

Sunday, June 7, 2015—I Corinthians 1:6-7: That Ye Come Behind in No Gift

Introduction

- Last week we continued our study of I Corinthians 1 by looking at verses 4 and 5. In summation, we observed the following points:
 - Verse 4 begins a sentence that runs through the end of verse 8.
 - Details regarding Paul’s “instant” prayer life and the connection between holding someone or something in remembrance and making mention of that person(s) or thing in your prayers.
 - Regarding the grace of God in verses 3 and 4 we noted the difference between the *source* and the *means* by which it is given.
 - Source—“. . . **from** God our Father, and **from** the Lord Jesus Christ.”
 - Means—“ for the grace of God which is given you **by** Jesus Christ;”
 - The Corinthians had been “enriched” by Jesus Christ in the areas of “utterance” (tongues) and “knowledge.” This is confirmed in the immediate context, in verse 7 the Corinthians came “behind in no gift.”
- This morning my goal is to finish studying the sentence and look at verses 6 and 7.

I Corinthians 1:6

- **Even as the testimony of Christ was confirmed in you:**
- Once again please remember that verse 6 is a continuation of the sentence that started in verse 4.
- “Even” connects the beginning of verse 6 with the end of verse 5. So the enrichment in “all utterance” and “all knowledge” that had been given to the Corinthians by Jesus Christ had something to do with the testimony of Christ being “confirmed” in the Corinthians.
- According to *Webster’s 1828 Dictionary* the English word “confirmed” means “made more firm; strengthened; established.” The Greek word translated “confirmed” in I Corinthians 1:6 is elsewhere translated “stablisheth,” “stablished,” and “established” by the King James translators.
 - II Corinthians 1:21—“stablisheth”
 - Colossians 2:7—“stablished”

- Hebrews 13:9—“established”
- I Corinthians 1:6—so in the context of 1 Corinthians 1 what “confirmed” the “testimony of Christ” in the Corinthians? It was the functioning of the gifts of tongues (“utterance”) and “knowledge” in verse 5.
- I Corinthians 14:22—tongues were for a sign. The Greek word translated “sign” in this verse is the word *sēmeion*. *Sēmeion* is variously rendered as sign (50x), miracle (23x), wonder (3x), and token (1x) by the King James translators. A sign is a miracle, wonder, or token that authenticates or confirms that a man and/or his message is from God.
- I Corinthians 1:22—the Jews required a sign. From the time God began dealing with Israel as a nation he did so in accordance with a program of signs.
 - Exodus 4:1-9
 - Deuteronomy 28:45-46
 - Luke 8:1-2
 - John 4:48
- I Corinthians 1:6—it was through the sign gifts of “utterance,” i.e., tongues and “knowledge” that the testimony of Christ was “confirmed” in the Corinthians.

I Corinthians 1:7

- **So that ye come behind in no gift; waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ:**
- *So that you come behind in no gift*—again please keep in mind that verse 7 is a continuation of the same sentence that began in verse 4. Through this enrichment in “all utterance” and “all knowledge” that we saw in verse 5 the “testimony of Christ” was “confirmed” in them in verse 6, as a result in verse 7 the Corinthians find themselves a state where they “come behind in no gift.”
- In other words, there is no lack or wanting of spiritual gifts in Corinth. The phrase translated “come behind” comes from the Greek word *hystereō* which has a variety of meanings dealing with suffering from a lack or deprivation of some sort.
 - Matthew 19:20-21—“lack” and “lackest”
 - Luke 15:14—“want”
- I Corinthians 1:7—the Corinthians “come behind” or lack in no gift. There is not spiritual gift that the Corinthians were found wanting with respect to.

- Why would that be the case? First, recall who requires a sign. The Jews (I Cor. 1:22).
- Acts 18:4-7—the Corinthian church met in a man’s house that joined hard to the synagogue. Therefore, the Corinthian church, perhaps more than any other, had a direct relationship and interaction with Jewish people who all required a sign in order to believe. Therefore, it makes sense that the Corinthian church would “come behind in gift.”
- . . . *waiting for the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ*:—what coming of Christ were the Corinthians waiting for? The prophetic bodily return of the Lord Jesus back to the Mount of Olives in the day of the Lord, or the secret heretofore unphropshied return of the Lord Jesus Christ to catch away the church the body of Christ to meet Him in the air?
- Acts 1:9-12—the Lord ascended up form the Mount of Olives and will return in like manner.
- Zechariah 14:1-4—in what day will the foot of the Lord stand upon the Mount of Olives? In the day of the Lord in verse 1. Does this coming of Lord fit with the time of grace and peace that God has instituted during the current dispensation of grace or the coming prophetic day of judgment and war?
- Revelation 19:11-19—these events take place on the earth as the day of Lord comes earth at the second advent of Jesus Christ.
- I Thessalonians 4:13-18—the catching up of the body of Christ is an event that takes place in the air and is part of the revelation committed to the apostle Paul.
- I Corinthians 15:51-53—the event described in I Thess. 4 is part of the mystery first revealed to and through the Apostle Paul.
- I Corinthians 1:7—the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to gather his church unto himself is the coming of the Lord that the Corinthians were waiting for.