

QUESTION 6

- a) Only the Christian can contemplate such a view. Only the believer has that hope of glory.
- b) In verse 23 Paul tells us that regardless of what he has on this earth; being with Jesus is far better.
- c) I wonder we if we would honestly agree with Paul in this conclusion?
- d) If we are honest, then there are things that make us want to stay here (there was with Paul, in verses 22-23). Our families; things we want to do. It is not wrong to enjoy life here.
- e) This passage is not telling us to want to die. But to anticipate heaven and live our lives with that in view (see **Philippians 3:20-21**).
- f) We need a constant focus on glory whilst at the same time living a full life for him while on earth.

GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 4

QUESTION 1

- a) Notice the continuing theme of joy; even when facing the seeming uncertainty of the future.
- b) He knows that whatever the outcome; it will be deliverance. See his confidence in God and His word (see **Romans 8:28**).
- c) For the Christian there is the promise of victory; whether it be deliverance from circumstances or the call home to glory.
- d) The word here for deliverance is the word for 'salvation'. So confident is he of his salvation; even if it means the ultimate outcome of it; being with Christ (see **1 Peter 1:8-9**).
- e) He sees two channels of help here. The prayers of God's people and the work of the Holy Spirit.
- f) It shows how much he relied on prayer; but also, how he depended on the Spirit. He wasn't depending on his own resources.
- g) The word for 'help' here is 'full supply'. He was confident of God's 'full supply'.

QUESTION 2

- a) Whether he lives or dies, he wants Christ to be honoured in this body.
- b) Warren Wiersbe writes: *“Because of his chains, Christ was known (v13), and because of his critics, Christ was preached (v18). But because of Paul’s crisis, Christ was magnified (v20)”*.
- c) To magnify is to bring something much closer. Christ remains the same; but in Paul’s life and witness is brought closer to others.
- d) It’s the difference between a telescope and a microscope. The first brings distant things closer; the second makes tiny things look big. Paul’s life was to be a telescope.
- e) Notice his *“full courage”* in what Christ will do in him. Even if he is executed. If, by his faithful witness in dying, Paul can bear witness to the hope of the gospel, then he is ready to go.
- f) The martyrs viewed their deaths as a means of exalting Christ. One was a godly pastor named John Rogers. The French ambassador who witnessed the execution wrote that Rogers went to death as if he was walking to his wedding. In a sense, he was (see **Revelation 19:6-8**).

QUESTION 3

- a) Living here on earth is Christ. Paul’s occupied with Jesus.
- b) That’s what comes first for him. He’s not an optional extra that’s been added following Paul’s conversion (compare: **Galatians 2:20**).
- c) If that is the case, then surely it follows that death is also Christ.
- d) Paul finds death attractive because it means being with Jesus. It means being free from the presence of sin; of suffering; of sadness; of death.
- e) Paul is not saying this because of his suffering; and therefore, being defeatist. He’s rejoicing. He doesn’t hate life. But he sees something greater to come.
- f) We must also add that it is not wrong to grieve the loss of loved ones. Neither is Paul saying that we should desire death.

QUESTION 4

- a) He’s in a win-win situation.
- b) To continue on this earth means serving his Lord here.
- c) To lose his life on earth, means serving his Lord in heaven for eternity (see **Revelation 7:15**).
- d) He concludes that dying would be better by far for him. The idea here is that of being ‘far, far, better’. He wants to ‘depart’ and be at home with Christ.
- e) Because Jesus is so central to Paul’s life and thinking that he was torn between what he wants to happen. Fruitful labour or the immediate presence of Jesus.

QUESTION 5

- a) Paul was released from prison as he anticipates. He lives for around four more years; engaged in *“fruitful labour”*.
- b) He is not boasting as to his ability here.
- c) The emphasis in verse 26 is to ‘have ample cause to glory in Christ Jesus’. That was always his aim in what he wrote and taught the believers (**2 Corinthians 5:6-9**). Jesus should receive the glory and praise!
- d) He was committed to further the gospel (v12) and to further the believers’ *“progress and joy in the faith”* (v25).
- e) We were never to stand still as Christian but to grow in our knowledge and love of God and His word: [e.g. **1 Peter 2:2**; **2 Peter 3:18**].