

Studies in First Corinthians

NT Survey Lesson 100--1 Corinthians 14

Introduction: The Corinthians needed special instruction on the proper use of spiritual gifts in the assembly. In this chapter Paul discusses the need to do everything in a decent and orderly fashion.

Lesson aim: To encourage the student to understand the principles of decency and orderlines needed in assembled worship.

Why prophecy is preferred over tongues--1 Cor. 14:1-19

1. Verse one might be regarded as a summary of the things discussed in chapters 12-13. What were the Corinthians to pursue? To desire? Which gift should they particularly seek to have?
2. If one speaks in a tongue without an interpreter, who alone understands his message? What does he speak in his spirit? To himself as well?
3. The one who prophesies speaks to whom? For what purposes?
4. Why was prophecy more desirable than tongues?
5. What is Paul's point in talking about flutes, harps, and bugles (trumpets)?
6. How many kinds of languages or tongues are there? Are any of them mere gibberish? If one was to speak in a language that he nor others did not know, what would he be to others and others to him?
7. What exhortation did Paul give to the one who spoke in a tongue?
8. Would it seem from v. 15-16 that songs and prayers were spoken in the assembly in tongues? "I will pray in the _____; I will pray with the _____ also".
9. What would keep the worshipper from saying "amen" to a prayer offered in a tongue?

10. What seems to be the main point of this first section?

The purpose and regulation of tongues and prophecy--1 Cor. 14:20-33

1. For whom were tongues a sign? How about prophecy?
2. What did Paul anticipate would happen if unbeliever came into the assembly and everyone was speaking in a tongue? What if everyone prophesied?
3. What principle was to govern the use of spiritual gifts (v. 26)?
4. How many tongue-speakers should speak in an assembly? At the same time? Is this what the Pentecostals do when they profess to speak in tongues?
5. What if there was no one to interpret? Does this mean the tongue-speaker could say nothing at all in the assembly?
6. How many prophets were to speak? What if someone received further revelation while one was speaking? Could a prophet restrain himself from speaking so that another could speak or was his gift uncontrollable?
7. Is God the author of confusion or peace?
8. What instruction is given to women? Is this all women? Is this a command for total silence at all times or in the matter of addressing the assembly? How does it compare with the silence required of men in v. 28?
9. Was it possible that a woman might seek to teach the assembly by asking questions? What instruction did Paul give to women in this regard?
10. What principle governs the woman's conduct in these matters?
11. What did Paul say to those who professed to be a prophet or spiritual? What about those who refused to accept Paul's teaching?

12. What is main thrust of this chapter's teaching about prophecy and tongues? (v. 39) What principle should govern all activities in the assembly?

The cessation of spiritual gifts and the abiding nature of love-- 1 Cor. 13:8-13

1. What did Paul say about love? What did Paul say would happen to prophecy, tongues, and (supernatural) knowledge?
2. Since in Paul's day God was revealing His truth through spiritual gifts that were continuing to be exercised, he said, "We know in _____ and we prophecy in _____".
3. When did Paul say the spiritual gifts of knowledge and prophecy would be done away?
4. What is the perfect (complete) thing that Paul saw coming in the future? Explain why you believe this.
5. Paul illustrates the idea of the doing away of spiritual gifts by comparing it to the growth of a person. When one is a child he does what? But when he becomes a man what does he do?
6. Paul likened the state of knowledge of his day as looking into what? What did Paul mean when he said, "we see in a glass darkly"? What did he mean when he indicated that in the future they would see "face to face"?
7. Is Paul talking about being "face to face with Christ my Savior" here?
8. What three things had Paul said would be done away? Now what three things does he say would abide? Which of these is greatest?

