

# CHRIST ALONE!



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## What is hope really about?

For to this end we toil and strive, because we have our hope set on the living God, who is the Savior of all people, especially of those who believe.

– **1 Timothy 4:10** (*English Standard Version*)

## Seeing Christ for *all* that He is transforms our hope in Him into a consuming passion for Him.

<sup>15</sup> He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. <sup>16</sup> For by him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things were created by him and for him. <sup>17</sup> He is before all things, and in him all things hold together. <sup>18</sup> And he is the head of the body, the church; he is the beginning and the firstborn from among the dead, so that in everything he might have the supremacy. – **Colossians 1:15-18** (*New International Version*)

## Let's hit the spiritual "reset button" of our lives!

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope. – **Romans 15:13** (*ESV*)

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## Next Steps

Take an hour or so this week to write down answers to these questions for yourself. Pray for God's help to answer them honestly.

- 1) What usually absorbs my affections on a daily basis? What genuinely preoccupies my thoughts and activities?
- 2) What do I consider to be the pinnacle of my life purpose – the reason I was created and redeemed in the first place?
- 3) Do I have a clear and complete understanding of who Christ is? Do I see him before all things, in all things, supreme in everything?
- 4) What gives me hope? Where do I find confidence to face life's difficulties?
- 5) How can I practically focus more on Christ this next year?

**Want a more complete understanding of who Christ is?** Read any or all four of the New Testament Gospels (Matthew, Mark, Luke or John). Read with this question in mind: *What does this book say about who Christ is?*

### Small Group Discussion Questions



1. Using just three words, tell us your opinion of New Year's resolutions. Don't worry what others think – just give us three words!
2. Have someone read Colossians 1:15-18 out loud. Think back over 2008 and name some situations in your life where you are convinced that Christ has held things together and shown His supremacy.
3. Now read Romans 15:13 out loud. In what areas, circumstances or situations do you *hope* to see Christ hold things together and show His supremacy in 2009? Let each group member name their areas, then resolve together to look for Christ in those areas. You might say together out loud, "We resolve to look for Christ!" Remember, if you don't look for Him, you probably won't see Him!
4. How can we pray for you tonight?