

QUESTION 5

- a) This is about the good works that we perform as a result of God's saving grace in our lives.
- b) In **Romans 1:13** speaks of winning souls for Christ as bearing fruit.
- c) It is also used to show character. We see this fruit in the work of the Spirit in our lives in **Galatians 5:22-23**.
- d) All this comes through a walk with Jesus Christ and only through His grace in our lives.
- e) This is about Christian character that glorifies God. That speaks of the excellencies of His character.
- f) The ultimate goal of the Christian life is to glorify God. He is glorified (made to look good as He truly is) when His people abound in discerning love.

QUESTION 6

- a) Note that this prayer is motivated by Paul's love for the believers.
- b) It is not meant as a dig at their progress.
- c) Paul wants God to be glorified in the lives of the believers he loves and for them to know joy and fruitfulness in their relationship with the Lord.
- d) We want that for our fellow believers.

GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 2

QUESTION 1

- a) Paul had a very close relationship with the believers in Philippi.
- b) This closeness in the work of the gospel is demonstrated in the sending of gifts to Paul; and the sending of Epaphroditus' to help him.
- c) Holding them in his heart demonstrates how he felt towards them. The High Priest in the Old Testament wore a garment called an ephod over his heart. On it were 12 stones on which were engraved the names of 12 tribes of Israel. A jewel for each tribe (**Exodus 28:15-29**). The High Priest therefore bore their names and brought them in remembrance before God.
- d) Paul and the Philippians were bound together in God's grace. 'Partakers' can also mean 'partners'.
- e) Here, Paul sees them as partners supporting him in prison but also in the work of the gospel.
- f) The Philippians shared Paul's sufferings and his joys which were all part of the gracious plan of God.
- g) Christians are partners in grace. They are people who owe a common debt to the grace of God.
- h) Being bound together in grace puts us on an equal level. It brings us humility. We all need God's grace.
- i) This applies to saving grace. But also grace to live day by day.
- j) As Christians we are bound together by grace.

QUESTION 2

- a) It is one thing to have someone on our minds. Another to have them in our hearts.
- b) Paul's sincere love for these believers cannot be hidden or disguised.
- c) Here we see one of six occasions in the letter where he uses the term 'you all'. He doesn't want to miss anyone out. He longs to share fellowship with them.
- d) The King James translation of the Bible uses the word 'bowels' instead of 'affection'.
- e) It literally means 'in the entrails of Christ Jesus'. It is the Greek word, describing the heart, lungs and liver.
- f) These organs were considered to be the seat of emotional life.
- g) The 'affection of Christ Jesus' is therefore the immeasurable love of the Saviour.
- h) Paul loves these believers in Christ.
- i) If Jesus loved that person so much to go to the cross for them; then that's the love I should also have for them.
- j) Paraphrase: *"I call God to witness that I have the strongest affection for you, and that I love you with that same kind of tender concern with which Christ loved the world when He gave Himself for it"*
Adam Clarke.

QUESTION 3

- a) Paul knew that love was essential to their effectiveness and progress as believers.
- b) If their love was lacking, the church would suffer. On the other hand; if their love was strong, the church would prosper.
- c) Love here in verse 9 is 'agape'. It is giving to others and not getting for oneself. It is sacrificial and unconditional.
- d) It's the love which Jesus has for the church; for whom He laid down His life. This is the love Paul wanted to see abound (or super-abound) in their lives.
- e) A greater knowledge of God and His word will promote greater love among His people.
- f) They also need to be discerning so that they can make right choices about the Christian life.
- g) It's about making right choices day by day. E.g. How much time to I spend with my children? Am I putting myself in positions where I can witness? Am I using my money wisely? Do I make time for personal prayer or corporate prayer?
- h) Don Carson: *"He wants their hearts and minds to become profoundly Christian, for otherwise they will not discern and approve what is best"*.

QUESTION 4

- a) True love is controlled by the deep knowledge of the word. This enables the Christian to be discerning and discriminating.
- b) We can then approve what is excellent in the sight of God.
- c) Paul wants his readers to be pure. It was a word connected with the light of the sun. They were to be morally transparent.
- d) He looks forward to the day of Christ; His return in glory. He wants God's people to be ready. To be living lives that honour Christ and further His Kingdom.
- e) Lives that are blameless in their witness before Christ and before others.