

# I Cor 14:1-15:35

## Corinthians, Session Nine

### **The Word That Builds Up (14:1-25)**

“At no stage does Paul decry, let alone dismiss, the gift of tongues. He is redressing an imbalance in Corinthian spirituality and correcting a confusion in Corinthian worship” (p. 242).

“The Corinthians wrongly concentrated on what they reckoned to be the more dramatic gifts—and Paul found them in disorder, heresy, immorality and division” (p. 255).

Spiritual gifts will always benefit another and build up the church. If they don't, it's not a gift!

Prophecy = \_\_\_\_\_ the Word of the Lord. “Prophecy must always be received in the fellowship of God's people, not in private conversation” (p. 243).

To whom is the person who speaks in tongues speaking? (v.2) Is this how you thought of it?

Prophesying > Speaking in Tongues                      Why? (v. 5)

“The Corinthian tendency was not to be over-cerebral, but to devalue the importance of the \_\_\_\_\_” (p. 246), hence Paul's emphasis in v. 14-19.

“Speaking in tongues (and indeed prophecy) is not an uncontrollable phenomenon. The person with the gift can choose either to use it or not to use it; can choose to use it in private or in public; can choose to keep it private and silent even in public...His Spirit does not override the wills and minds of human beings. On the contrary, in his love he wins our willing co-operation, and he never forces us to do anything. In all examination of spiritual gifts, it is essential to assert this principle of self-control” (p. 250-1).

“Amen” means...

In v. 21, Paul quotes from Isaiah 28:11-12 which allude to a prophecy of Moses in Deut. 28:49; see also Jer. 5:15. Conquered people do not recognize the language of their conqueror. This foreign sound is a reminder of their defeat. In a similar manner, it's not good or comforting when people in worship do not recognize the language that is spoken in tongues.

The realization that “God is here!”—among us—is what is undeniably appealing to the outsider.

### **Worship That Builds Up (14:26-40)**

Key: The \_\_\_\_\_ Word is evaluated by the \_\_\_\_\_ Word.

Why is order important for worship? Why is the order of worship important?

“Whatever this section is teaching, it is not telling women to be quiet in church. In 11:5, Paul has already referred to women praying and prophesying. The reference to their husbands at home (v. 35) makes it seem the principle of submissiveness was being ignored...In other words, these married women were the source of some of the \_\_\_\_\_ in the Corinthian church...Whatever the detailed explanation, this paragraph looks like a fairly localized example of what could well have been a general tendency amongst Christian wives in the early church. They had discovered a unique freedom in the life of the Christian community and it is possible that this freedom had gone to their heads, or more precisely, to their tongues. This lack of self-discipline was causing confusion and disorder in the worship of the church. Because Paul is so insistent on the priority of edification, he writes with some firmness—and not a little sarcasm—about the need for control (p. 252).

### **Gospel Based on Historical Event (15:1-11)**

Why write this chapter? The answer comes in v. \_\_\_\_\_.

Plato: immortality of the \_\_\_\_\_; the body is a prison; death is a release. Gnosticism is a powerful influence too. It taught knowledge (gnosis) was good; the body was bad.

“The fact of the resurrection by itself says little about the heart of the gospel, unless it can be shown that ‘the sting of death is sin’ (v. 56) and that the resurrection of Christ has therefore drawn that sting” (p. 260).

“last of all”

“untimely born”

### **The Resurrection, Our Only Hope (15:12-34)**

Complete this sentence: “Without the resurrection...”

“If men, like those at Corinth, decide to pick and choose which aspects of truth they will accept, then they will end up with no truth” (p. 263). Yet, this is the exact approach of cafeteria style spirituality of postmodernism—take what you want! Mix and match. Where do we see this approach today? Why is it appealing?

When disappointed in events or outcomes, keep in mind v. 19. We are \_\_\_\_\_ mongers. We have hope for today and tomorrow, this life and the life to come.

Make a case for your resurrection as a past, present and future event.

FIRST ADAM

SECOND ADAM

What is Paul saying about “being baptized on behalf of the dead?” (v. 29)

Beasts at Ephesus...see Acts 19 for Paul’s account in Ephesus (temple of Artemis). Paul is saying, “Why would I do all this and endanger myself if there were no truth, no resurrection?”