

## INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **1Corinthians 14:14-19.**
- B. Some commentators have called 1Cor. 12-15 the "Pauline Corrective." By this - they mean that in this section of the letter, the apostle spends time correcting some serious problems concerning important doctrinal matters.
- C. In chapter 14, Paul tells the Corinthian brethren how to properly use the miraculous gifts of tongues and prophecy in the assembly.

## I. EDIFICATION.

- A. See 1Corinthians 14:1-5,26b.
- B. The mistake that the Corinthians were making was to emphasize their own personal edification to the neglect of the church. They wanted to build themselves up, but they did not want to build up their fellow believers.
- C. Prophecy speaks to men, tongues to God (14: 1-3).  
There is no such thing as an unknown tongue. From the very beginning of tongue speaking, tongues were known languages, recognized by the listeners (Ac. 2:4,6,8,11; 1Cor. 14:10,11).
- D. Paul was afraid that the excessive tongues-speaking in the church would convince the lost that the brethren were crazy (that is still true today concerning those who claim they can speak in tongues (1Cor. 14:23).
- E. Prophecy edifies the church, tongues edify only the speaker (1Cor. 14:4,5).  
Paul pointed out that an interpreter must be present before the gift of tongues may be exercised (14:28). This is why prophecy is more important, it edifies all, and an interpreter is not needed.
- F. Paul emphasized the importance of doctrinal teaching in the church. Our worship must be based "on truth, or it may become *superstitious emotionalism*. Xians need to know what they believe and why they believe it.

## II. UNDERSTANDING.

- A. See 1Corinthians 14:6-25.
- B. It seems to me that 14:7-11 support the statement made in v16.
- C. Three illustrations:
  - 1. A musical instrument (14:17).  
If not played and tuned correctly no one will be able to recognize and appreciate the music.
  - 2. The bugle call in battle (14:18).  
The soldiers will not know whether to "charge," "retreat," "get up," or "go to bed."
  - 3. Daily conversation (14:9).  
With the many dialects in our country, when we visit it is sometimes hard to understand what another is saying.
- D. Verses 10,11 show very clearly that any tongue spoken is a known world language, and not a "heavenly" language just between the speaker and God.
- E. Three applications (14: 12-25):
  - 1. To the speaker himself (14:12-15).  
The word "spirit" in these verses means the inner man, not the HS. The inner man may experience the prayer or song, but there is no edification of the mind.
  - 2. To the other believers in the assembly (14:16-20).  
There is no way that those who are ungifted can participate and be edified during tongue speaking. The priority is clear, prophecy which edifies everyone, is to be greatly desired over tongues which may not edify a single person.

"Tongues are not evidence of spiritual maturity because they can be used in a very unspiritual and immature manner."

3. To the unsaved who would come into the assembly (14:21-25).  
Speaking in tongues can never convert a lost soul (unless interpreted). Tongues were not used for evangelism at Pentecost or anytime in the early church (Ac. 2:14). Those who are lost and hear the tongue speaking will think the assembly is chaotic. Prophecy will, however, cause the one who is lost to consider his/her standing with God, be convicted of sin, and worship God.

### III. ORDER.

- A. See 1Corinthians 14:26-40.
- B. Two statements in this section go together:
  1. "Let all things be done unto edification" (14:26).
  2. "Let all things be done decently and in order" (14:40).
- C. *Instructions for tongue speakers:*
  1. Speaking and evaluating must be done in an orderly manner (14:27-33).  
Paul, gives orders about how the gifts are to be used in the assembly.
  2. The women were to speak in tongues or prophecy in the assembly (14:34-35).  
Women are not to take the lead in the assembly of the church. They must exercise their gifts elsewhere. They may, of course, sing and participate in the other forms of worship.
  3. Beware of "new revelations" that go beyond the word of God (14:36-40).  
Paul says, "Do not allow the opinions of others who have these gifts contradict what you have received from me."

### CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Let it be known that I believe the Bible teaches that the miraculous gifts of prophecy and tongues has ceased. Those having these gifts have died, and the apostles were the only ones able to pass the gifts on to another person (Ac. 8:17,18).
- B. Prophecy edifies. Respond to X through the preaching of His word.
- C. Plan of salvation for non-Xians; erring Xians.