

QUESTION 5

- a) Our salvation is not merely spiritual, but also physical.
- b) We leave our body when we die. It is described here as being 'lowly'. In other words, it is subject to weakness and decay.
- c) One day our bodies will be transformed from 'lowly' to 'glorious'.
- d) This will involve an outward, physical transformation, in which we receive bodies not subject to disease and death; but also, an inward, spiritual transformation, in which we are delivered finally and forever from all sin.
- e) We will be clothed with a resurrected body. Without sin we will be redeemed into the likeness of Christ (see **1 Cor 15:49-53**).
- f) What about those believers who were eaten by lions, or burnt, or whose bodies were separated through explosions, or decomposed etc?
- g) There is no answer that can satisfy the mind of man. But Paul tells us that it will be by the power of God that enables Him to subject everything to Himself.
- h) God created us from dust. He can recreate our bodies from dust.

QUESTION 6

- a) This verse rounds off Paul previous teaching.
- b) They are to stand firm in spite of opposition and the challenge of false teaching.
- c) Citizens of heaven can stand firm.
- d) They are his joy and crown, in that they demonstrate the fruit of the Holy Spirit in their lives.
- e) The crown also continues his picture of the race earlier in the chapter.
- f) They will be rewarded the prize when the race is run (see **2 Timothy 4:7-8; James 1:12**).

GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 14

QUESTION 1

- a) The word for 'example' literally means a mark produced by something; or an image that models the mould from which it comes.
- b) We might suggest that this is vain of Paul to assume others should follow his example.
- c) But he has already acknowledged earlier in the chapter that he is still in the process of becoming like Jesus (**verses 12-14**).
- d) In **1 Corinthians 11:1** he clarifies that following his example is not to become like Paul. He writes: *"Be imitators of me, as I am of Christ"*.
- e) Christ is the ultimate example, as is seen in **2:5-8**.
- f) Paul has already urged his readers to live a life that is worthy of 'the gospel of Christ' (**1:27**).
- g) What we also see here is that fellow Christians can be examples to one another.
- h) That is a responsibility for us all. We can help or hinder growth in others.

QUESTION 2

- a) Paul contrast the example in verse 17 with another that is negative.
- b) Here is the opposite to those who model the gospel of Christ.
- c) 'Walk' is the idea of daily conduct, manner of life.
- d) In a letter filled with joy we find Paul weeping. Not for himself, but for those who profess to be believers but are living contrary to the way of the cross.
- e) He weeps also because they are in danger of seducing the true believers here in Philippi.
- f) See another example of this when Paul meets the Elders from Ephesus in **Acts 20:31**.
- g) He could have been referring to the Judaizers who were adding the Law of Moses to the work that Christ accomplished at the cross.
- h) Their opposition to the cross is revealed by their adherence to the law as a means of salvation.
- i) They are diluting the cross as the only means of salvation (see **Galatians 2:21**).
- j) Paul can also mean those who profess to be Christians but live as though they are not.
- k) In other words, their thoughts, aim and values are completely opposite.
- l) They are instead enemies of the cross and all that it stands for. They think that it means we can just do whatever we want.

QUESTION 3

- a) C H Spurgeon suggested that Paul wept for three reasons. First, because of the guilt of these enemies of the cross of Christ. Second, because of the ill effects of their conduct. Finally, because of their doom.
- b) The enemies of the cross love the world and the things that are in the world (see **1 John 2:15**).
- c) "*Their god is their belly*" means that they live for selfish and sensual pleasures, rather live for Christ.
- d) They are more concerned on what the world offers.
- e) Rather than leading to heaven (as Paul anticipated in **verse 14**), their approach leads to destruction (or hell).

QUESTION 4

- a) Christians belong to heaven. We have been bought at a price.
- b) However, at present we are dual citizens. On earth and in heaven.
- c) The citizens of Philippi had Roman citizenship, although they were 800 miles from Rome. Philippi was a Roman colony.
- d) A baby born in Philippi needed to be registered legally for his or her citizenship.
- e) When we become a Christian, our name is recorded in the book of life (see **4:3**).
- f) The waiting for the Saviour is similar to the idea in verse 13; that of craning the neck as we finish the race.
- g) Our citizenship in heaven ought to make us better people here on earth.