on in your study.

## **FOUR WAYS WE MEET CHRIST'S SACRIFICE WITH A PLEASING LIFESTYLE:**

### **1) Bearing Fruit – Colossians 1:10b**

Have someone look up each verse and read them, then ask the group **what is an example of bearing fruit that reflects God in your life in this passage?**

1 Cor. 16:15 - *leading people to Christ*

Heb. 13:15 - *praising God*

Rom. 15:26–28 - *giving money*

Heb. 12:11 - *living a godly life*

Gal. 5:22, 23 – *Demonstrating Christ's attitudes*

### **2) Growing in the Knowledge of God Colossians 1:10c**

Read: 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:12-14

**What are the characteristics of spiritual**

**Children**

**Young Men**

**Fathers**

Read: 1<sup>st</sup> John 2:3-5

**How can we tell when someone not only SAYS they love God, but really do love God?** *They actively live in obedience to God's Word.*

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**What is the difference, then of READING the Bible and what these verses say the one who really loves God does with the Bible?** *The one who loves God applies what they read to their circumstances and respond in some way.*

## **3) Endurance and Patience – “following God under difficult circumstances.” Colossians 1:11**

Vern pointed out that Endurance is directed toward *circumstances* while Patience is directed toward *people*.

**Study Note:** From the *Bible Knowledge Commentary on the New Testament*

**1:11 *Spiritual strength*** is a third factor that results from knowing God’s will and pleasing Him. **Being strengthened with all power according to His glorious might** includes three words for strength: “being strengthened” is *dynamoumenoi*; “power” is *dynamei*, spiritual vitality; and “might” is *kratos* (“power that overcomes resistance”; used only of God in the NT). This God-given strength produces **great endurance and patience**. This endurance (trans. “perseverance” in James 1:3) was exemplified by Job (James 5:11). To this endurance Paul added “patience,” a word generally connected with gentleness and calm sweetness (as in 1 Cor. 13:4). Endurance and patience are often associated (cf. 2 Cor. 6:4, 6; 2 Tim. 3:10; James 5:10-11). Endurance (*hypomonē*, lit., a “remaining under”) implies not easily succumbing under suffering; and patience (*makrothymia*, lit., “long temper”; cf. Col. 3:12) means self-restraint which does not hastily retaliate. A lack of endurance often results in despondency or losing heart, whereas a lack of patience often leads to wrath or revenge (cf. Prov. 15:18; 16:32).

**Read: Philippians 2:2-7**

**How does Paul call us to live out patience in relationships? (4:2-3) How are we called to practice endurance in difficult circumstances? (4:3-7)**

## **4) Joyfully Giving Thanks Colossians 1:12-14**

*Chronic complainers are ungrateful people*

**Read: Matthew 15:36-38**

**Why is it significant that each Gospel that records this event notes that Jesus gave thanks *Before* the miracle of getting enough food for the 4,000 from one meal?** *Because the gratitude that thanks God in advance is also the belief that God provided so far and will provide all that we need.*

**READ: Romans 1:20-21** *“For ever since the world was created, people have seen the earth and sky. Through everything God made, they can clearly see his invisible qualities—his eternal power and divine nature. So they have no excuse for not knowing God. Yes, they knew God, but they wouldn’t worship him as God or*

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even give him thanks. And they began to think up foolish ideas of what God was like. As a result, their minds became dark and confused.” (NLT)

**Why is thanklessness a mark of an unbeliever?** *Because someone who believes that life is what you make it to be refuses to acknowledge God’s hand. Thus they don’t need God and become superstitious or victims of fate.*

**Since gratefulness is a mark of a Christ follower, it is an act of faith (God will work on my behalf) and of love (worship God for His care for me), How should I or we (as a group) express gratitude to a person or a group who have influenced us? Think outside the box here, expand your vision to those who rarely receive gratitude – Politician (weather from your party or THE OTHER!), mailman, Trash man, Waiter....**