

## GROUP LEADER'S NOTES – STUDY 8

### QUESTION 1

- a) We have seen how Jesus was obedient, even to the point of dying on a cross.
- b) Paul now shows that the same is expected of us as Christians.
- c) He is the example to follow (refer back to **verse 5**).
- d) Jesus receives the title of Lord. So, we should live under His rule. He has saved us.

### QUESTION 2

- a) The idea of 'working out', is that of producing something. This is about fruitfulness.
- b) We must not misunderstand Paul to be saying that salvation is a product of our work. It is a free grace (**Romans 6:23**). We work out; not work for.
- c) However, there is some human activity suggested here.
- d) Paul is referring to obedience and service here. Doing God's will. Spiritual fruit brings growth.
- e) In **Romans 8:29** God wants us to be conformed to the image of His Son. The goal is Christlikeness.
- f) The 'fear and trembling' are not a reference to being forced to do something.
- g) They reflect the awe and reverence which are appropriate as we live in the presence of God. We work out our salvation in complete reliance on His strength.

### QUESTION 3

- a) The preposition 'for', at the beginning of this verse, means 'because'.
- b) It connects verse 13 with verse 12. Christians are called to work out, because God is working in.
- c) We co-operate with him in order to please Him. As He works in us, He then works through us.
- d) Remember back in 1:6 how that God has: *"began a good work in you..."*
- e) Warren Wiersbe: *"The Christian life is not a series of ups and downs. It is rather a process of 'ins and outs'. God works in, and we work out"*.

### QUESTION 4

- a) Paul gives examples of how we should live in verse 14 and links them into our witness in verse 15: *"that you may be..."*
- b) The Philippians are to get their own house in order so that they can be effective witnesses.
- c) This indicates that not living as we should, becomes a hindrance to effective evangelism.
- d) This way of living as Christians contrasts with the world around us. 'Blameless' describes a life that cannot be criticised. 'Innocent' refers to a life that is pure or wholesome.
- e) Here we return to the part we play with the aid of the Holy Spirit in us.
- f) The church here is described as 'children of God'. The world is described using the term 'generation'.
- g) The words 'crooked' and 'twisted' mean being out of line with God's law and distorting it. This results in darkness.
- h) The believers are to bring light into that darkness. They are the light. The church is to stand out.
- i) It is important to note that we do all this 'in the midst of...' We are not to retreat from the world, but to shine in it.

### QUESTION 5

- a) Verse 16 shows that the gospel is proclaimed not only through the way we live (v15), but through the declaration of the message. A message must be communicated in words.
- b) This is called the word of life. The word that gives life. In fact, in **1 John 1:1**, Jesus is described as 'the word of life'. We are to hold fast the message of Jesus.
- c) It has been entrusted to the church and must be held on to tightly. But are we to hold on to it; or hold it out to others?
- d) Both are required. In a crooked and twisted world, we need to hold onto that word as truth. But we also need to hold it out to others.
- e) Paul wants to see fruitfulness in the lives of these believers, so that his work among them would have been worthwhile. Indeed, he wants to look back over his ministry and see that all his efforts were worthwhile.

### QUESTION 6

- a) Paul is imprisoned and there is still the possibility that he might face death.
- b) But this brings him joy because of those who have come to faith: **1 Thessalonians 3:8-10**.
- c) It was worth it all.
- d) He had come to the point of rejoicing whatever the circumstances.
- e) The Philippians are also to rejoice with him. *"An attitude of mutual joy ought to accompany any sacrificial Christian service"* (John MacArthur).