

- I) V21-22 INTRO: In the law it is written: With men of other tongues and other lips I Paul has been contrasting two spiritual gifts: prophecy and tongues
- II) Prophecy could foretell future events but is often speaking forth God's mind Paul said the gift of prophecy was a blessing for the entire church It could be used to edify, exhort and comfort people (V3)
- III) On the other hand: tongues a gift that is worship and praise to God It is a gift that edifies the one speaking but not understood without interpretation
- IV) Prophecy can be exercised without the need of interpretation On the other hand, tongues when in church should be interpreted If there is no one gifted to interpret, Paul said to remain silent (V28)
- V) Though he exercised the gift regularly, he would rather edify the church (V19) He would rather speak five words with understanding
WE CLOSED AT V20
- VI) In that verse he spoke of 3 levels of maturity: babies, children, and mature The only thing that they should be like babies in is malice (evil) In **understanding**, they are to grow in maturity
HE NOW CONTINUES
- VII) V21 In the law it is written With men of other tongues and other lips I will speak This is Is 28:11-12 A prophecy of judgment on the nation of Israel
TAKE A MOMENT TO DEVELOP
- VIII) Isaiah prophesied this around fifteen years before Assyria conquered No. Israel The 10 no. tribes were conquered because of **unrepentant apostasy** (2 Ki 17)
- IX) Some 800 years before Isaiah God prophesied judgment to Israel through Moses This was in the Law where God promises chastisement for disobedience Dt 28:49 The Lord will bring a nation against you from far away **from the ends of the earth**, like an eagle swooping down, **a nation whose language** you will not understand
- X) 100 years later God spoke by Jeremiah the prophet of Judah Jer 5:15 O house of Israel," declares the LORD, "I am bringing a distant nation against you-- an ancient and enduring nation, a people whose language you do not know, **whose speech you do not understand**
- XI) **THE KEY**: The sign of judgment was a language they would not understand

- I) On Pentecost, those baptized by the Spirit spoke in **16 unlearned languages**
THE THOUGHT
- II) The unbelieving Jews could have seen judgment **was coming**
This would have been because other languages were being spoken
PAUL'S POINT
- III) The Jews could have seen that these unknown languages were a sign
Because of unbelief, they rejected Him
Lu 19:41-44 As He drew near (Jerusalem) He saw the city and wept over it, saying
"If you had known, even you, especially in this your day, the things that make for your
peace! But now they are hidden from your eyes. For days will come upon you when your
enemies will build an embankment around you, surround you and close you in on every
side, and level you, and your children within you, to the ground; and they will not leave
in you one stone upon another because you did not know the time of your visitation
- IV) **Sadly**, instead of recognizing their Messiah, they crucified Him
In AD 70, under Titus of Rome, **foreign soldiers** filled the streets of Jerusalem
THE RESULT
- V) This placed them under God's judgment through the One they rejected
Ac 17:31 He has set a day when he will judge the world with justice by the man
he has appointed. He has given proof of this to all men by raising him from the dead.
IN THIS CONTEXT
- VI) V22 Therefore tongues are for a sign not to those who believe **but to unbelievers**
It is a simple reminder that God keeps His word
HIS POINT: Do not be guilty of rejecting Christ
- VII) V22b But **prophesying** is not for unbelievers **but for those who believe**
Prophesying is not specifically for unbelievers, but rather for believers
It is intended to edify, encourage, and comfort
- VIII) As we will see: The gift can also reveal hearts and bring conviction
- IX) V23 If the whole church comes together in one place and all speak with tongues
Notice how the church has both uninformed as well as unbelievers
INTERESTINGLY
- X) When the church was birthed, the only ones in services were believers
Ac 2:42 They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, in
the breaking of bread, and in prayers
(V47) and the Lord added daily those who were being saved

- I) Initially, the meetings were filled with believers
Eventually, interested people would attend services to see what was happening
- II) In Corinth, the church had levels of maturity
Within this would be the **uninformed** (those yet to be taught)
Also, there would be **unbelievers**
- III) **HIS QUESTION**: Will they not say that you are mad? Yes, they certainly will
- IV) V24-25 But if **all prophesy** and an unbeliever or an uninformed person comes in he
Prophesy: Reveal the mind of God, which effects uninformed and unbelievers
Conviction causes unbelievers to be converted as the Word goes forth
- V) Often in illustrations people will hear something just for them
- VI) V26 How is it then brethren whenever you come together each of you has a psalm
HE NOW DEFINES ORDER IN THE CHURCH
- VII) **HIS POINT**: Do not exercise the gifts in a fleshly manner
- VIII) Each of you has a psalm, has a teaching, has a tongue, has a revelation has an
Psalm: Song to the Lord
Teaching, Tongue, Revelation, Interpretation
- IX) You are eager to participate but your ambition and carnality is fueling you
- X) What is the proper motivation as you are gathered together
Let all things be done for the edification of the church (V12)
- XI) V27 If anyone speaks in a tongue let there be two or at the most three and let one
This is intended to allow the gifts of the Spirit to operate in an orderly fashion
- XII) One speaks at a time, giving opportunity for the interpretation
V16 Tongue give thanks to God and blesses Him
- XIII) V28 If **there is no interpreter** let him keep silent in church and let him speak to
Once again, we exercise control over our own facility of speech
This makes it clear that believer's meetings have a proper order

- I) V29-31 Let two or three prophets speak and let the others judge But if anything is
This calls for the exercise of spiritual discernment
- II) **Judge:** Discriminate
1 Th 5:19-21 Do not quench the Spirit. Do not despise (devalue) prophecies. **Test all things**; hold fast what is good.
- III) Instead of devaluing prophecy, make sure you test what is said by God's word
Make sure the things that declared as from God line up with God's Word
THE FACT IS
- IV) False prophets can enter into the church and spread error
Through the guise of the gift of prophecy, false teachings can be disseminated
Paul is establishing safeguards to prevent this from happening
- V) V29 Mature believers listen to what is being said and determine authenticity
They are to discern if it is in line with scripture, and **if it exalt Jesus**
Jn 16:13-14 However, when He, the Spirit of truth, has come, He will guide you into all truth; for He will not speak on His own authority, but whatever He hears He will speak; and He will tell you things to come. **He will glorify Me**, for He will take of what is Mine and declare it to you.
- VI) Harold Camping said the world would end on Sept 6, 1994
He then said it would end and May 21, 2011, followed by October 21, 2011.
- VII) Edgar Whisenant: 88 reasons why the rapture will happen between 9/11-13, 1988
- VIII) If it does not line up with scripture, then the prophet must be silenced
- IX) V30 But if anything is revealed to another who sits by let the first keep silent
This allows others to exercise their spiritual gifts in an orderly fashion
- X) It also keeps someone from being placed in spiritual superiority over people
When they submit it protects the person exercising the gift from becoming proud
- XI) V31 For **you can all prophesy** one by one that all may learn and all may be
Every person with the gift is free to exercise their gifts: not just three at a time
- XII) V32 For **the spirits of the prophets** are subject to the prophets

- I) Exercising this gift is done with reasonableness and maturity
God does not force you to speak, shout out or sweat and cry and speak KJV
- II) V33 God is not the author of confusion but of peace as in all the churches of the
God is a God of order, not chaos:
Not too long ago people were shouting and running around, barking!
- III) V34-35 Let your women keep silent in the churches for they are not permitted to
This is to ensure order in the church
Apparently some were interrupting and perhaps even contending and refuting
- IV) V34 The law also says
This is not a new teaching, but one from the beginning
Gen 3:16 Your **desire** will be for your husband, and he will rule over you Gen 4:7
- V) V35 And if they want to learn something let them ask their own husbands at home
Husbands must lead their homes in a proper way
1 Ti 2:11-12 A woman should learn in quietness and full submission. I do not
permit a woman to teach or to have authority over a man; she must be silent.
- VI) V36 Did the word of God come **originally from you** Or was it you only that it
Here is a stinging rebuke to argumentative members of the church
- VII) It would seem that some have contended with him or the pastor over this issue
It may be that they were determined to follow their own ideas about this
- VIII) Did the word of God originally come **from you**
Are you Corinthians the original Christians? Is Corinth the mother church?
Are you the ones who are sending forth, throughout the world, the gospel?
POINT
- IX) If you are simply one of the churches, then don't try to change the word
- X) V37 If anyone thinks himself to be a prophet or spiritual let him acknowledge that
If you are truly spiritually mature, you will obey authority
Heb 13:17 Obey your leaders and submit to their authority. They keep watch over
you as men who must give an account. Obey them so that their work will be a joy, not a
burden, for that would be of no advantage to you.

- I) **V38 But if anyone is ignorant let him be ignorant**
If anyone is without knowledge and unwilling to obey God's word, disregard him

- II) **Regard him as he is: opinionated but ignorant of the word of God**
As such, don't take his counsel: he does not know God's word, or won't obey it!
Ps 1:1 Blessed is the man Who walks not in the counsel of the ungodly

- III) **V39-40 Brethren desire earnestly to prophesy and do not forbid to speak with**
Just make sure that these things are orderly and bring glory to God
Exercise the gifts of God with the love of God