## Small Groups—Week of Sept. 21

A CHURCH ALIVE!—Colossians 1:3-8

The church at Colosse was a lively fellowship for two reasons:

- I. It Was a *Gifted* Church vv. 4-5
  - "faith" v. 4 "love" v. 4 and "hope" v. 5—How would these be gifts?
    - "faith"—see Heb. 11:1. What is "faith?"What is the object of "faith" in v. 4? Why is this important?
    - "love"—Who are the recipients of this "love?" v. 4

      Who was involved in this kind of "love?" v. 8
    - "hope"—see Eph. 2:11-13 Who is our "hope?"

      Where, ultimately, is our "hope?"
- II. It Was a *Gospel* Church vv. 5b-7
  - How is the gospel described in v. 5b? In v. 6b?
  - What has the Gospel been doing? v. 6
  - This Gospel ("good news") is:
    - ✓ Truth v. 5b
    - ✓ Fruit v. 6
    - ✓ Taught v. 7 (by Epaphras—how described? Col. 4:12)
    - ✓ Am I thanking the Lord for His wonderful Gospel? In what ways?
    - ✓ The Gospel is "good tidings of great joy for all people" according to Luke 2:10, 11, 31, 32. What kind of joy is this?

The only way any church can get a blessing is to lay aside all difference, all criticism, all coldness and party feeling, and come to the Lord as one.

---Dwight L. Moody