

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 14

QUESTION 1

- a) Out of the warnings of the previous verses comes good news: *“But when the Helper comes...”*
- b) Whilst later in the chapter we see that the Holy Spirit convicts the unbeliever of sin; the emphasis in this verse is that the Holy Spirit is sent to believers.
- c) He testifies to us about Jesus; making Him increasingly real and precious to us.

QUESTION 2

- a) As a result of the Spirit testifying to us of Christ, we can then testify to others.
- b) Calvin wrote: *“Christ means that the testimony of the Spirit will not be of such a nature that the apostles shall have it for their private advantage, or that they alone shall enjoy it, but that by them it will be widely diffused, because they will be organs of the Holy Spirit, as indeed, he spoke by their mouth”*.
- c) The confidence the disciples have is in the words and actions of Jesus that they have experienced (see **1 John 1:1-3**).

QUESTION 3

- a) The Greek word means to be caught in a trap and has the thought of being taken by surprise.
- b) If persecution came without warning, Jesus disciples might be tempted to give in; or to wonder where God was in all of it.
- c) Having prepared them they are more ready to stand firm.
- d) Far from destroying the work of Christ, hatred would bring growth.
- e) As the saying goes: *“The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the church”*.

QUESTION 4

- a) We might expect persecution from those who are outwardly hostile towards God.
- b) But Jesus’ followers will also face opposition from those who believe that they are doing the work of God.
- c) That was certainly the experience of the apostles at the hands of the Jewish authorities in the early chapters of Acts.
- d) Jesus reminds His followers in verse 3 that the problem is that such people do not really know God. If they did, then they would also know Him.

QUESTION 5

- a) There is an inevitability to what is going to happen, so we must expect it. However, it is not with a defeatist attitude, but one of faith and confidence in Christ.
- b) The fact that Christ has said that these things will happen gives that confidence that He is in control (see **John 16:33; 1 John 5:4**). Although the ‘hour’ is not literal; it nevertheless demonstrates a limited time.
- c) This is in contrast with verse 3. ‘They’ have not known the Father, or the Son. We have!
- d) The important point is to remember. We need to take on God’s word.

QUESTION 6

- The idea of this question is to ensure that the group have grasped:
 - ✓ The fact of opposition – It is inevitable. It comes from hatred of God.
 - ✓ The reason for opposition – Hating God – not knowing God – not knowing His Son.
 - ✓ The response to opposition – we must expect it. The Holy Spirit helps us to witness. It is not for ever. We are overcomers.