

Sunday, February 25, 2018—I Corinthians 14:6-22 Why Prophecy was Superior to Tongues

### **Introduction**

- Last Sunday we began our study of Chapter 14. In summation we observed the following regarding verses 1 through 5.
- I Corinthians 14:1—Paul begins to apply what he taught the Corinthians regarding charity in the previous chapter.
  - *Follow after charity*—the verb “follow” is in the imperative mood. In other words, Paul is commanding the Corinthians to follow the way of charity expounded in Chapter 13. Charity is the “more excellent way” that Paul wanted the Corinthians to follow.
  - *and desire spiritual gifts*—the verb “desire” is also in the imperative mood. Remember that at the time Paul was writing this epistle in the 1<sup>st</sup> century these spiritual gifts were legitimate. There was nothing wrong with the Corinthians desiring spiritual gifts so long as they were governed by charity and an understanding that they were temporary.
  - *but rather that ye may prophesy*—in their desiring of spiritual gifts Paul is telling the Corinthians to place an emphasis on prophecy.
- I Corinthians 14:2-5—prophecy is to be preferred over tongues because it edifies the entire church. The reason being is because the church can understand what is being said.
- In this context, following charity means that those who possessed the gift of tongues would need to take a step back for the edification of the church.
  - I Corinthians 8:1—“charity edifieth”

### **I Corinthians 14:8**

- Numbers 10:9
- Joshua 6:4-20

### **I Corinthians 14:11**

- *Barbarous*—the Greek word carries the following meanings:
  - one whose speech is rude, rough and harsh
  - one who speaks a foreign or strange language which is not understood by another

- used by the Greeks of any foreigner ignorant of the Greek language
- *Webster's 1828 Dictionary* defines the English word as follows:
  - A man in his rude, savage state; an uncivilized person.
  - A cruel, savage, brutal man; one destitute of pity or humanity.
  - A foreigner. The Greeks and Romans denominated most foreign nations barbarians; and many of these were less civilized than themselves, or unacquainted with their language, laws and manners. But with them, the word was less reproachful than with us.
- In the context of I Corinthians 14 it is clear that Paul is talking about “one who speaks a foreign or strange language which is not understood by another.”