

1Corinthians – Week 51

I. Review:

A. Quiz

B. 1Cor. 13:7ff

- i. Loves bare, believes, hopes and endures all things.
- ii. Love never fails but the spiritual gifts will eventually cease!
 1. Paul tells them: Now, we know & prophesy in part (partial)
 2. But when the perfect (completeness) comes, the partial will pass away.
 - a. In context, the perfect is referring to full knowledge and prophesy.
 - i. In other words, the full revelation of the New Testament.
 - ii. The term “perfect” is the Greek word “teleios” which means, “completeness; of full age”
 - iii. When that perfect knowledge and prophesy comes, then there will be no need for inspired revelation.
 - b. Paul compares partial prophesy to a child while complete prophesy to an adult
 - c. Paul compares partial prophesy to a poor reflection in a mirror and complete prophesy as to a clear reflection (face to face).

Partial vs. Perfect

Now (partial)	Then (complete)	Result
v. 9 we know & prophesy in part	v. 10 the perfect comes	vv. 8-10 miraculous gifts done away
v. 11 as a child	v. 11 became a man	v. 11 childish things done away
v. 12 we see in a mirror dimly	v. 12 face to face (clear reflection)	v. 13 faith, hope & love remain after gifts have ceased
v. 12 Know in part	v. 12 know fully	

- iii. Faith, hope and love will go on after the spiritual gifts cease.
 1. Faith still goes on today! In Heaven, faith turns into sight!
 2. Hope still goes on today! In Heaven, hope turns into enjoyment of that which is now obtained!
 3. Love is the greatest; it will go on forever!

II. Continuation

A. The superiority of prophesy to tongues

- i. 1Cor. 14:1 (ESV), “*Pursue love, and earnestly desire the spiritual gifts, especially that you may prophesy.*”
 1. It is the Christian’s call to follow the way of love, and this will mean that they will always be trying to serve others.
 2. It also means they will be patient and kind to each other, and not envious, boastful, arrogant, rude, irritable or resentful towards each other.
 3. The community of God ought to be a place of encouragement.
 4. And being that the New Testament writings were not all available yet, the miraculous spiritual gifts were needed, especially prophesy.

- ii. 1Cor. 14:2 (ESV), *“For one who speaks in a tongue speaks not to men but to God; for no one understands him, but he utters mysteries in the Spirit.”*
 - 1. Tongues -- by themselves -- does not benefit the congregation.
 - 2. God understands but the people don’t understand because it is a foreign language to them.
 - 3. He may be speaking great and encouraging things, but it does not good to the Church because to the audience, it’s all unintelligible, that is, it’s mysterious to them.
 - 4. We read of the first occurrence of tongues in Acts 2:6-11.
 - a. Some say that the tongues of Acts 2 were foreign languages but the tongues in Corinthians were ecstatic utterances, that is, unintelligible speech.
 - b. However, Paul uses the words “tongues” and “languages” interchangeably (vv. 2, 10, 11, 13).
 - c. Some assume that Paul was referring to an “angelic” language because, in the KJV, it says *“unknown tongue”*
 - i. However, the word *“unknown”* is italicized in the KJV Bible, indicating that it was added there by the translators.
 - ii. Secondly, the passage says “a tongue,” meaning, any foreign language.
- iii. 1Cor. 14:3 (ESV), *“On the other hand, the one who prophesies speaks to people for their up-building and encouragement and consolation.”*
 - 1. Prophesying involves speaking God’s Word in the language of the people.
 - 2. Such men do not utter mysteries, but intelligible and understandable words.
 - 3. Those who prophesy:
 - a. Uplift -- Build up!
 - i. The etymology of this word means to improve spiritually, to morally instruct.
 - ii. Other translations use the term “strengthening.”
 - b. Encourage -- Stir up!
 - i. The etymology of this word means to put in courage or to make strong.
 - ii. Some translations use the term *“exhortation”* which means to stimulate!
 - c. Console – Bind up!
 - i. The etymology of this word means to offer solace, to comfort!
- iv. 1Cor. 14:4 (ESV), *“The one who speaks in a tongue builds up himself, but the one who prophesies builds up the church.”*
 - 1. The words of a tongue-speaker build him up, not because he understood what he was saying, but because he knew his ability was Spirit-powered.
 - 2. However, the words of a prophet build up others.
- v. 1Cor. 14:5 (ESV), *“Now I want you all to speak in tongues, but even more to prophesy. The one who prophesies is greater than the one who speaks in tongues, unless someone interprets, so that the church may be built up.”*
 - 1. The only time tongues becomes beneficial to the hearers is when it is interpreted!
 - a. Ever noticed why certain songs that we sing have an interpretation?
 - i. El Shaddai – God Almighty
 - ii. El Elyon na Adonai – God Most High, O Lord
 - iii. Erkamka na Adonia – We love you O Lord
 - iv. Hosanna – O Save!
 - b. If we sang songs with foreign words, how will we be edified, encouraged or consoled in song if we do not know what we are saying?