



## Week 3: Colossians 1:9-10

**9** And so, from the day we heard, we have not ceased to pray for you, asking that you may be filled with the knowledge of his will in all spiritual wisdom and understanding, **10** so as to walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God. **11** May you be strengthened with all power, according to his glorious might, for all endurance and patience with joy, **12** giving thanks to the Father, who has qualified you to share in the inheritance of the saints in light. **13** He has delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son, **14** in whom we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins.

### About This Week's Message – January 16, 2011

During this week's message I'll be casting a lot a lot a lot of vision on our 1:10 Community Groups. A lot. I will also be taking the five traits of a Fully Devoted Follower and teaching into them a little bit again. I will likely use those five traits as a template for the outline on the 16<sup>th</sup> as we study what it means to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord, fully pleasing to him, bearing fruit in every good work and increasing in the knowledge of God." Paul is describing the natural spiritual development of a disciple. So our focus will be two fold, 1) Becoming a Fully Devoted Follower, and 2) How 1:10 Groups will become our primary vehicle for making this happen over the coming years. For more on the Fully Devoted Follower stuff, you might go to the website under Publications -> Devotionals -> Becoming a Fully Devoted Follower and read those briefs devotionals. All but the "Live Missionally" one are online as of my writing this. The "Live Missionally" piece will post in February. — The questions below focus on God's will and the five traits. Chances are that the discussion of discerning God's will will generate much more discussion — but bring it back to the fact that God's sure, revealed will for us is first and foremost that we live out the five traits. (Also, there are fewer questions this week... better? Worse? Still too many? Not enough? Let me know your thoughts...) – Josh

*The following questions are the 1:10 Homework for the week of January 16, 2011.  
Comments in the grey boxes will not be included on the 1:10 Homework your group receives.*

### Getting Started

*This week's study is based on Colossians 1:9-10.*

*Start by praying for the Holy Spirit to guide you.*

*Then read through Colossians 1:3-14 a few times before moving on.*

*With your group, you might want to begin by reading the passage aloud. Maybe you would have someone read beginning in v. 1 and read it imagining a group of people around them, the whole church, hanging on every word of instruction for them from Paul.*

*The following questions are just introductory discussion starters. Remember that throughout you don't have to cover every single question with your group. Let the Spirit lead!*

1. What is something that you have always wished you could understand or know that you don't?
2. How have other people helped you change and grow over time?
3. Why are you in a 1:10 Group?

## Digging Deeper

*In this section we'll get into the text, both Colossians and some jumps to other parts of Scripture. Remember, you don't have to cover EVERY question! You know your group. Depend on the Spirit to guide you.*

1. Our purpose is to see people transformed into Fully Devoted Followers of Jesus. Can you name the five traits of a Fully Devoted Follower from memory? Try it. See if you can memorize them before your 1:10 group meets this week! (Hint: They're on the front of the bulletin.)

*You're going to hear me teach on these five traits and bring them up over and over and over again from the pulpit. Encourage people to memorize them and use them as a filter to examine their own walk with Jesus through. How are they doing in each area personally? How is your 1:10 Group doing corporately in these five areas as a group? These questions follow below. — A good follow-up for this question and/or the next one might simply be taking each trait and asking, "What does this look like to live in that way?"*

2. Of the five traits, which one(s) is(are) the hardest and/or weakest area(s) for you? How could your 1:10 Group help you grow in that area?

*Be prepared to answer this yourself. Be honest and appropriately vulnerable. How is God working in your life as a leader? As you become more transparent and authentic, so will your group. The culture of a 1:10 Group or of any group of people will almost always follow the patterns and attitudes set by its leader. Facilitate your discussion in a way that has group health and Christ-likeness in view.*

3. What does it look like to "walk in a manner worthy of the Lord"? What does this have to do with God's will?

*Obviously the five traits were the key point for this during the message, so hopefully that comes up — but there are many other directions this question could go, too. Maybe you ask some questions like, "who do you know that walks in a manner worthy of the Lord?" —*

*Who in your past did this best? – Who in public, when you look at they way they live, seems to walk in this way? – How do we fail in this? Etc.*

*In the question of what it has to do with God's will... walking in a manner worthy of the Lord **IS** God's will for us!*

4. If someone told you about a decision they were considering, and then asked you, “do you think this is God’s will?” – How would you go about answering them?

*Filter it through the three points we'll cover Sunday about knowing and understanding God's will: 1) It's recorded in God's Word. 2) It's revealed by the Holy Spirit. 3) It's discerned with the help of other believers and prayer.*

5. In the past, how have you discerned God’s will for your own decisions? Have you even considered it? Is there a particular situation right now where you’re trying to determine his will? How are you going about it?

*If someone in your group is really struggling with a decision, this is a great opportunity for them to get godly advice from other believers in your group. Speak truth from God's word into whatever decision they're considering. Spend time even in the middle of this question to pray with/for/over someone in your group and their decision/circumstance.*

*One thing to mention is that we often see God's leading as we look backward, not forward. With the help of time, we can look back at circumstances and decisions and clearly see God's hand in it. This would be a great discussion to have as well.*

6. Pastor Josh said that God’s will is often discerned with the help of other believers. Do you agree? Have you experienced that?

**7. Read 1 Thessalonians 5:12-18** Here Paul gives some instruction on what it looks like to live in community (14-15) and under spiritual authority (12-13). Then in verses 16-18 Paul lists three attitudes and actions God desires for us in all of these situations, saying “*for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.*” List those three commands from verses 16-18:

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.

*1. Always rejoice. 2. Never stop praying. 3. Be thankful for everything.*

8. How would living out those three commands change the way you live? How would it affect your ability to discern God's will?

## Up Close

1. Pick out your weakest area of the five traits of a Fully Devoted Follower. What is one step you could commit to over the next month to grow in that area? Write it down and share it with your 1:10 Group. Over the next 3-4 weeks, check up with each other in your group, encourage each other and see how it's going.

*This will either flop or take root with some people depending on your group. If there seems to be some good discussion about it earlier and again now, see if you can figure out a way to recall this issue in a few weeks and encourage those in your group to grow in that area.*

2. God's revealed will for you is that you live a life fully pleasing to him, that you be a *Fully Devoted Follower* of Jesus. How does your obedience to God affect your ability to understand his will?

*Spending at least some time each week praying for each other will be huge in developing community and seeing growth in your group. Don't just skip over this. If you're starting a new group, it will probably be sparse at first, but set the pace early and establish prayer for each other as an important part of your time together.*

*Focus first on prayer for each other, but if you need additional ideas, prayer requests will be on the inserts each week after the 1:10 Homework.*