

**ChristChurch London Life Group Discussion Outline – 16/09/07**  
**What really matters?**  
**David Stroud**

**Colossians 1:1-8**

1. Faith for Paul is a crucial element of being a believer. It is not an optional extra but an essential part of living the life. Faith starts with a conviction that God is good & that He loves us. How does understanding this enable us to be at ease with ourselves and what difference does that make?
2. Paul thanks God for the Colossians “faith in Christ Jesus” (v4), which they were exercising in every part of their lives. How does this challenge us to also live lives of faith? What are some of the ways in which we can step out in faith, both as individuals and as a lifegroup? How are you doing with living by faith? What are you pursuing in God?

Discuss with your group how this affects the way you invite people to Alpha. (Alpha launches: Wed 3rd Oct: Simon Thomas; Fri 5th Oct: Ian McCormack)

3. The second thing Paul thanks God for is the Colossians love “for all the saints” Col 1:4. The church in Colossae was full of diversity that included people from many different backgrounds (Col 3:11). How can we too show love for all those that come to ChristChurch? Discuss some of the challenges of understanding life from other people’s perspectives? What are some of the challenges in believing the best in each other?
4. The third thing Paul thanks God for is “the faith and love that spring from the hope that is stored up for you in heaven” (v5). Why is it so hard to live with a sense of reality of a future hope? Discuss ways in which this hope can become more real in your life.